



25th March 2001

Ballinaspig Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent



No. 671

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENMEY'S CROSS, COBK



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**

writes

HAPPINESS GUARANTEED

There is an ever increasing longing among us to choose the easy option, to eat, drink and be entertained. A strong strand in current advertising recommends that we enjoy now and pay later.

The message is both effective and insidious and touches all our lives. When such an attitude gradually works its way into the fibre of our being and of our society, the consequences are disastrous. It suggests that selfishness is the road to happiness and that comfort rather than God is our fulfilment. To follow such a philosophy of life is to live a lie. Living a lie is always destructive. It obscures the better option which is to live as Jesus would have us live. This requires that we truly love ourselves deeply so that loving others as we love ourselves evokes heroic generosity in us. It means that we live to the fullest the potential God has sown within us. Such an option gets very obscured in our world. Lent is an opportunity to choose it again.

Thomas Clancy

THE CHURCH – THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Fr. Clancy, in his second Lenten Talk last Tuesday night, told us of the “Jesus Experience”. He described beautifully how this jump away from ritual gave us the sacraments which are linked to Christ’s death and the Risen Christ. This made us the People of God in a teaching church, where God’s will is made known to us through scripture, tradition, training, practice and experience.

He emphasised the chance to get away from the notion of “I am saved on my own” and take on the call of “worship together” and going to God together.

There is a call on the whole church to holiness. Let the Spirit of God mould us in his own image, assuring us that Christ lives in each of us, it is the bond between us and the mystery.

Fr. Clancy answered a number of questions on the night and again demonstrated his gift of painting lovely pictures with his words.

Don’t miss the next talk by Fr. Clancy next Tuesday 27th March at 8.00 p.m. in the Crypt.

Don’t forget to add your voice to the campaign to abolish bonded labour:

**SIGN A TROCAIRE POSTCARD
IN THE CHURCH BEFORE YOU
LEAVE TODAY.**

Remember the postcard campaign last year in support of people who had their land taken from them? The e-mail message overleaf was received from Fr. Brian Holmes, who spoke to us last year in the parish. You can see that the postcard campaign produced results.

From: brian holmes
<bpholmes@cultura.com.br>
Subject: latest news from Brasil

Dear Friends of Peace Dennohy's Cross,
Once again Lent is with us. And naturally I recall our meeting last year, and your wonderful interest and care

Campos Lindos, that hidden corner of the world where I spent a lot of my days, has hit the national news headlines. The Public State Prosecutors have published a dossier of some of the irregularities that have been going on there. Things that we have been trying to get corrected over the last 5 years, and have been rowing against a very strong tide. They have discovered and denounced the National Forestry Department for allowing the soya growers to cut down the woods and forests, they have shown how the State Governor took the land of the original owners, and handed it over to friends and supporters of his election campaign, and tried to shunt the poor off the land to make way for soya bean plantations.

So all this is now public news in Brazil, but not here in the State, as this week's edition of the News Magazine, EPOCA, has not arrived. We suspect that once again the State Governor has bought up all the copies before they arrive, and picked out of the post those who have an assinatura.

So luckily friends called me from São Paulo, and I was able to pick up the articles on the net. And send them on to others around the state so we can break the censor barrier. Talk about cowboys and Indians in the third Millennium!

Your support and prayers are very important to us here.
Love,
Brian.



The world's three richest billionaires have more wealth than the combined wealth of the 48 least developed countries and their 600 million people.

LENT ON THE EDGE

In the final talk, Jonathan Aitken first described the awful experience of being sent to prison for perjury in June 1999, of going from the dock, five storeys down, and being greeted, "Welcome to hell", being strip-searched, property confiscated, a horrible reality. Humorously he told us he was asked by a psychologist, "Does anyone else know you're in prison?" He answered, "About 10 million people." The psychologist then asked him was he suffering from other delusions! He was given the option of isolation for his own protection but refused. He started to pray.

Going back in time, he was born in Dublin in 1942, studied at Oxford, went into politics and rose to Cabinet Minister. He admits to being swollen up with his own pride, a Sunday Christian. In prison, though he is an Anglican, he went to confession to a Catholic priest – a turning point.

A prison cell, he said, is a wonderful place to discover true brokenness, to convert loneliness and despair into solitude and hope – to pray. He formed a relationship with his fellow prisoners and set up a prayer group. Amazingly, people became transformed – by the Holy Spirit. Sixty per cent of prisoners normally re-offend, yet not one of that 15 core group went back to prison.

