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CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fifth Sunday in Lent



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

Isn't it curious – I mean our fascination for bad news. Our newspapers seem to revel in giving full details of gruesome accidents, salacious court cases and extreme violence.

Memoirs of unhappy childhoods top the bestseller lists. Surely one of the most touching scenes ever painted by the great Rembrandt is that of the "Return of the Prodigal Son". In it he diverts slightly from the Gospel story to picture the reaction of the Elder Brother and contrasts it to the warm welcome offered the erring son by the loving Father. There he stands aloof and cynical rather than join in welcome and celebration. He seems to say, "Give him the punishment his conduct deserves." There is an instinct somewhere in us to load personal guilt on to a scapegoat.

In this Sunday's Gospel we have the story of the woman taken in adultery, named and shamed before the gaze of the onlookers. Her self-righteous accusers are really more interested in putting Jesus in a catch 22 situation than anything else. He is damned if He frees her and thereby breaks the Law of Moses. He is damned if He says she should suffer the rigours of the Law and lose his reputation for mercy and forgiveness. Jesus saw things differently. He saw a person, who with a word of encouragement might sin no more, a saint possibly. He saw that it takes two to tango – what of the other party? It seems women were used in Our Lord's time, just as happens today.

Finally he asks the question for all to answer – "Hands up anybody here who is without sin?" Next Sunday afternoon we have our Easter

Reconciliation ceremony at 5.00 p.m. We might conclude with the paraphrase of a well-known Psalm.

*We go in, we go in, full of fears, carrying sin
in our conscience. We come out, we come
out, full of song, bright with his grace.*



LENTEN SERIES - THE CHURCH

Scripture was the starting point for last Tuesday's talk "*The Church: Christ's Presence Among Us*", the final topic in the Lenten Series organised by the Education Committee. Fr. Clancy referred to St. Paul's letters to the Romans, chapter 15 and Ephesians, chapter 4, which focus respectively on the image of the people of God as the body of Christ and the importance of Unity and the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Among the concepts presented by Fr. Clancy and explored by all present were: the Church as dynamic and developing rather than static, and the Church as manifestation of Christ still present among us as a body of members. The issues of community structures within the Church, our common priesthood and the meaning of the term 'Vicar of Christ' evoked an interested response all round.

Our sincere thanks to Fr. Tom for his enjoyable and engaging presentation of a complex and extensive subject outlined over the past few weeks. This was the last lecture in the current series.

NEWS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS



St. Catherine's National School:

Spring has sprung and our garden is full of colour. The scent of hyacinths greets all who come in the gate! Great credit is due to the girls of 3rd class.

Our 2nd Class pupils made their First Confession last Saturday, and are eagerly preparing for their First Holy Communion.

Congratulations to Holly McConnell (past pupil) and her sister Sophie (5th class) who came first and highly commended in the Junior Recital Competition at the School of Music. Both have been taught by Mrs. Pat McCarthy (Suzuki method).

Well done to Aine Ryan (6th class) who came 1st in the All Ireland U-14 Sports-Aerobics in Dublin in February.

There was tremendous interest in the recent Art Competition run by the Parents' Association. The objective was to design greeting cards which may be printed and sold to raise funds (no results as I write!).

The grease paint is out! Junior and Senior Infants and Mrs. McCarthy's 5th class are in the final stages of preparation for their Concert, which will be held on Thursday 5th at 7.30 p.m. in the school. All welcome.

Congratulations!

Mount Mercy:

Congratulations and well done to Jane Cunningham, Transition Year, who won a trip to Europe in the 2001 'Europe at School' essay. This competition was organised by the Department of Education & Science. Comhghairdeas Jane!



Rest in Peace

The sudden death of Michael O'Reilly, Greenfields, Model Farm Road, was a profound shock not only to his dear wife and family, but to all his friends and neighbours, and Michael will be for ever remembered for his kindness and care for everybody who needed a helping hand with the problems of life. The large numbers who thronged our church for his Requiem Mass on St. Patrick's Day from his native Douglas, as well as relatives and neighbours in Greenfields, were a testimony to the esteem in which he was held by all. To his wife Anne, his family Jennifer, Michelle, Anthony, his bother Frank, his grandchildren, sisters-in-law, and all his relatives, we offer our sincere sympathy.

