

18th March 2001



No. 670



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, COOK.

Ballineaspaig Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Patrick writes

CHANGE

What were you planning to do for the long weekend? Perhaps you were going to go to the country or maybe you were looking forward to being at the parade, but with the foot and mouth crisis you will have to do something different, change your plans, change your direction.

When we speak in the Church about repentance, the original meaning was simply to change direction. Lent is the time for repentance, the time to change the direction of our life. Cardinal Newman said that to live is to change, to be perfect is to have changed often. When God called to Moses in the first reading (Exodus) his life totally changed. The Gospel (Luke) calls us to change before it is too late. In these days of Lent we must consider how we need to change our lives. Jesus does give us a warning of disastrous consequences if we do not.

Patrick Walsh

THE FIRST ROW OVER MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Last Tuesday in the first of his Lenten talks Fr. Clancy painted a vivid picture of the early Church after the first Pentecost. They were a community of believers bound together by belief in the risen Christ: the people of God continuing the work of Jesus, meeting the need of the time, helping the Church adjust to a new environment, remaining faithful to the Gospel in a multi-cultural community. It was a very human story, including disagreements among followers about caring for the widows – the prototype of our “meals-on-wheels”.

He stressed the uniqueness of the church. It is more than a group of people with a common vision: it is a community linked with and inspired by Christ. Today in our parish of Ballineaspaig we are challenged to rediscover – and to live - the ideals of the early Church. He left us with this daunting idea: we are interested in the Church only if we belong to it or if we want to destroy it.

This thought-provoking series on the Church, organised by the Adult Education committee, continues next Tuesday when Fr. Clancy discusses “The Church: The People of God”. There is no better way to spend a Lenten evening.

Rest in Peace

On March 10th Mary Egan, Wilton Gardens, slipped peacefully home to God after a twelve month illness borne serenely with faith and hope in the Lord, and cared for by an attentive and loving family. Among the early arrivals to Wilton Gardens with her late husband Tom, Mary helped to create a family oriented neighbourhood with untold blessings for the young families there at the time. She served as a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, and was a faithful and appreciative Minister of the Eucharist right up to her final illness. She will be greatly missed. To her children Carol, Anne, Ruth, Brian, Malachy and Rory, their spouses and children; to her sisters Eileen and Betty, to the wider family, neighbours and friends, we offer our sincerest sympathies. Ar dheis De, go raibh a hanam dilis.

Sheila Lynch, Highfield Lawn, died on Thursday 8th March after a long illness. She was a lady of great Faith and strong devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. For many years she made her daily visit to our Parish Church to pray. Sheila was pre-deceased by her husband Sonny, and was buried in her native Bandon. We offer our sympathy to her daughters Nora and Mary, her grandchildren, sons-in-law, and all her relatives.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to ANNE HARRIS, Bishopstown Avenue, on the death of her father.

Our Father.....

Thy will be done

We would all be saints if we succeeded, day in and day out, in living a life that entitles us without question, to a VIP pass to a Corporate Box in Heaven. Because we are human we have to work on it, make errors, learn the hard way and come back on track as often as it takes.

And what brings us back on track is the certainty of a compassionate God and the vision of ending up with a place in His presence and in the company of all who are with Him in the "Next Room".

God's will for us, as John Anon. sees it, is that we live our lives as decent, honest, hard-working people, respecting others as we would have people respect our own families. It is also a fact that the down-and-out of our urban streets and doorways might well have been a successful professional if the paths and opportunities of life had been different at the critical time. It could be any one of us - any son or any daughter. Life is strange.

God gave us principles by which to live. The basic principles of our religion are The Ten Commandments. The challenge is to be permanently conscious of them and to strive to keep trying to succeed out of love of God but certainly not out of fear of God. Another thing... Maybe we think at times that we are self-made people who made our own luck and owe nothing to anybody but ourselves and our immediate families. God gave us our skills and talents and it is natural to assume He expects us to use our time and talents to encourage and support those whose natural abilities might be at a different level.

Our giving should be spontaneous and without the expectation of a payback. In an Ireland preoccupied by tribunals and past dodgy investment operations it is worth remembering that God has the highest interest rate in the entire investment business when it comes to decent, honest living for its own sake - and with an eye to long-term security!

-JOHN ANON.

LENT ON THE EDGE

Continuing our Lenten talks, John Lonergan spoke of his experience as Governor of Mountjoy Prison since 1984 and of the people who have influenced his life there. If you want to practise Christianity, he said, there is no better place to be than in a prison.

He pointed out that we can feel comfortable in dealing with the successful, but shy in coping with the broken members of society. Of course they have done wrong, but in his experience they have a great need to be treated as human beings, to be seen as ordinary people. Using the word "disgraced" is the worst label of all. We should hear the stories of these "enemies" of society before judging them, hearing them rather than just listening.

So many unfortunate people

not necessarily bad people, have been born into an unfortunate environment. In birth we have no choices. Mr. Lonergan cited the case of a heroin addicted young girl who gave birth to a baby already heroin addicted. What a future for that baby!

None of us can truly empathise with prisoners if we have not been in their situation. But every human being deserves respect. The most basic human need is to be loved, the most damning is to be rejected. We will be judged on how we live the gospel, not how we read it. He said he has never met anyone inside prison who was all bad, nor anyone outside who was all good!

John Lonergan's talk was not only inspiring but very challenging.



We welcome into our Christian community :

Robert Gerard Murphy
Emily Ellen Treacy
Johnaboy Quilligan
Kieran Thomas Timothy O'Driscoll
Darragh Jack Golden
Catherine Eileen Healy
Amy Shauna Gearns
Sophie Annie O'Rourke
Hannah Margaret McCarthy
Martha Jo Goveas
Caoimhe Pascale Treacy O'Donoghue
Esme Ailish Treacy O'Donoghue



Eleven million children under five die each year from hunger or hunger-related diseases. Yet, the cost of eradicating extreme poverty from the globe is one per cent of global income. 130 million children receive no primary schooling. Yet, it would cost just an additional six billion dollars annually to supply basic education for all children in the developing world currently denied this right.



NOTICE BOARD

WEEKEND MASSES

St. Patrick's Day:

Vigil Mass 7.30 p.m. Friday.

Saturday: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 and
6.15 p.m.

Sunday: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.

Ministers of the Eucharist

Please collect your updated rota
at the altar rails after Mass.



Lectio Divina

Inviting Siol members to Lectio
Divina in the Crypt for three
Thursdays - 22/29 March, 5 April,
at 8.00 p.m. If interested
please contact the parish office
at 4344452.



Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle

Our monthly recital will take
place on Wednesday next 21st
March at 3.00 p.m. in the crypt
of our church at Dennehy's Cross,
when Kevin Giltinan will present
his choice of music. Be ann gan
telp.

Bishopstown I.C.A.

Talk on plants and gardening by
the Bandon Garden Centre in the
S.M.A. Centre on Thursday next
22nd March at 8 p.m.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES

**The Church
Fr. Tom Clancy**

Tuesday
20th March

*The Church:
The People of God*

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

ALL WELCOME

Faith in Action

A meeting of the **Group** will be held on
Monday next, 19th March,
at 8.10pm
in the Parish Centre.
All are welcome.

GOD'S WORD

Readings for Sunday 25 March

Jos.5:9-12

Ps.33

2 Cor. 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

- * First Reading: The Jews' first
Passover after their years in
the desert.
- * Psalm: Praised be God who
feeds the people.
- * Second Reading: We are a new
creation, and ambassadors for
Christ.
- * Gospel: The story of the
Prodigal Son.