



Sunday 27th February 2000

No. 624

# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENMEY'S CROSS, CO. K.



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

## WHY VALUES MATTER

The story is told of a famous Greek sculptor Phidias, who died in 430 B.C. One day he was chiselling away with great care to make strands of hair at the back of a statue of Athena to be placed in the Acropolis. A passer-by stood admiring his work. Then he remarked: "That statue will stand on a high plinth with its back to a marble wall. Who will ever know what details you are putting there?" "I will", Phidias replied.

It's important at times to stop and reflect what standards guide our lives. What do we truly value? For many it's wealth and what it can give us - for others it's power - for others again pleasure and enjoyment. Jesus had a different value system, which he summed up in the well-known formula - "Love God, and love your neighbour."

That second part of the precept finds expression in:  
(a) Kindness to others - we should never pass up an opportunity to show this.  
(b) Courtesy - all too often in

short supply in our modern world.  
(c) Compassion - especially for the sick and elderly, and those hard to please.  
(d) Loyalty, generosity, integrity, perseverance.

Good character is gradually built up in this way and, come to think of it, this should be prized more highly than outstanding talents. After all, talents are a gift from God, we can do nothing to earn them. Character, in contrast, has to be built piece by piece - by choice, courage and the grace of God.

Even if nobody sees or appreciates the beauty of what we do, we need to learn to dance in the darkness. Like our friend Phidias, we know we have been true to our principles, and we are truly blessed by the one who sees and cares for all of us - the Lord Himself.

*Aelis O'Loannos*



Book Review

Sources :- Letters from Irish People on the Sustenance of the Soul, edited by Marie Heaney, Town House, Dublin 1999.

The letters are answers from a very broad range of contributors, to the question of what gave them spiritual sustenance which Marie Heaney put to them.

Two fascinating themes emerge from the deep pleasure of reading this book. First the pleasant surprise at the novelty of the idea, (and the fact), that a lay Irish person should ask this question and publish the answers provided by over 90 of her contemporaries in every field of modern Irish life. I perceive it as a sign of a more egalitarian Church. A Church where lay members are considered no longer as immature, unenlightened persons requiring to be guided at their every step, but as competent adults, whose experience and contribution may validly and usefully serve to give guidance to the wider community.

The second important aspect of this book is the extreme variety of the contributors' backgrounds, outlooks and personalities. And the variety of their responses may help many people to accept diversity of vocabulary or of style used to describe the spiritual life not just as human characteristics to be acknowledged, but as divine gift to be welcomed, celebrated and revered through the practice of the virtue of respectful tolerance. And tolerance could well be one of the most needed virtues in the XX1st century!

A truly wonderful book!



*Rest in Peace*

Peter Hurley, Liam Lynch Park, died at his home on Friday 18th February, after a relatively short illness. Peter was a native of Drumsullivan near Bantry, and came to work in Cork at an early age. Like others of his neighbours, he was a loyal and highly competent member of the maintenance staff at Ford's Car Assembly Plant at the Marina. A large number of his former work colleagues and relatives from Bantry joined his neighbours and family for his funeral Mass in our church on Monday last. We extend sincere sympathy to his wife Pearl, his daughters Marian and Geraldine, grandchildren, sisters and brother, sons-in-law, and indeed to all who miss him. May he rest in peace.

The Christian is like the ripening corn, the riper he grows the more lowly he bends his head.

*North Carolina Christian Advocate*



We welcome into our parish community the following who were baptised recently:

Ruby Tina Spilsbury  
Killian Liam McKibben  
Ali Josephine O'Sullivan  
Donagh Dorman  
Lisa Denise Higgins



## Parish Calendar

To conclude our series we highlight the religious symbols on the bottom left-hand corner - Munster.

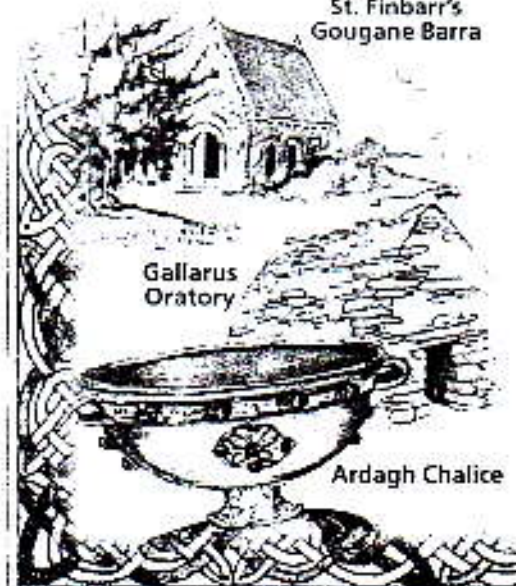
### Ardagh Chalice, Gallarus Oratory, St. Finbarr's Monastery

One of the greatest masterpieces of the Irish gold and silversmiths' art, the twin-handled Ardagh Chalice was discovered by a boy out looking for rabbits in 1868.

Amid an impressive lake and brooding scenery is the source of the River Lee, and its little island, reached by a causeway, was St. Finbarr's hermitage. The saint founded a monastery here in the 7th century. Pilgrimages are made to the hermitage each September and there is a modern oratory with stained-glass windows representing local saints.

Gallarus is probably the best known of the early Irish boat-

St. Finbarr's  
Gougane Barra



shaped oratories, so-called because their shape resembles that of an upturned boat. The oratory is located a few hundred yards from the Saint's Road, which sea-borne pilgrims landing at Ventry harbour passed on their way to the top of Mount Brandon where St. Brendan the Navigator was honoured.

## Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is a world-wide movement of Christian women who come together from all the different churches on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer. The service will be held here at the Descent of the Holy Spirit at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 2nd March, 2000. The theme of the service will be "Young Woman Stand Up". All men and women are very welcome to join in the prayers of people, worldwide, on this very special day.





**First Friday**

Next Friday 3rd March is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place from 10.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. when Mass will be celebrated.



**Scoll an Spioraid Naoimh**

Registration week will take place from next Monday 29th February to Friday 3rd March. You may call to the schools or contact by phone - girls 543305, boys 543333.



GO OUT  
TO THE WHOLE  
WORLD,  
PROCLAIM  
THE GOOD NEWS  
TO ALL  
CREATION

**St. Joseph's Young Priests Society**  
Monthly meeting will take place next Thursday 2nd at 8.00 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

**Readings for Sunday 5th March**

Deut. 5:12-15. Ps. 80  
2 Cor. 4:6-11. Mk. 2:23-3:6.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**"LAND FOR ALL"**

Organised by Ballineaspig Parish group in conjunction with Trocaire.

Speaker: Fr. Brian Holmes CSSR

Fr. Brian Holmes has worked in Brazil since 1968. He worked initially in the drought lands of the North East and then moved to the shantytowns of Fortaleza. For the last eight years he has been in the State of Tocantins where small farmers are struggling to hold onto their land. The government has been trying to force the farmers off their land to clear it for big soya growers. Trocaire is supporting the small farmers and as part of our Lenten Campaign Fr. Brian Holmes has been invited to highlight the issue and to encourage people in Ireland to support the farmers' campaign.

Venue: CRYPT,  
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS.

MONDAY MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 8.00pm.

ALL WELCOME



*prayer for the good of your soul*



*fasting for the good of your body*



*almsgiving for the good of your neighbor*

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**  
Monthly collection next weekend.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

087 - 251 9940