

Sunday 19th March 2000



No. 627

# Ballineaspig Bulletin

Second Sunday in Lent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK.



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*



## Saint Patrick

It's a great day for the Irish. The cops and colleens are stepping it out down Fifth Avenue - bands playing, flags flying, crowds cheering. And not only in New York but in every corner of the globe where Irish people settle and work. Patrick is unique in this, he is the only national patron saint who belongs to the whole world. No doubt most of those who join the celebrations in his honour know little of the Saint, or what he stood for.

We ourselves can make two mistakes. We can commemorate him with a lot of foolish back-slapping, over indulgence, and "wrap the green flag round me boys". Or we can be ashamed of who we are, and the precious heritage which has come down from St. Patrick.

The truth, as always, is more fascinating. Patrick came to know Ireland and the Irish the hard way. The turbulent, fire breathing Niall and his comrades made lightning raids on Britain,

and brought back manacled slaves to sell for pocket money. The cold and loneliness of Slemish brought the boy Patrick close to God in prayer.

When he escaped and followed his vocation to the priesthood, he resisted the urging of his family to forget the Irish, who hadn't treated him very well anyhow, and stay at home to minister to civilized people.

But he returned to Ireland to live out his life and mission here. He brought a new way of life - the Gospel way - to the wild and ignorant people of our country. He brought the way of love, forgiveness, justice, respect and humility. Curiously enough our forefathers accepted this, and by the grace of God his teaching somehow survived in spite of dungeon, fire and sword. Wouldn't it be tragic though if we were to turn our back on this precious heritage which is ours, and on everything the world admired in us.

*Aelis O'Keenan*

Every noble work is at first impossible.  
*Carlyle*



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**A PARISHIONER WRITES...**  
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We are constantly being told that the opinions of the laity about church matters are always welcomed and some heed will be afforded them, so allow me to air a view that, I believe, is shared by many parishioners. At the end of Lent we will no doubt be informed that there will be a Penitential Service - a meaningful prayerful exercise followed or preceded by one-to-one Confessions at various locations around the church. Would it not be possible to have a general absolution after the Service instead of this formula?

If people are prepared to extract from their busy lives some time to take part in a service of repentance, prayer and hymn-singing on a Spring evening, surely this is evidence enough

that they feel their spiritual lives need some repairing and they wish to express a measure of regret and sorrow for the lack of space for God in their lives. Is it not sufficient to do this as a community? Is communal penitential prayer not sufficient?

For many the exercise of going individually to a priest after this ceremony (or before it) means little but the trotting out of the same old empty meaningless list of sins and peca-dilloes and half-remembered transgressions of one kind or another - drafting priests in from surrounding parishes adds no extra dimension to this procedure. As well, if general absolution were given the numbers attending would greatly increase - something desirable surely with ever shrinking congregations at every religious service. So how about it? This Lent? Some Lent? Ever?

A. Clifford,  
Glasheen Road

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## Rest In Peace

Michael Bradley, late of Bishopscourt Lawn, died unexpectedly while staying with his daughter in Dublin. He was a quiet, unassuming man dedicated to his family with whom he shared a love of all things Irish. Michael had great devotion to the Mass and loved to potter in his garden. The death of his wife Mairead last April was a great sorrow in his life. To his children - Claire, Diarmuid, Barry, Siobhan and Emer, and grandchildren whom he loved, to his relatives and friends, we extend our sincere sympathy. Ar dheis Dé, go raibh a anam dílis.

Noel Daly, Kilcrea Park, Magazine Road, died at Cork University Hospital on Sunday 12th March. Noel hadn't been well really since the death of his dear wife Kit, who herself died at a comparatively early age. Both had worked hard to provide the best educational opportunities for a very talented and appreciative family. To them we extend very sincere sympathy at their loss - Rachel, Jerry, David, Kenneth, Kathleen and Stephen, his sisters Emily and Kathleen, and to a large circle of relatives and friends. May he rest in peace.





## PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

To mark Jubilee 2000, our first ever Parish Pilgrimage and Picnic will take place on Sunday 21st May. We will go to Gougane Barra. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come along and make it a very memorable day. It is envisaged that the group organising this event will meet with all the Contact People from 8.00 to 9 p.m. on Monday 10th April to work out all the details.