Asked how all of this has affected his family, his daughters told him they prefer a vulnerable father to a powerful one!

His aim now is to bear witness to what the Holy Spirit can do, to try to serve the hero of his story, Christ.



Rest in Peace

Sr. Mary Peter Weedle died at St. Joseph's on St. Patrick's Day. She was a person of deep faith and had a great love of liturgy. Being a person of unique artistic ability she taught for many years in Drishane, Malahide and Portmarnock, before retiring to St. Joseph's ten years ago. We offer our sympathy to her brothers Herman, George (who taught in Mount Mercy for many years), John, her many relatives, friends and community.

On March 16th 2001, Nora (Babs) Godsell, Farranlea Park, died peacefully at C.U.H. A native of Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary, together with her late husband Frank, she set up home in Farranlea Park many decades ago. Left a widow with five young children, she devoted her life to their welfare with great optimism and verve to become one of our more senior parishioners. Even though invalided five years ago, her sharp mind was unimpaired and she retained a lively interest in every aspect of life, especially family, friends, neighbours and parish. Up to the end, she enjoyed spending the summers in Kinsale. She will be greatly missed by her children and their extended families, as well as by a wide circle of neighbours and friends, to all of whom we offer our sincere sympathy.



We offer our sincere sympathy to
MRS. ENA O'CONNOR CONSTANT,
 Bishopstown Avenue, on the death of her
 daughter, Olivia Constant Higgs, and to
MONICA O'HARA, Court Cairn, on the death
 of her sister.
 To **DR. ANNETTE KELLY**, Woodford,
 Melbourn, on the death of her mother, Mrs. K.
 Dillon.

Our Father..... Give us this day our daily bread

All of the seven sentiments contained in the Lord's Prayer have equal relevance in the overall context of acknowledging the greatness of God, our obligations to Him and pleading for His protection and love.

But this one segment, relating to our need for daily bread, is the opportunity written for us by Christ himself to admit our own human vulnerability and acknowledge our need for God's involvement in our lives on a daily basis. And we have Christ's assurance that God is listening - but waiting to be asked. These are our urgent priorities for today and for this week. We can ask with confidence.

But there is more to it than simply seeking favours for family and friends, alive or dead. The Father and the Son together have given us the real Daily Bread. By staying close to God and his Son in Communion we set ourselves up well to be listened to when we list our private needs.

The word "bread" in our human sense embraces everything from the sickness of a child to the challenge of an exam, problems in relationships, our job or the lack of a job; the insecurity and loneliness of daily living, the troubled hearts of loving parents and grand-parents and the sadness of families enduring loss through death or loss through alienation cause by drink or drugs. The list is endless. We each have our own needs.

In our minds we hold out our hands laden with our cares and offer them to God and to Christ whose prayer it is. "Father, you know these things that trouble me most today. Reach out your healing hands and touch the people who are so much in my heart and in my thoughts. I have Christ's assurance that you are listening as I ask for your compassion and your intervention."
 - JOHN ANON.



RECONCILIATION

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 8TH

5.00 P.M.

Season of Lent

- Masses Monday to Friday at 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.
- Lenten Devotions every Sunday at 5.30 p.m.

ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES

The Church

Fr. Tom Clancy

Tuesday
27th March

*The Church:
Christ's Presence Today*

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

ALL WELCOME

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY



St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection will take place at all Masses next weekend.

GOD'S WORD

Readings for Sunday 1 April

Is.43:16-21; Psalm 125;

Phil.3:8-14; John 8:1-11.

- First Reading: It's time to begin anew.
- Psalm: The Lord works marvels for us.
- Second Reading: Nothing is more important than knowing Jesus.
- Gospel: The woman taken in adultery meets Jesus.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

LENT ON THE EDGE

Thank You

Now that the series has come to a close, I would like to thank all those who worked so hard in its production: those who made tea and coffee, those who moved chairs, welcomed and directed crowds, those who helped with publicity, those who prayed; a special word of thanks to Model Gourmet Foods of Model Farm Road who supplied the sandwiches. We are forever indebted to our three speakers this year, Mary Kenny, John Lonergan and Jonathan Aitken who told us their own stories and what happened to them on the road of life, and of course I wish to thank all those who came to the talks, and supported the event in such great numbers and with such great enthusiasm. Please God we may discover His presence in our journey of life.

Fr. Patrick Walsh