



11th February 2001

Ballineaspig Bulletin

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



No. 666

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



OUR PARISH PRIEST

writes

Another weekend is upon us with its gift of Eucharist together. The sheer regularity of the event may inoculate us against the awesomeness of what we share in word and sacrament. Do we remember much of God's call to Isaiah or to Peter and his companions last weekend? Did their response enrich or inspire our lives throughout the week? How did we heed God's gift of himself to us in the readings? Maybe, it is as if last weekend's readings never happened for us; that we never unwrapped the gift, or left it to one side once we got home. We could blame the reader or the preacher that he or she did not make it interesting enough for us. Such scapegoating is unworthy of a believer. No gift can enrich us unless we make it our very own.

We know that it is the spirit of God who reveals the richness of the message to us when we prepare the soil of our hearts to receive it. As well as a listening ear, we need a receptive heart with a decision made to let God's word find a home in us. We ready the heart and the head by explaining the

readings at home or coming to church five or ten minutes beforehand to study them before Mass. Our preparations will be blessed a hundredfold by the Spirit of God. The familiar will become reassuring and enabling rather than boring and irrelevant. For instance, this weekend Paul's reassurance about the after-life could enable us to be generous to the point of genuine sacrifice this Lent towards the poor and hungry whom the gospel terms blessed.

One thing is certain. The spirit of God is active in the readings and has the power to enable us to be saints. Is that what we want? I am sure that it is.

Thomas Blaney

The Sacraments

Why not take on a challenge for 2001? You are invited to a study day at St. Finbarr's College, Farranferris, on Sunday 18th February, 10.00 - 5.00 p.m. (Mass at 4.00 p.m.) Adm. £5. Presenter Fr. Paul Watson, Maryvale Institute, Birmingham. Please bring packed lunch and copy of the New Catechism of the Catholic Church. Further information from Fr. Declan Mansfield, tel. 430717.

"An Introduction to Christian
Feminism" by Claire Colette
Murphy, SHCJ, Dominican Publ-
ications, Dublin, 1994.

Succinct and clear, it offers a balanced perspective, respectful of opposing views, and is well informed on the origins of Christian Feminism in Scripture and the History of the Church.

It shows it to be not anti-men, but on the opposite, working for a liberation of both men and women in accordance with Jesus' teaching and practice. Also to be faithful to St. Paul's statement about "slaves or free, Jews or Greeks, male or female". Christian Feminism is perceived as being a "grace for the Church".

St. Peter had to reconsider some of the teachings of his faith (concerning the uncleanness of some animals). In the same way the present day Church may need to reconsider some of its teachings on the participation in the life of the Church of the female half of the whole baptized people. "The truths of feminism are the concerns not of women alone, but of the whole Christian community."

Madelaine Nerson McNamara



Mixed Blessings

Strange how a challenging situation, even a similar event can lead people to gain completely different perspectives on life. Take the very human experience of sickness, on this World Day for the Sick.

In illness, we experience our powerlessness, our limitations and our frailty. We glimpse our mortality. It can lead to our becoming self-absorbed, despairing or in revolt against God. Yet illness can also make people intensely grateful and help them discern what is not essential, so that they can turn towards that which is.

Illness is not good in itself. Its merit lies in bringing us

closer to God. It can be a mixed blessing. A lot like today's beatitudes. They seem to play up states of distress: being poor, grieving, suffering injustice. Jesus does not say they are good in themselves. They are only good as occasions that bring us closer to God.

In contrast, we have all seen abundance and wealth ruin a life. For the person who can handle prosperity, there are a hundred who can handle adversity. Look all around you. An imagined blessing can (in hindsight) be the very 'curse' that Jesus spoke of. For if we lose sight of God, we lose everything.

