



NOTICE BOARD

Parish Pilgrimage to
Gougane Barra
Sunday, 21st May

Please note that the reservation fee of £6 covers cost of coach only. All parishioners are expected to bring their own picnics.



Eucharistic Ministers

Some ministers have requested a meeting to discuss the organisation of the rota and similar matters. If you would like to take part in this discussion, you will be welcome to the Crypt on Thursday next 4th May at 8.00 p.m.

First Friday

Next Friday 5th May. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday from 10.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly collection next week-end 6th/7th May.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting on Thursday next at 8.00 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

Foreign Students

Families required to host foreign students during July and August. Contact Lorraine at 300722.

Pastoral Council News

Before our April meeting the council chairman, Michael Lehane and Fr. Tom Clancy addressed a large group of parish contact people. Help is being sought in organising three events as follows:

- (a) A parish pilgrimage to Gougane Barra on 21st May.
- (b) A meeting with our neighbours of other Christian faiths to be held in the crypt on Tuesday 6th June. Last year's event was a great success.
- (c) The organisation and running of the parish social later in the year.

If you would like to help with any of these events please contact any council member.

The council expressed thanks to the Adult Education Committee and Fr. Clancy for a wonderful series of Lenten Lectures.



Here Comes Summer

Demonstration of Summer bedding plants by D.J. Murphy of Bandon Garden Centre at Coláiste Christ Rí, Capwell Road, on Thursday 4th May at 8 p.m. Adm. £3. A variety of bedding plants will be on sale after the demonstration.

Readings for Sunday 7 May

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19. Ps. 4
1 Jn. 2:1-5. Lk. 24:35-48.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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Sunday 30th April 2000



Ballineaspais
Bulletin

Second Sunday of Easter



No. 633

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNIS CROSS, CO. CK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

Refugees and asylum seekers are very much in the news these days. It's a new problem for us in this country. Because it's new we haven't quite made up our minds how to deal with it. There are arguments for a Christian and caring response, which is very good, until they come to live next door and we are confronted with uncomfortable realities - from some only it must be stressed.

What should we do? A hundred years ago a Texas Senator made a famous statement at a school board meeting where Spanish speaking immigrants were demanding that their children should be taught through the medium of their own language. He pronounced, with due solemnity and conviction: "If English was good enough for Jesus Christ, it's good enough for me." Before you burst out laughing at such a nonsensical assessment you should remember that the brave senator couldn't see it as any laughing matter. The fact was he didn't know.

So my suggestion is that we

should inform ourselves fully before we rush to judgement. There is a strong exhortation throughout the Bible to treat refugees and orphans with great compassion. We are reminded too that many of our own people had to seek work and refuge in foreign countries - and face resentment and prejudice. In fairness, the vast majority acquitted themselves with honour - often against the odds. And this very day a Cork businessman told me he has several Romanian immigrants in his workforce. He has nothing but praise for their efficiency and dedication.

Of course there are problems. We find it difficult to provide housing for our own young people who want to marry and settle down, not to mind our "street children". The whole question needs to be assessed in the light of Gospel values, and with respect for every human person, because every person is a child of God.

Denis J. Conroy



Walk in Faith

Parish Pilgrimage
Sunday, 21st May



Mary O'Sullivan, Sheares Park, died on 10th April. After hospitalisation, Mary went to Beaumont Residential Home where she happily spent her last months in the loving care of nurses and staff whom she appreciated so much. Up to that setback, a priority in her life was her daily Mass and Eucharistic prayer in St. Joseph's, S.M.A., Wilton, where Fr. Tom Clancy celebrated her funeral Mass, pointing out how fitting it was to entrust her to the Lord forever at the altar from which she had received so lovingly and faithfully all her life. The end of the O'Sullivan link with Sheares Park is a significant one as Finbarr O'Sullivan was the first child born to a family there after the community moved in to the new houses 60 years ago. We extend our sympathy to her loving daughter Maeve, to Finbarr, to her grandchildren and extended family. May she rest in peace.

Kathleen Fahy, late of Farranlea Grove, died on 12th April in the loving care of the community and nursing staff at St. Josephs, where she was always at home with the congregation to which her daughter Mary belongs. As Fr. John Newman said in the funeral homily, Kathleen was sustained by her deep faith, nourished by the

scriptures. She was privileged to be a Minister of the Word in this church. He reminded us that she was tireless in her care of her children and committed to their education. To these children, Sister Peter, Edward, Geraldine, to her grandchildren and to her extended family we extend our deepest sympathy.



We offer our sincere sympathy to EILISH IRWIN, Wilton Gardens, on the death of her brother Declan Casey, Valentia. To PROFESSOR P. QUIKLA, Cherrygrove, on the death of his brother.



Congratulations to JOHN CULLINANE, Leesdale, on his success in the Over 60's competition at City Hall on Easter Sunday.

Thank You

Our thanks as always to the pupils of St. Catherines for folding and stapling the Easter Bulletin. Much appreciated.

Refugee or Asylum-Seeker?

In a challenging and informative talk to the parish Faith in Action group, Fr. Fachtna O'Driscoll, S.M.A., outlined the complex process followed by the asylum-seeker - a person seeking refugee status - and gave the legal definition of a refugee: someone who is unable to return to their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, and who is not afforded protection by the forces of law and order of his/her state.

World-wide there are 20 million refugees, 85% of them being cared for in African countries. He traced the increase in applications in Ireland from 39 in 1992 to 7724 in 1999 and also highlighted the slowness of the process: 9767 applications are still on hand. He called for a proper immigration policy in Ireland and reminded us of the thousands of Irish people who had received US visas over the years. Fr. O'Driscoll stressed the difficulties caused by the fact that asylum-seekers are prohibited from working while their application is being processed. He also outlined the plans for a new drop-in centre for asylum-seekers in Cork.

The next meeting of the Faith in Action group will be held on Monday 15th May at 8 p.m. in the CP Centre. All are welcome.



Mount Mercy News

Congratulations and well done to the Minor B hockey team who won the League final, defeating Presentation of Bandon 2-1. Also to the Junior A team who defeated Scoil Mhuire 2-0 to win the Plate final.



St. Catherines News

Our 6th class girls were confirmed on Wednesday 5th April by Bishop Buckley. The ceremony was well prepared by Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Costello and went off without a hitch! We were very lucky with the weather too.

Well done to Ciara Ronayne, Elaine Rea, Jane Dillon and Kianh Shanahan who represented us well in the Spellathon Final, although victory eluded them this year.

Our chess team are currently taking part in the inter-schools competition. They are Lorna O'Sullivan, Fionnghuala Ní Mhuiris, Selina Burke, Susan Cuthbert and Enna Noonan.

Our camogie players did very well in the recent mini-sevens competition (under 12). They beat Rushbrook, drew with Togher and unfortunately lost to Douglas. But we are currently preparing for Sciath na Scol and hope to do at least as well as last year, when we reached the final.