



4th March, 2001

Ballineaspais Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent

No. 668



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



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

The outbreak of foot and mouth disease is a grim reminder of our vulnerability. Suddenly, we see again that we are not fully in control. As well as reminding us of how interdependent we are on one another, the outbreak also puts things in perspective. To protect the greater good, cattle marts must be suspended, rugby internationals sacrificed, racing meetings abandoned, food trading cut back, travel restricted, disinfectant programmes put in place. The cost to some is enormous. The cooperation of all is essential. We hope and pray that the restrictions will be accepted by everyone and an epidemic avoided with the help of God and of all of us.

The beginning of Lent is an annual reminder that we live with a constant threat of being overwhelmed with an even more insidious disease, self-centredness and selfishness. The everyday temptation is to make ourselves the centre of the world. We are not. God is. This self-centredness allows the virus of selfishness a free run. Unless we put guidelines in place, it will destroy us individually, as well as families

and community.

Lent is about focusing on true priorities and implementing strategies to protect and nurture our goals. Prayer protects our relationship with God. Sharing with our neighbours in need reminds us of family connections, children of the one Father. Please God, it is only the Trocaire boxes will be gaining weight this Lent. Forgiveness, given and received, roots out the cancer of guilt and hurt.

I wish you an enriching and happy Lent and may we all be protected from the virus of crippling self-centredness.

ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES

The Church Fr. Tom Clancy

- | | |
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| Tuesday
13th March | <i>The Church:
How it came to be</i> |
| Tuesday
20th March | <i>The Church:
The People of God</i> |
| Tuesday
27th March | <i>The Church:
Christ's Presence Today</i> |
| Tuesday
3rd April | <i>The Church and
the churches</i> |

The Crypt, Church of the Holy Spirit, 8 p.m.

Our Father **Hallowed be Thy name**

Children of tender age let alone mature people will react vigorously, sometimes even unwisely, on hearing anybody reflect disrespectfully on the name or character of a father or a mother. It is natural. It is a very instinctive thing to do.

It will even happen in the case of a father who might not be the greatest in the world for honouring, protecting, supporting or showing love for his family.

How much more, then, might we all be expected to respect and honour the name of God, the supreme father, and the name of Christ, his son.

The name of Jesus Christ, in particular, has become an essential ingredient in the vocabulary of many. Maybe it is a case that we are so short in conviction that we need the little extra to help express ourselves in our bid to make an impact.

As in human life, if we strive to honour the Father's name and the name of his Son we are really building up credits for the future as well as building up our own self-esteem.

In honouring the Son as well as the Father we create another reason why they, in turn, should remember us well in our many times of need and crisis along life's journey and be there to hold out the welcoming hand when we arrive at the final place of peace and happiness with God and with our own people.

Father, help us to be ever conscious of your presence and aware of your love for each of us as the people we are with our shortcomings as well as our strengths.

- JOHN ANON.

Rest in Peace

Tomás Ó Laoi, Laburnum Park, died rather unexpectedly on Wednesday 21st February. Tomás was one of our more widely known and respected senior citizens. He was born in the Glen of Aherlow all of 96 years ago. He had a brilliant academic career in the local N.S., Rockwell College, Drumcondra College and U.C.C. Born into a strong tradition in the teaching profession he graduated as a teacher himself. In a short time he was promoted to Inspector, and later to Divisional Inspector. His sporting career in Gaelic games and athletics was no less spectacular. He played hurling and football with his native county, as well as U.C.C. and St. Finbarrs. His younger brother Monsignor Christopher (also in his nineties) was chief concelebrant at his Requiem Mass, and won the admiration of all for his clarity of expression, as well as his command of the Irish language. We extend sincere sympathy to his dear wife Lucy, his sons Drs. Christy and Garry, his daughters Maire, Celine and Philomena, his brother, grandchildren, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and all who mourn his passing. Ar dhéis Dé do raibh a anam usáil.

Dina Murphy, Farranlea Park, died unexpectedly on February 21st 2001. Predeceased by her husband Joseph seven years ago, she had been living lately at Douglas Nursing Home where she slipped away peacefully. As a long-time member of Heffernans Travel, she was well known to a wide circle of Cork's travelling public as a



courteous and competent business woman. People of the locality and friends will remember her kindness and thoughtfulness. Her funeral Mass at the S.M.A. Wilton will be remembered by many, especially the post-communion reflection by her granddaughter, Tara Lock. To her daughters Rosemary and Frankie, her sisters Kay Delaney and Lily Conboye, to her sons-in-law and grandchildren, and to the wider circle of family and friends, we extend our sincerest sympathy.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to MIRIAM CASHELL, Laburnum Park, on the death of her father.

Announcements

Cork Peace Meek

An Ecumenical Peace Service will take place at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Sunday 11th March at 4.00 p.m. Rev. Jim Williamson, Belfast, will preach the sermon. All are welcome.

Creative Writing Workshop

At Colaiste Stiofain Naofa, 23rd/24th March. Details from 4961020.

Adult Art

Classes resume at 2.30 p.m. next Thursday 8th March in the Crypt.



What is your image of a slave? Bound in chains? Shackles? Whips? Cotton plantations? Slave markets? A shameful episode of

history?

It is difficult to believe that at the start of the 21st century slavery remains a reality. There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today. Today's slaves are not bought and sold in public auction and they are rarely held in chains. Yet they are just as trapped, controlled and brutalised as the slaves of our history books.

To learn about slavery today come to Peter Jacob's lecture on Tuesday evening - details on back page of Bulletin.

Reflection

You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose.

I gave them for a moment then withdrew them for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.

I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life that you might work through me.

I gave a small part that I might not get "too involved".

Lord, forgive me for my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe for me to do so, and only with those who make it easy for me to do so.

Father, forgive me

Renew me.

Send me out as a useable instrument that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

(A prayer from South Africa)



The Season of Lent

Lenten Devotions every Sunday at
5.30 p.m.

Weekday Masses at 9.00, 10.00 and
7.30 p.m.



FAITH IN ACTION

Slaves? in today's world?

It seems incredible, but an estimated 27 million people, men, women and children live in slavery today.

Trócaire are working for change, and we can help.

Come and learn more on **Tuesday 6th March** next at 8pm in the **Crypt** when **Peter Jacob** will speak on "Slavery in the 21st Century"

Peter Jacob is a lawyer and political scientist who works with the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Pakistan, where he is involved in the rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

ALL ARE WELCOME

LENT ON THE EDGE

Series of Lunch-Time Talks

with

JOHN LONERGAN

GOVERNOR OF MOUNTJOY PRISON

WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1.10 - 1.30 P.M.

Light Snack available

C.M.C.C.

Cork & Ross Marriage Counselling Centres annual collection next weekend March 10th/11th.

GOD'S WORD

Readings for Sunday 11 March

Gen.15:5-12, 17-18; Ps. 26;

Phil.3:17-41; Lk.9:28-36.

- * First Reading: The covenant between God and Abraham, our father in faith.
- * Psalm: The Lord is our light - we need not fear.
- * Second Reading: Our true home is in heaven.
- * Gospel: Jesus is transfigured, transfigured.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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