

Sunday 5th March 2000



Ballinaspais Bulletin

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Patrick writes

LENT ON THE EDGE

One of my earliest memories of school was the instruction of the teacher to draw a margin down the side of the page of our copybooks. Those, of course, kept our handwriting away from the edge of the paper and ensured that everything was neat and tidy. Yet, since those days a new term has come up that is used to describe people and their position in society. The marginalised are those who live on the edge of society: the homeless, victims of injustice, those denied human rights, the hungry, those near death... We, in the comfort of a society protected and dominated by that 'wonderful Celtic Tiger' sometimes do not even realise that there are others who are being pushed to the edge. Very often the most difficult and troublesome in our society are those who find themselves on its margins.

What is our response to people in these situations? Next Wednesday March 8th is Ash Wednesday, a good day to begin to

ask such a question (remembering that our final judgement will be based very much on how we answer that question). To help us we are having a series of four lunch-time Talks, twenty minutes in duration, on the first four Wednesdays of Lent. These will be given by those who minister to the marginalised. Fr. Peter McVerry, S.J. the advocate for homeless children in Dublin, will give the first on Ash Wednesday itself. The other details are contained on the back page of the Bulletin. Do please come along. More importantly, get others to come with you. See you there!

Patrick Walsh

Lenten Services

The season of Lent commences next Wednesday 8th March.

Ash Wednesday:

A day of fast and abstinence. Masses at 7.30, 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Weekdays of Lent

Masses 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

LENT 2000

Lunch-time listening

The Crypt

Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross

20-minute talk with a difference

1.10 pm — 1.30 pm.

8th Wed. March 8th (Ash Wednesday)
FR. PETER McVERRY SJ
— advocate for homeless children

15th March 15th
DR. TONY O'BRIEN
— Marymount Hospice

22nd March 22nd
SR. CATHERINE FENTON PVBM
— works with "street people"

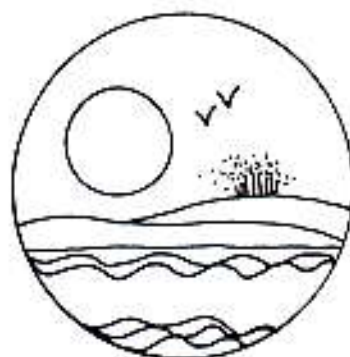
29th March 29th
PADRAIG MCCARTHY
— volunteer with Samaritans

4 Wednesdays in March

Light snack available after talk

Voluntary donation requested

LENT on the edge



A SIMPLE ALLELUIA

Five a.m.!

Birds chirpily nudging the
morning to begin

While worm still is snuggled in
its earthy bed,

What's there to sing about so
early in the morn?

Will day not span a far-flung
hour

To sing and peck, to flutter and
to fly?

Branch and sky, worm and crumb -
Always the same,

Yesterday, today, tomorrow.

I sigh and pull the duvet tight.

I cannot bear the sweetness of
their song

At this ungodly hour.

Ungodly?

That's the reason why they sing.

For God,

Our God,

He never sleeps,

But keeps awake

To clothe and feed

And give laughter to their wing.

alleluia.

Amen.

Now wide awake I listen to their
song.

Then, I try to sleep again.

Carmel O'Shea



PILGRIMAGE ... IS FOR EVERYONE

St. Finbarr's
Gougane Barra



The teenager climbing Croagh Patrick at dawn, the medieval traveller returning to Ireland from Compostella, the motley crowd walking the Sacred Way from ancient Athens to Eleusis all share the age-old need of humanity to go on pilgrimage. For centuries certain shrines and holy places have attracted people from long distances to offer their prayers in thanksgiving and intercession to God. From the days of Exodus we are a pilgrim church, a pilgrim people. In this Jubilee Year we are all invited, young and old, to become pilgrims too.

"Bless, O God, the places we shall see,
Bless, O God, the way that we shall go;
May Christ walk the paths we walk."

SURF AND PRAY - SOMETHING NEW FOR LENT?

Since Ash Wednesday 1999 over 300,000 people from China to the Czech Republic have accessed "Sacred Space". This is the Jesuit website, based in Dublin, which invites people to pray at their computers for ten minutes every day. Their feedback page highlights the benefits enjoyed by a 19 year old college student

and an 82 year old granny. One Toronto executive begins his day by collecting his e-mail and then prays quietly with the help of "Sacred Space."

The website is easy to use and offers a mixture of reflection, scripture and image with helpful hints if praying becomes difficult. Encourage all who have access to the Internet to try it. The address is www.jesuit.ie/prayer



ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES

The Sacraments- Nourishing our Faith

Fr. Tom Clancy

Tuesday 14th March 8 p.m.	<i>Joining the Faith Community - Baptism and Confirmation</i>
Tuesday 21st March 8 p.m.	<i>Eucharist: Our Jewish Heritage</i>
Tuesday 28th March 8 p.m.	<i>Eucharist: Today's Liturgy</i>
Tuesday 4th April 8 p.m.	<i>Eucharist: One Bread, one Body</i>

Venue: The Crypt, Church of the Holy Spirit, Donnelly's Cross

All Welcome



NOTICE BOARD



Land for All

Fr. Brian Holmes, C.Ss.R., who has worked with the poor of Brazil since 1968 will highlight the plight of the landless people of Brazil in a lecture at the Crypt on Monday, 6th March, at 8 p.m. The meeting is organised by the Ballineaspais Faith in Action group in conjunction with Trocaire. All are welcome.

Adult Catechism Study Course

A study and support day on the topic "The Commandments" will be held in Farranferris College on Sunday 12th March from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mass at 4 p.m.). Presenter Dr. George Woodall. Please bring a packed lunch and copy of the New Catechism. Cost of study day £5. Further information from 301717 or 975457.

Marriage Counselling Centre

The annual collection will be taken up at all Masses next week-end. The Centre offers a range of services, including pre-marriage courses, marriage counselling, domestic violence projects and individual counselling.

Bishopstown Social Centre

A steering group is being formed in relation to the proposed development of a social centre for older people at Wilton Park House. A meeting in connection with this will be held in Wilton Park House on Friday 10th March at 10.30 a.m. All interested people are welcome to attend.

Bishopstown I.C.A.

Meeting in SMA Wilton at 8 p.m. on Thursday 9th March. Crafts demonstration.

'JUBILEE BELLS' NEWS

We are currently practising for St. Patrick's Day. We will be ringing at the Vigil Mass. The adult group is looking for three or four new members to join us after St. Patrick's Day when we will be preparing to perform for 'TELETHON' (People in Need). If you are interested please hand your name into the C.P. Centre and we will be in touch. The Children's Group has full membership currently but any child's name can be put on the waiting list. Handbell ringing is very enjoyable for those involved and it is beautiful to hear.

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Congratulations to Aoife Clancy of Leaving Certificate 1999 who received an award from the Cork Chamber of Commerce for obtaining first place in German in the greater Cork region. Aoife was presented with an award at a reception on February 23rd. Congratulations also to Sarah Harrington, Junior Certificate 1999 who was awarded a full German scholarship based on her excellent Junior Cert. results. Wir gratulieren!

Readings for Sunday 12 March

Gen. 9:8-15. Ps. 24.

1 Pet. 3:18-22. Mk. 1:12-15.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940