

Second Sunday of Lent



Ballineaspais Bulletin

11th March 2001



No. 659

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CO. K.



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

The Dean writes

Frank McCourt scoffed publicly on T.V. at young adults who are striving to promote chastity among the youth of our time. Frank was pretty good at scoffing at people anyway - his neighbours in Limerick, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Redemptorists, and many others.

In this Sunday's Gospel the voice of God the Father says: "This is my Son, the beloved, Listen to Him." What did Jesus say? "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him deny himself." He puts no tooth in the challenge he puts before his followers. But the reward is fulfilment in this world, and eternal happiness in the life to come.

Moses said in a recent Lenten reading: "I put before you life and death. Choose life, and be faithful to the Lord." There are many false prophets. The choice is ours. Listen to Jesus and his teaching, or follow the false prophets.

To quote from John Lonergan's wonderful Lenten talk last Wednesday: "The true Christian is not the one who reads the Gospel, but rather the one who lives it."

Ann O'Connor

LENT ON THE EDGE

Series of Lunch-Time Talks

with

JONATHAN AITKEN

EX U.I. Minister of Defence

EX Convict.....

WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1.10 ~ 1.30 P.M.

Light Snack available

ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES

The Church Fr. Tom Clancy

Tuesday
13th March

**The Church:
How it came to be**

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

ALL WELCOME

LENT ON THE EDGE

Using against herself the irreverence with which thirty years ago she lambasted The Establishment, Mary Kenny, the first speaker at the "Lent on the Edge" lunchtime lectures on Ash Wednesday, introduced herself as a "Barely Reformed Sinner". Now in her fifties and swathed in brightly coloured soft wools, Mary Kenny spoke to a capacity audience who greeted her with the same sentiments she evoked: warmth, humour, serious and informed questioning and a desire for dialogue towards understanding.

Mary Kenny is a journalist, commentator and writer based in England but frequently here, at her Dublin home. As a young reporter and subsequently Woman Editor of the Irish Press, Mary first came to prominence nationally as an outspoken and ardent feminist at a time of great global cultural turmoil as well as opportunities. Passionate about literature, creativity, politics, social justice and fashion, Mary was a familiar figure around Dublin in the late 'sixties, cycling a bicycle wearing shorts and smoking a pipe.

Marriage, maturity and the responsibilities of motherhood changed the young woman who deemed everything possible. She now wistfully notes problems associated with economic growth and sexual and religious freedom - particularly teenage pregnancy - and spoke of her comfort in a strong faith.

- Isabel Healy

Our Father..... Thy Kingdom come

As a Christian people our fundamental need is to know God better, to be loved unconditionally by Him and by his Son; that we love them and can confidently expect the benefits here and hereafter.

The ultimate expectation is that we would, one day, share the company of Father and Son and the company of our departed loved ones. It should be more than a hope. It should be a conviction that it will happen and there are solid grounds for knowing it will happen.

But because we are human it is hard to develop and sustain that vision.

Because we are human we have setbacks through life in terms of the Catholic rule book and in terms of our own or family health or other events that hit us or those we love. Because we are imperfect, we make imperfect decisions and choices. But the challenge is that through all of this that we never lose sight of the central vision that God is there for us today and tomorrow whatever our need. If we are aware of God's constant presence in our lives our whole outlook will benefit - and we can still enjoy all the good things of life and not have to go around like walking saints.

In fact, if we stop to think about it, we are probably already getting a taste of what will happen when the real Kingdom comes. It is already here if we think of the things that have gone well for us in life and in terms of the love and loyalty of family and friends and our own capacity to love and give our time and care unconditionally and generously. If we have great skills then we have also great gifts.

We may be blessed with good health or blessed with the ability to recover well and positively from serious illness or to accept a life-long disadvantage with conviction and hope. Life is full of blessings and the people with most turmoil and trial are often the ones who see them most clearly of all.

-JOHN ANON.



If you lived in Pakistan you would be a slave.

There are 4 million slaves or bonded labourers living in Pakistan, the same as the population of Ireland. This is one of the facts highlighted by Peter Jacob, a lawyer and political scientist, at the meeting co-hosted by Trócaire and the parish Faith in Action group last week.

