

Sunday 12th March 2000



# Ballineaspais Bulletin

First Sunday in Lent



No. 626

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNHY'S CROSS, DORK



OUR  
**PARISH  
PRIEST**

*writes*

## A RAINBOW PEOPLE

Driving through Glenflesk one morning recently, with the rising sun behind me, the semicircle of colour shining through the clearing rain was an invitation to prayer of praise and thanks. As we hear in today's reading from Genesis, the Lord wished the rainbow to be a reminder of his covenant with us, of his committed relationship with his people.

Time and again Yahweh showed the Hebrew people by word and action that his commitment to them was unconditional. No matter how they failed, God would always be faithful to them. There are no opt out clauses in a covenant. Rather, a covenanted relationship is sealed and enriched again and again by acts of love. God sent his Son, Jesus, not only to share our nature, but to confirm his unconditional love by shedding his blood on Calvary as we are reminded at the consecration of every Mass. "This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant."

We are the covenanted people, trying to live out the unconditional love to which God calls us. Lent is a time to appreciate the wonder and the challenge of such a privileged calling. In the midst of our multi-dimensional lives, it is a time to focus.

*Thomas Clancy*

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, Dennhy's Cross

All Welcome



## A Personal Perspective on Prophecy and Prophets

What springs to mind when the word "prophecy" is mentioned? - perhaps horoscopes, fortune tellers, 'Old Moore's Almanac', pronouncements about the end of the world. As we rounded the corner into the 21st century, the 'Predictions' of 16th century French astrologer, Nostradamus were given an airing. But like the much-feared Year 2K Bug, many popular predictions never came to fulfilment.

We may know people with 'second sight', a kind of psychic gift which enables them to anticipate an event and occasionally avert trouble. Even without the advantage of special gifts, we are all able to watch the progress of a particular situation and assess its likely outcome.

Speculation is the stock-in-trade of pre-match commentators and political observers. On another level, close attention is paid to economic and financial evaluations of the strength of currencies and the fortunes of the Stock Exchange.

However, the advice of experts and leaders is not automatically accepted; the message goes unheeded and the messenger dismissed as a 'prophet of doom' or misguided when measured against the standards of current practices and expectations.

From this small kaleidoscope of human situations emerges a picture of uncertainty, a need for reassurance and a quest for the right direction and course of action to take. Here, discernment is so necessary in helping to separate the sheep from the goats, or the false prophets from the true and finding the real way forward...

(to be continued)

## IN SYMPATHY

Mrs. Mary O'Driscoll resided for the past ten years with her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Mick Fleming, and their family at Kenley Crescent. She died on Friday 3rd March, having suffered an injury sustained in a fall a few weeks previously. Prior to that she enjoyed very good health and attended Mass regularly at the Church of the Holy Spirit. Mary spent the best years of her long life teaching with her husband, the late Con O'Driscoll, in one of the most beautiful and scenic spots in all West Cork - overlooking Carbery's Hundred Isles. There they prepared

hundreds of young boys and girls to face the challenge of life, and did so with the dedication which characterised their vocation and generation. Her funeral Mass was celebrated by her son Fr. in the Church she loved so well down in Kilcoe, outside Skibbereen. Her grandchildren rendered the music she loved. To Fr. Liam and the other members of the family - Diarmuid, Eileen, Mary, Con and Fachtna, her sister Sr. Ursula, her brother John, and all the other relatives and many friends, we extend sincere sympathy.



## The Pebble in David's Sling

Fr. Brian Holmes, an Irish Redemptorist priest, has spent 33 years in Brazil, the last ten working with the people of Campos Lindos (Beautiful Pastures). But the pastures are beautiful no more. Now the fields where families have farmed for generations have been replaced by an endless sea of soya bean plantations. A powerful elite, supported by a corrupt administration, has swept the people from their land. Trees are felled, roads destroyed, bridges burnt, even graveyards ploughed over to make way for the valuable export crop. In the process children are placed at risk from water contaminated by chemical sprays, while insects, repelled from the soya crop, flee down the valleys and devour in a single night the half-acre of land which provides rice and beans for an entire family.