Fr. Tom Cox, Intercom



Small Change - BIG DIFFERENCE



Fairtrade

Millions of people in the poorest countries depend on producing products like tea, coffee and bananas for a living. This often involves long hours of back breaking labour, in hot or dangerous conditions, with the only result being grinding poverty and inadequate housing, with little health care or education for their children. By buying Fairtrade goods you can make a real difference to producers' quality of life.

Across Africa, Asia and Latin America people labour everyday to produce many of the things which we take for granted. Our cup of tea or coffee, our bar of chocolate and much of our fruit depend on people thousands of miles away spending their lives working for little reward.

Over many years the price of many of these products, like tea, coffee and cocoa, have been falling. On top of this many farmers in developing countries have nowhere to sell their products except to local middlemen who can decide to pay them very little for their crop. This means that they often receive very little for their long hours of labour, sometimes not even enough to live on.

What does Fairtrade mean?

- ◆ A partnership approach to addressing problems of inequality in world trade;
- ◆ A commitment to workers' rights;

- ◆ Paying a fairer price;
- ◆ Buying directly from producers;
- ◆ Paying a bonus on top of the minimum price to enable community development;
- ◆ Trading on a long term basis enabling producers to plan for the future.

Where can you get Fairtrade?

- Oxfam shops
- Your local supermarket
- Your work canteen or local restaurant.

If your canteen or restaurant doesn't serve Fairtrade coffee or tea, ask for it! All the main coffee roasters in Ireland have a Fairtrade Mark coffee.

Some of the products:

Coffee: Bewley's Direct, cafédirect, Johnson's Costa Rica Fairtrade Blend, Percol Fairtrade, Blue Earth Organic & OK Fairtrade (Java Republic), Robert Roberts Fairtrade, Tiki Caffè (Matthew Algie).

Tea: Bewley's Direct Tea (catering market only), Clipper Fairtrade Tea, teadirect.

Chocolate: Divine, Green and Black's Maya Gold, Masca Orange/Cappucino/White/Dark

Cocoa: Oxfam's African cocoa

What can you do?

- ◆ Buy Fairtrade products.
- ◆ Encourage your family and friends to do the same.
- ◆ Tell the *Bulletin* where you bought the Fairtrade products. We will print a list of local outlets in a future *Bulletin*.

(With thanks to *Ushirika* published by Oxfam Ireland/Northern Ireland)



NOTICE BOARD

Bulletins to Homes

Next weekend Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish.

Pastoral Council

Monthly meeting will take place this Monday 12th in C.P. Centre at 8.00 p.m.

Blood Donation Clinic

At SMA Hall, Wilton, on Thursday 15th February, from 6 -9.00 p.m.

Adult Education Lecture Series

At Ballincollig Community School on Thursday 15th February at 8.00 p.m. Title: Policing in the 21st Century. Speaker - Garda Superintendent Kieran McGann. All are welcome.

Bishopstown I.C.A.

Meeting next Thursday 15th February in S.M.A. Hall at 8.00 p.m. New members welcome.

Scoil an Spioraid Naoinh

Enrolment week for boys and girls, Monday 12th to Friday 16th February. Please call to the school or phone 4543305 (girls) 4543333 (boys).

Readings for Sunday 18 February

1 Sam. 26:2,7-9, 12-13, 22-23;
Ps. 102; 1 Cor. 15:45-49;
Lk. 6:27-38.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Congratulations and very well done to Ciara Fitzgibbon who attained the highest mark in Accounting, and to Sinead Turner who attained the highest mark in Business, in the Cork City area in the 2000 Leaving Cert. examinations. The Cork Chamber of Commerce will honour Ciara and Sinead by presenting them with awards at a forthcoming function.



Trocaire

Annual Doll Day

Are you willing to help for a couple of hours? Trocaire needs volunteers to help by selling dolls badges around Cork city centre on Ash Wednesday 28th February 28th, to raise funds for their development campaigns. If you can help please contact Michelle or Breda at Trocaire, 4275622.



Rest in Peace

We offer our sincere sympathy to MARY AHERN, College Road, on the death of her brother Billy.