He painted an appalling picture of the life of bonded labourers. A family can become slaves for three generations to pay back a paltry debt of £25. At factories and farms owned by the ruling elite they have

- no freedom of movement,
- no choice of profession,
- no schools for their children.

Bonded labourers can be held in private jails for alleged "misdemeanours". As many as 70 people at a time.

Peter and his brave colleagues work with the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Pakistan to help the slaves to claim their freedom and to assist their subsequent rehabilitation.

You can end slavery by supporting Trócaire's postcard campaign after all Masses in the Church of the Holy Spirit on the weekend of 24-25 March.

HELP STOP SLAVERY. NOW.

Rest In Peace

Kitty Coughlan, late of Sheare's Park, passed away quietly at St. Finbarr's Hospital on 19th February. She had been a patient there for many years, and was in fact the last of her family line. Her former employer and family, Mrs. Dom Flannery, Glasheen, took care that everything would be done with dignity and respect for her obsequies. May her dear soul rest in peace.

Meditation

Created to be Light.

The way of meditation is a way of enlightenment, a way of entering fully and definitively into God's pure light. In meditation, pure prayer, neither God nor we are objects. To meditate is to have life, to be converted, to seek peace not just for ourselves but for all.

In the central spiritual tradition, God is seen as pure light and the spiritual path itself is seen as the 'path of enlightenment', a coming into that light. The Godless world of materialism on the other hand is a world full of shadows. We were created to become light, to be light, and we are called to be 'pure subject'. We are called to be one with Him.

The invitation that we are given is to see the light whole and entire because our invitation is to see what is, in its wholeness and entirety. Learning to stay within the light is what meditation is about. The light that enlightens teaches us that God is all. It teaches us that we can only really be, when we are in God, for He is all there is.

- Dennehy's Cross parish meditation group. We meet every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. sharp, in the parish centre and new members are most welcome to join us.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to EILEEN SPILLANE, The Manor, and to NEIL BUTTIMER, Kenley Crescent, on the death of their mother, Peggy Buttimer. To MARGARET O'CONNOR, Orchard Road, on the death of her mother, Eileen Cronin.



A quarter of the world's population, that is one and a half billion people, is living on less than a dollar a day. In 1820 the difference between the richest and poorest countries was a ratio of about three to one. By 1960 the 20 per cent of the world's richest people had 30 times the incomes of the poorest 20 per cent, while in 1997 that had risen to 74 times.

A computer costs one month's salary for the average Irish person, compared to eight years' income for the average Bangladeshi. A quarter of the world's countries still do not have one telephone per 100 people.

Mount Mercy News

Students generously donated supplies of Hour and Calpol to the most recent Chernobyl Children's Project appeal. This donation will form part of the next convoy of humanitarian aid to leave for Chernobyl on 1st April to help ensure that clean uncontaminated food and basic medical care will reach orphanages and villages in the ravaged country. Room 11 2nd year students collected over £200 for the Indian Earthquake appeal.

Ba mbaith linn to leir ar mbufochas a ghabhail leo.

Announcements

Bulletins to Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next week-end.

Pastoral Council

The monthly meeting will take place this Monday 12th in the C.P. Centre at 8.10 p.m.

C.M.C.C.

Cork & Ross Marriage Counselling Centre's annual collection takes place this weekend at all Masses.

GOD'S WORD

Readings for Sunday 18 March

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; Psalm 102;
1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9.

- * In the First Reading God reveals his name to Moses.
- * Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love.
- * Second Reading: St. Paul draws lessons from Jewish history.
- * Gospel: We are called to repentance by God, who offers us a second chance.

Say, "Thank you, St. Patrick"!

St. Patrick was a stranger in our land when he brought Christianity to Ireland. NASC – the Irish Immigrant Support Centre helps strangers in our midst today. Support a fund-raising Concert at the Everyman Palace Theatre on Sunday, 18 March, at 8 p.m.: an evening of music and song with Declan Sinnott and international guests. Tickets: £15, £10 (concessions).

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940