In a Brazil where two million families have been driven from the land in the last year alone, where powerful interests censor the media, where Fr. Brian and his colleagues are the subjects of death threats, the suffering of the landless is intense. On Monday night, he concluded his inspiring talk to the parish Faith in Action group by blowing a cowboy's horn. It was a reminder that Jubilee means the year of the blowing of the Lord's trumpet, when "freedom for the inhabitants of the land" is promised.

If you want to lend your voice, to add your pebble to David's sling, support Trocaire's Lenten campaign, which in turn will help Fr. Brian and the families of Campos Lindos.

## Let's Go to Mass

We are blessed that so many parents bring their children to Mass here. To help the younger folk (6 year olds and upwards) take part more fully in our weekly Eucharist, a little booklet is available with the Mass leaflet.

We envisage the booklet being used in either of two ways. The child takes one on the way in to Mass and returns it to the table before leaving. Alternatively, some parents may prefer to buy a booklet at £2 each. The booklets are available for purchase in the sacristy or C.P. Centre.



advocate for homeless children

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Fr. Peter McVerry's talk generated a great deal of energy amongst the huge crowd (standing room only in the end) gathered in the Crypt on Ash Wednesday. Everyone was deeply impressed not only with what he said, and how he said it, but also by his deep sincerity and commitment to living the message of the Gospel.

Many thanks to Fr. McVerry for the great work that he does and for visiting us on Wednesday last. Thanks to those who gave so generously. Thanks also due to those who are helping with the preparation and planning of these lunch-time talks. In a special way we wish to thank Pat Austin of Model Gourmet Meals who very generously supplied the sandwiches.



### St. Patrick's Day

There will be a Vigil Mass on Thursday at 7.30 p.m. Masses on Friday at 9, 10.30 and 12.15 p.m.

### Season of Lent

Daily Mass at 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m. (No 7.30 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day).

### Bulletins to Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next weekend. Because of St. Patrick's Day Bulletins can be collected on Thursday afternoon instead of Friday.

### Pastoral Council

Meeting takes place this Monday 13th in the C.P. Centre at 8.10 p.m.

### Bishopstown I.C.A.

Irish Night on Thursday 16th in the S.M.A. Hall at 8.00 p.m.

### Bishopstown G.A.A.

Street League coaching for 1st class and over on Saturdays, 10.30-12 noon. Competitions starting with U-11 football commencing 25th March. Details from Jim Ryng 545417 or Aidan Luttrell 342880.

### Readings for Sunday 19th March

Gen. 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18.

Ps. 115. Rom. 8:31-34.

Mk. 9:2-10.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**087 - 251 9940**

## 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.

15<sup>th</sup>

March 15th

DR. TONY O'BRIEN

— Marymount Hospice

22<sup>nd</sup>

March 22nd

SR. CATHERINE FENTON PVM

— works with "street people"

29<sup>th</sup>

March 29th

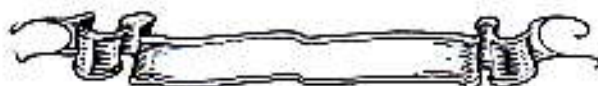
PÁDRAIG MCCARTHY

— volunteer with Samaritans

Wednesdays in March

*Light snack available after talk*

*Voluntary donation requested*



## LENT on the edge

Next Wednesday Dr. Tony O'Brien of Marymount Hospice will give the 'Lent on the Edge' lecture. Those who are closest to the edge are surely the dying, but death is not a pleasant topic. Our own death and the death of our loved ones is something we dread. Dr. Tony O'Brien deals with the dying every day. Join him at 'Lent on the Edge'. Bring a friend.

Life's a voyage that's homeward bound.

*Herman Melville*