



that people were not too shy to tell me that. The groups I became involved in helped me grow, also. The core group that was set up as a forerunner to the Pastoral Council taught me what working with lay people really meant - not just words, but listening and sharing. Working with the Bulletin team showed me how many talents were in the parish, and how various gifts could be harnessed.

You would think it was all 'sweetness and light' from what I have written. It wasn't. There were moments of pain, also. Getting used to living on my own took time. Getting accustomed to dealing with sickness and death was hard. Learning how to disagree with colleagues and resolve disagreements in groups put me to the pin of my collar. But it was worth the effort. And there was much joy too. It was in my first parish that I learned to pray, through Siol, and with the help of prayer guides. I learned the importance of balance in life, between work and time off, labour and reflection.

From a lanky youth I grew more rotund by the day, the unintended fruit of visitation! And I learned so much about communication - writing, talking, preaching, listening - experiences which still stand to me to this day. I may have had seven years in the seminary before I came to Dennehy's Cross, but my real training only began the day I arrived here, in July 1984. Thanks to the good sense and wisdom of the fine people of the parish.

Fr. Bernard Cotter

**NOTICE BOARD**

**PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Please vote this weekend. Voting papers will be available in the Church if you have not received yours. Please let us have your nominations by Monday.

**St. Vincent de Paul**  
Monthly collection will take place next weekend.

**Senior Art Classes**  
Resume next Thursday 28th in the Crypt at 2.30 p.m.

**Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh**  
The Parents Association A.G.M. and a talk on "Study Skills" will be held at Colaiste on Monday 25th September at 8 p.m.

**Parenting**  
Do you have issues where meeting parents with similar experience or difficulties could be of help or support to you? Southside Parents Supporting Parents is organising an event for parents in Jurys Hotel on Saturday 30th September. Information will be available on the range of support groups available to you locally. Further information from 543333.

**Readings for Sunday 1st October**  
Num. 11:25-29; Ps. 18; Jm. 5:1-6; Mk. 9:38-43.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

087 - 251 9940



Sunday 24th September 2000

**B**allineaspig  
Bulletin

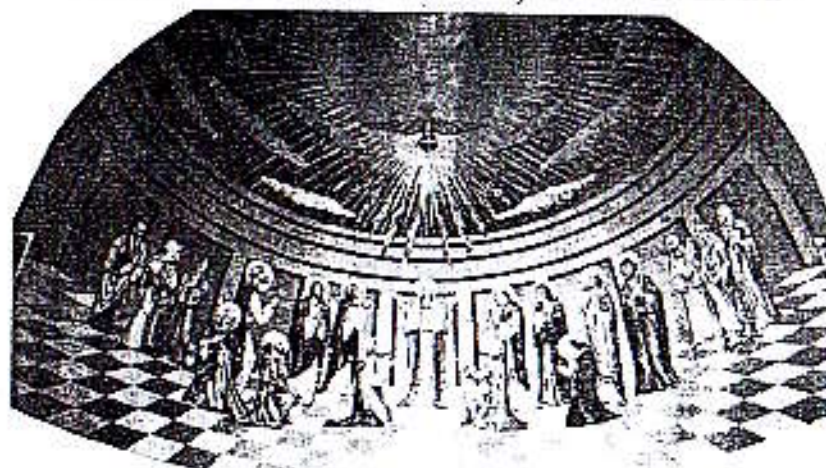
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 646



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

**"THERE IS ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT"**



Photograph by Tony O'Connell

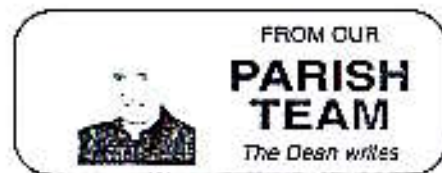
On a gloomy November evening in 1956 an old quarry and some adjoining pasture land at Dennehy's Cross were blessed by Bishop Lucey. Four years later the site had been transformed: a large brick and limestone church with its distinctive dome rising to 140 feet, designed by J.R. Boyd Barrett and built by Pat Shea and Co., now dominated the surrounding area.

On the Feast of St. Finbarr, Sunday, 25th September, 1960, the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit was blessed and opened. The ceremony was performed by Dr. Lucey. Among the many guests were Dr. Riberi, the Papal Nuncio; the Lord Mayor, Ald. Stephen Barrett, and the President of UCC, Dr. Harry Atkins.