At Pentecost last year we had a very enjoyable and enriching Interchurch service. This year we hope to have a similar service on Tuesday 13th June. We invite anyone interested in helping to organise this event to give their name to the C.P. Centre.

The Finance Report was discussed and there is a worry that the parish reserves would be wiped out by some major maintenance work. The possibility of a separate building fund is to be discussed with the Finance Committee.

Parishioner concern was

### A BIG THANK YOU!

Having attended 12.15 p.m. Mass on Sunday 5th March, it was a pleasure to see the natural colour of the church steps once again this year. A big thank you to Mr. Frank O'Sullivan for giving so generously of his free time and equipment to clean same.

It's great to see that some people within our parish still have a community spirit and take the safety of all our parishioners into consideration.

Kay O'Sullivan,  
Model Farm Road

expressed at unauthorised begging on church grounds and within the church itself at Sunday Mass.

Following on from the talk by Fr. Holmes of Trocaire, the meeting on Monday night next in the Crypt at 8 pm will discuss "What will we do?" (in our parish). All welcome.

### Do You Put Away Your Neighbour's Wheelie Bin?

In his usual thought-provoking style Fr. Clancy treated his hearers last Tuesday to a challenging talk on Baptism and Confirmation. In a world where our neighbour's bin is left on the path, where every aspect of life is becoming more privatised, he reminded us of the essentially communal nature of Baptism. Beginning with the nucleus of the family, Baptism calls us all to be a community of believers again, to share the story of God's love. The aspects explored included the original meaning of Lent (a period of prayer and fasting by family and friends supporting those preparing for Baptism), the welcome omission of Limbo from the new Catholic Catechism and the concept of Original Sin.

The Lenten series on the Sacraments organised by the Adult Education committee continues next Tuesday when Fr. Clancy discusses "Eucharist: Our Jewish Heritage".

Prayers travel faster when said in unison.

*Latin proverb*



### Altar Servers Uniforms

If there are any uniforms no longer in use we would be delighted to receive them, as our stocks are depleted.

### Life's Healing Journey Retreat

At Myross Wood Retreat House, Leap, 24th-25th March, conducted by Fr. Charles Sweeney, M.S.C. Further details from Fr. John Fitzgerald, 028-33118.

### Bishopstown I.C.A.

Crafts Night on Thursday 23rd in the S.M.A. Hall at 8 p.m.

### Baile'n Easpig Gramophone Circle

Our monthly recital will take place on Wednesday next 22nd March at 3 p.m. in the Crypt of our Church at Dennehy's Cross, when David McInerney will present his choice of music. Bf ann gan teip.

### **MOUNT MERCY NEWS**

Congratulations and well done to Emma Hogan, 2nd year, who was the Regional Winner of the Southern Health Board Donor Card art competition.

On 15th February, 47 transition year students and six teachers travelled to Italy, visiting Rome, Pompeii, Siena, Florence and Assisi. The highlights of the tour were visits to the Colosseum, St. Peter's Sistine Chapel, Roman Forum, snow-covered Vesuvius, Bell Tower in Siena, Brunelleschi's Dome in Florence and St. Francis Basilica in Assisi.

Congratulations to the Senior A Hockey Team who won the Coca Cola Munster Schoolgirls Senior Hockey Cup, defeating Ursuline Convent, Thurles. 1-0.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBER**

087 - 251 9940

Church of the Holy Spirit  
ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES



## *The Sacraments- Nourishing our Faith*

*Fr. Tom Clancy*

Tuesday                      Eucharist:  
21st March                      Our Jewish Heritage  
8 p.m.

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

All Welcome

## **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.

**22<sup>nd</sup>**

March 22nd  
SR. CATHERINE FENTON P.V.B.M.  
— works with "street people"

*Light snack available after talk.*

*Voluntary donation requested*

### FAITH IN ACTION

BALLINEASPIG PARISH GROUP

TROCAIRE LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2000

Helping the small farmers of Brazil in their struggle to hold on to their land.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEETING ON Monday March 20<sup>th</sup>  
IN THE CRYPT AT 8.00PM.

*'The earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's need but not enough for everyone's greed.'* Mahandas K. Gandhi

LENT  
IS WHAT  
YOU DO

## **TROCAIRE**

Readings for Sunday 26 March

Ex.20:1-17. Ps. 18.

1 Cor. 1:22-25. Jn. 2:13-25.