Annette Twohig-West, Beaumont and Model Farm Road died at Marymount on the feast of the Annunciation. Annette had been unwell since the previous summer and in spite of all medical care she passed away quietly on Sunday 25th March. Annette was a gentle, caring and really beautiful person, but too young to die. Her colleagues in the nursing profession came in large numbers to join her relatives and neighbours for her funeral Mass. We extend the sympathy of our community to her husband Frank, her two young children Becky and Dylan, her mother Sheila, her sisters Helen, Catherine, Denise and Phyl, her brother Des, and all the extended family and friends.

 Out of the depths
I cry to you,
LORD
LORD, HEAR MY VOICE!
LET YOUR EARS BE ATTEN-
TIVE TO THE PRAYER OF
YOUR SERVANT.



Our Father...

Forgive...as we forgive

Forgiveness is an essential part of healing, of personal security and having a good feeling about one's own worth. The capacity to forget real or perceived offence or insult to us is a gift in itself. The knowledge that we are ourselves forgiven by others is a daily multi-vitamin of the highest order.

In life we can pretend. With God pretence won't work and we can't bargain. Our willingness to forgive others must be unconditional. We must ask for His forgiveness in the same way as we are willing to ourselves forgive. And the problem is that God knows the secrets of the human heart.

Alright, so we are human and there may be people who have hurt us or our families by word or deed. In that case forgiveness may come hard on the heart. But we can sincerely ask God to help us to find that forgiveness and leave it to Him to take it from there.

Anyway, inability or unwillingness to forgive is counter productive. It clogs up the memory with old and irrelevant data. Carrying old grievances is a waste of good time and of valuable memory space. Life is too short and too wonderful for that. We eat ourselves up and the trouble is that nobody knows or cares - except ourselves.

Pride is a terrible thing. Too many of us are afraid to be the first to put out the hand or to pick up the phone and show courage, initiative and leadership. At the end of the day it matters not who it is has the courage to make the first move. God will recognise greatness.

"Father forgive us...as we forgive." It makes good sense! - JOHN ANON

Letter to the Editor

Sonas,
Farranlea Park

Dear Editor,

I pass on for consideration by *Bulletin* readers a piece from our neighbours' *MSC Light*. I must confess it was the reference to money in the opening sentence that pricked my conscience. It seemed very apt after the recent gentle reminder of the need to increase the church collection to cover the parish deficit. Dare I suggest a 20% increase?

Unfortunately I'm afraid other sections of the passage apply to me as well!

Yours sincerely,
Rosalie Moloney

Funny?

Funny how £10 looks so big when you take it to the church and how small when you take it to the supermarket.

Funny how long an hour seems when serving God and how short sixty minutes are when playing golf or bridge.

Funny how hard it is to read a chapter of the Bible and how easy it is to read a 300-page novel.

Funny that we can't think of anything to say when we pray and have no difficulty carrying on a conversation with a friend.

Funny how easily we find a reason for not going to Church and never think of missing our night in the pub.

Funny, isn't it?





First Friday

Next Friday 6th April is the First Friday of the month. Calls to sick and housebound on usual days.



Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Adoration will take place next Friday 6th from 10.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. followed by Mass.

Bulletins to Homes

As Easter Sunday falls on the third Sunday of the month, Bulletins will be delivered to the homes on 8th April.

St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society

Monthly meeting will take place next Thursday 5th April in C. P. Centre at 8 p.m.



St. John's Passion by J.S. Bach

Performance by the East Cork Choral Society will take place in St. Patrick's Church on Saturday 7th April at 8 p.m. to raise funds for St. Patrick's Church restoration fund.



Coffee Morning

Next Wednesday 4th April in Dennehy's Cross Lounge Bar, 10.00 to 12 noon, in aid of the Irish Kidney Association.



Poverty does not always have to be with us. Extreme poverty can be eradicated from the globe within the next two decades. It would cost only an extra \$80 billion annually to provide all basic needs to the world's people who are now without health, education, safe water, sanitation and housing.



TAKE NOTE

THE WIZ

Transition Year students of Mount Mercy College present the musical *The Wiz* on Friday 6th April at 8 p.m. in the School Hall. Tickets available at the door. £5 adults and £3 students, reductions for families and under 12's.

GOD'S WORD

Readings for Sunday 8 April

Is.50:4-7; Ps. 21; Phil. 2:6-11; Lk. 22:14-23:56.

The First Reading describes someone enduring much suffering, as Jesus did.

Psalm: The prayer of one who feels forsaken by God.

In the Second Reading Jesus achieved glory through suffering.

The Gospel shows us the sufferings of Jesus through the eyes of Peter, and Simon, and the good thief.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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