



4th February 2001

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 664



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



FROM OUR

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Patrick writes

YOU

During the First World War, the British Government used the image of the commanding figure of Kitchener pointing to all would-be recruits. The caption was simply: Your Country Needs You. Many of course could not believe that their country could need them, but conscription had a nasty way of enforcing this truth.

In the readings of Mass today, Isaiah in the first reading, and Simon Peter and James and John in the Gospel, are called by God. Their reactions are very similar, a disbelief that God could possibly be calling them. Isaiah says: "What a wretched state I am in! I am lost." Simon Peter says to Jesus: "Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man." How could God need me or wish me to do his work.

Yes, this is the healthy reaction of nearly everyone, yet we must continue the call - your parish, your community, your Church, your God needs you!

Patrick Welch

CHILDREN AT WAR



- * More than 300,000 children under the age of eighteen are currently fighting in conflicts around the world.
- * Although most child soldiers are teenagers, some are as young as seven years old.
- * Both boys and girls may be sent to the front lines of combat or into minefields ahead of other troops.
- * Some have been used for suicide missions or forced to commit atrocities against their own family and neighbours.

Our children are fortunate to live free from such dreadful abuse. Support the campaign to stop the use of child soldiers - contact the Department of Foreign Affairs, 80 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.





Rest in Peace

On Saturday afternoon 13th January Eileen Sheehan died suddenly at her home on College Road, where her neighbour Canon O'Driscoll was on hand to minister to her. Though failing in recent years, she continued to be of great heart and full of interest in the lives of extended family and friends. Her removal took place from the Bon Secours which had been her spiritual home as a daily Mass goer there with her late husband Paddy, since they came to College Road over twenty years ago. Her funeral took place in her much loved Boherbue. We sympathise with her children Vincent, Moira, Frank, Vera, Eileen, Pat, Jerome, Niall, their spouses and their children, and with a wide circle of family and friends. Ar dheis De, go raibh a hanam dilis.



We offer our sincere sympathy to FRANCES O'SULLIVAN, Kenley Avenue, on the death of her brother, John Stephen.

You are my
STRENGTH
O God



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Now that Spring is on the way, is it not time that we had some sessions of "Songs of Praise", for having this parish saved from the disasters of floods and earthquakes that we have seen and heard about around the world?

There are many talented singers, musicians and radio presenters in this parish, and it would be timely to have some sessions somewhat similar to that on the B.B.C.

Very sincerely,
A parishioner

(Name and address with the Editor)

Colaiste an Spioraid Naomh

The basketballers commence action very soon in the Cork Schoolboys' competitions. Those involved in basketball in the school would like to acknowledge the generosity of Bishopstown Credit Union for sponsoring a set of gear valued at some £600.

School Bank:

Run in conjunction with AIB Bishopstown, is up and running. Interviews for the various positions have taken place - Thomas O'Donnell being appointed manager, assisted by Gerard Barrett, Fergal Desmond and Derek Brennan who hold the other senior positions.



"PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER..."

Space craft Mir is finally coming down. When floundering without power, Mir was not a good bet for safe employment. Still cosmonauts volunteered to replace its tiring crew. The replacements trusted that everything was in place to bring them to Mir, and safely back.

Their confidence in themselves and in their scientific colleagues was unquestioning. Human error or technical failure could mean certain death. The safety nets are flimsy and the opt-out clauses are non-existent once you commit yourself.

True human love requires a similar commitment, unconditional and forever. There is no other way to experience the fullness of loving and of being loved. Conditional love is inherently unstable. Our world is in awe at the commitment of a cosmonaut while scoffing at the dedication of the one who lives faithful love to the full in family,

community, Church.

As he told Peter, Jesus tells us to cast out into deep water, to take the risk of loving as he did, to commit oneself forever to a partner, to a family, to a Christian community, with all the risks involved.

The invitation is to trust ourselves and God to safely negotiate the dangers, uncertainties and joys of the road to Calvary and beyond. But the temptation is to stay in the shallow waters of comfortable materialism, visionless individualism, and passive entertainment.

Both family and church provide flimsier safety nets than previously. Yet they offer the opportunity to experience authentic human life as it really can be, a pilgrim people, consumed by love, hurtling through time to live forever in the heart of God.

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Peace Competition 2000

Congratulations and well done to Aisling Walsh, Junior Cert. who received first prize in the Peace Essay Competition.

Congratulations also to the following fifth years who all won prizes in the Slogan Competition as gaeilge - Laura Vaughan came first and overall winner, Clare Ahern fifth, and Sarah D'Donovan eighth.

Comhghairdeas leo go leir.



Cork Branch Alzheimer's Society
Carer's support meeting in Jury's
Hotel on Monday 12 February at
8.00 p.m.

Bishopstown I.C.A.

Meeting in the S.M.A. Centre,
Wilton, on Thursday 8th at 8 p.m.
New members welcome.

Montessori Based Pre-School

Now open at Bridge View, Victoria
Cross. Contact Ann Maria at 086
8366851.



Pilgrimage to Lourdes

1-6 June 2001

5 nights

Hotel St. Sauveur

Full Board basis

£459 fully inclusive

For further details please
contact:~

Fr Patrick Walsh @ 021 4348588

Lourdes Invalid Fund

A collection in aid of the Cork
and Ross Lourdes Invalid Fund
will take place next wee'-end at
all Masses. Sunday, 11th
February, is World Day of the
Sick.

Seedlings: Grief Support

Seedlings is a Group Support
Programme for 12 to 18 year olds
who have experienced the loss of
a parent by separation, divorce
or death. It also deals with
other significant losses, e.g.
loss of a sibling, friend,
classmate. At this Group Support
programme, young people are
enabled to deal with their
feelings of anger, pain,
frustration and sadness. This
programme will commence on
Wednesday, February 7th, at
Family Ministry Centre, 34 Paul
Street. For further information
contact Kathleen at (021) 427
5136.

Readings for Sunday 11 February

Jeremiah 17:5-8: Those who trust
in God are compared with those
who trust only in themselves.

Psalms 1: Those who trust in the
Lord are blessed, unlike the
wicked.

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20: Paul
tells us that without the
resurrection, we can have no
hope.

Luke 6:17, 20-26: Luke's version
of the beatitudes takes place on
level ground. Jesus encourages
the poor and sick, while
denouncing the wealthy and self-
satisfied.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940