It is undoubtedly the most splendid of the

Rosary of churches planned by Dr. Lucey to serve the expanding suburbs of Cork. In the great tradition of Christian architecture many of the artistic features are also sources of instruction and reflection. These include the rose window depicting the seven Sacraments, the figures of the evangelists beneath the dome, the symbolic medallions on the gallery and the statue of Our Lady by Seamus Murphy.

The dedication of the church to the Holy Spirit, the first in Ireland, is highlighted by the magnificent Pentecost altar mosaic, which was designed and executed by the Italian artist Romeo Battistella. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless and inspire all those who pray and worship here.



WE NEED YOU

Last week Fr. Tom Clancy issued a very warm invitation to all who have any association with our Church to join us in celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of its opening and blessing. Anyone who was baptised here has a special affiliation with it, as well as those who were married, or received First Holy Communion or Confirmation here. No doubt many will respond to this invitation. Others will feel alienated from the Church for one reason or another, and want no part in our celebrations.

If you, dear reader, are one of this very considerable grouping, please read on. Did it ever strike you how much we really need your support? How much you have to give? How much we miss you? During the week I read an account of a survey taken recently among people who had distanced themselves from the Church here in Ireland. Some of its findings I found quite surprising. For instance, only one in six held any bitterness to the church - or even felt alienated. Of course they resented some pronouncements from Church Authorities - for example, the ban on eulogies at Requiem Masses, recent directives on General Absolution, the position of women in Church structures, etc.

When all is said and done, the

central message of Christ's teaching has not changed - summed up in that wonderful word LOVE. The challenge for all of us is to find that love in the context of truth, and then practise it. It should not be rule based. Furthermore, this truth must be discovered and defined in humility, understanding, and empathy. I hope you will find these qualities in our Church today. Let us set out then to march together on the journey of life, and hopefully find the love of God and fulfilment as we go - friends, hand in hand.

*Alain O'Donnell*

A Life in Ballineaspig Parish

My earliest memory of church is of going to Mass in Highfield Pavilion. I seem to remember, too, that there was an air of celebration among the adults on finally being recognised as a parish in our own right, when our church was opened.

Another early memory is the smell of the confessional. I don't know why, but I can call up that smell any time.

My first big milestone was my First Communion Day; frilly white girls and spruce boys in crew-cuts and suits with short pants. Fr. Kennedy was beaming with pride! (We were in awe of him; such a huge man, and only one lung!) As children we always wore our Sunday best to Mass - mantillas and the latest millinery styles.

When it came to Confirmation, we were confirmed by Bishop Lucey

in the Lough Church. Many years would pass before Confirmation was held in Ballineaspig. Another great tradition in those days was the Liturgical Festival - an annual Mass for schools - also held in the Lough. It didn't bother us to walk all the way from St. Catherine's, there was the half-day to look forward to!

Then came the trendy 70s and 80s - inter-parish youth groups where we questioned every doctrine and law! Who can remember the frenetic preparations for the Pope's visit in 1979? That was the era of Karisna, our talented folk group. Last Mass was moved back to the decadent 12.15 p.m.! And we built the C.P. Centre (I'm still uncomfortable with that name.)

Friends at my wedding asked how I could face the walk down such a long aisle, and I replied that I'd been doing it all my life!

My sons have been baptised here, but that's probably the last 'Big Day' they'll have in the parish. Since there's no boys' primary school here, boys receive their next three sacraments in neighbouring parishes. They were both very well prepared for their First Communion and Confession, but I must say that attending those ceremonies, I felt like a fish out of water. (Maybe one of them will marry a local girl and keep me happy!)

I have had to leave so much out, but I'd like to say that I'm delighted to be part of such a vibrant parish community.

Margaret McCarthy



FROM COUNTRY BOY TO CITY CURATE -  
A Learning Experience  
in Dennehy's Cross

Growing up in Dunmanway, I always thought our church was massive. As a student for priesthood, I used to hate the thought of preaching there, it seemed so big. I'd be dwarfed by it, I imagined. But that was before I saw Dennehy's Cross church!

You can imagine what it was like to begin ministry here. I was newly ordained, just 24. I had preached a few times in public, but had never said Sunday Mass, had never done a funeral, nor a wedding, nor a baptism. It was mind-blowing! But I was lucky to start off here. I had great colleagues in the priesthood: The Dean and Fr. Tadg especially. And great friends in St. Catherine's Convent and the Poor Clares. Between them all, they knocked the rough corners off me.

Most of all I learned from the people of the parish. Visiting homes taught me what it was like to live in a city. (I was a country boy, don't forget!) And people's honesty helped me too. Sometimes, in preaching, I said foolish things. It was helpful