



22<sup>nd</sup> April 2001

No. 675

# Ballinaspais Bulletin

Second Sunday of Easter



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



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

"Peace be with you". This was the Lord's greeting to his disciples on several different occasions after his resurrection. Peace of mind, peace of conscience, peace of soul, and the joy it brings is a gift which only the Lord can give.

I'm not good at counting, but somebody who is wrote that the disciples were afraid and upset nineteen times at his appearances. They were doubting and unbelieving seventeen times. Only four times were they filled with joy. Why was this I wonder? Of course I don't know. But think on this quote from the Gospel of St. John – "Peace be with you... And he showed them his hands and his side." I'm sure the Lord intended them to see that it was his real self who was present, who had suffered and died a few days previously. But He may also have intended them to realize that the price of this peace and joy involves self-denial. The Lord is not asking us to do hard things for the sake of doing hard things, or for the pain involved – certainly not. But being a realist he knows quite well that following in his footsteps involves avoiding self-indulgence in all sorts of ways. This is the price of integrity – of being honest in what we profess as followers of the Lord. But at the end of the day the gift of inner peace far outweighs the cost.

*May the Spirit of peace and unity be present*

*in us all.*

*May the Holy Spirit of love dwell within you and bring contentment to your home, and joy to your heart.*

*Alleluia.*

## EASTER BLESSINGS

The celebration of Holy Week here at the Church of the Holy Spirit was both enriching and encouraging. There was a great atmosphere of prayerful belonging in the large congregations that took part in the ceremonies. Sincere thanks to one and all who contributed to a wonderful Triduum. It was especially important to share our joy at Easter time, to share in the unique joy and hope that Easter brings. The good news is that Jesus rose from the dead, and that through the Risen Lord all of us can rise above our failings to live as God's people, bringing his caring love and sustaining hope to all we meet. Easter is a time of new life and fresh growth. I wish God's blessing on all new beginnings in family relationships, in prayer, in forgiveness, in service. May God bless each of us now and throughout the Easter season.

Sincerely,  
Tom Clancy, P.P.

**Please take a copy of  
the Bulletin home  
or give it to a  
friend or neighbour.**



## *Rest in Peace*

Roy O'Shea, Leesdale, Model Farm Road, died on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April from injuries he received in a motor cycle accident a week earlier. The violent death of a young person is almost too sad to contemplate. The tragedy of Roy's death was compounded by the death of his girl friend in the same accident, followed by the death of his grandmother a few days later. A large gathering of young friends of both victims attended the removal to the Church of the Holy Spirit, and for the Requiem Mass on the following day. We extend sincere sympathy to his parents Paddy and Bernadette, his brother Christopher, his sister Claudia, his little son Glenn - too young to know, and all who mourn his untimely death. May they all rest in peace.

### **IN SYMPATHY**

We offer our sincere sympathy to GEORGE WALSH, Kenley Drive, on the death of his mother.

### **YOUTHFUL INSPIRATION**

"Jesus was fab" was one child's comment after the Children's Stations. In her vocabulary, that was the highest praise for a truly moving, respectful and prayerful presentation of the core of the Passion Story on Good Friday morning. The congregation's ages ranged from eight weeks old to eighty-eight years young, as families gathered to share the participants' enthusiasm and joy in being actively involved in prayer in church. We gratefully salute them all and the core production team that enabled it to happen. Easter blessings on one and all.



## **LETTER**

Dear Editor,

We are constantly reminded that we are the Church and our opinions and views are welcome however critical or unorthodox these may be. With this in mind allow me, with respect, to pose a few questions about the Easter Saturday night ceremonies. There can be little doubt about the significance of these ceremonies, the lighting of the new fire, the Old Testament readings, the admission and baptism of a new member into the Christian community. One wonders however if any of this significance would be lost if some of the content were abbreviated or omitted, thus giving a shorter version of the proceedings. Most of the psalms had four or five responses - would not two suffice? Would God be less honoured? And the sermon. Is it necessary to preach-for-all of 15 minutes on such a night? One is aware that the purpose of the homily is to emphasise or elaborate on some thought or message of the Lesson or the Gospel, but after seven Old Testament readings plus St. Paul and St. Matthew from the New Testament, would not two or three brief sentences from the preacher be enough?

Consider the plight of the person who encouraged or indeed cajoled her/his teenager, partner or friend to take part in these meaningful ceremonies, only to be reminded afterwards of the fact that they spent two hours and five minutes in the church. Will these less-than-enthusiastic worshippers come again on Easter Saturday night next year? I think not. And more's the pity.

Sincerely,  
Aideen Clifford



### **The Paradox of our Time in History**

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider motorways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgement; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, but not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour. We've conquered outer space, but not inner space; we've done larger things, but not better things.

We write more, but learn less; we plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait; we have higher incomes, but lower morals; we have more food, but less appeasement. We build more computers, to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication; we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of fast foods, and slow digestion; tall men and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken

homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable nappies, throw-away morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill.

It is a time when there is much in the show window, and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology has brought this piece to you; and you can choose to make a difference, or just to hit the "delete" button!

### **THE LIFEBOUY**

What good is religion? A doubting teenager, I put this question to my father, when walking along a beach many years ago. It was a windy day, and the waves were high. My father pointed to an old lifebuoy nearby. Religion, he said, is like that lifebuoy. It may appear dull, even boring, but when the waves of life get high, like the lifebuoy religion will keep us afloat – we will have it to cling to!

What good is religion? – my question was answered.

Pat Boylan

### **DOUBTING THOMAS?**

The doubting Thomas saga is often glibly used to dismiss even the most reasonable reservations about a project. Thomas is in the not uncommon situation of being remembered for his limitations rather than for his finer qualities. He was the courageous one who suggested that all the disciples should go and die with the Lord in Jerusalem when danger threatened the Master. He was honest and open in saying that he did not understand a word when Jesus was talking about being the way to the Father. But it is for his unwillingness to believe in the resurrection of Jesus that he has gone down in history. Yet, his hesitancy was understandable. The others believed because they had been in the presence of the Risen Lord. Without this personal experience they would not have been convinced.

- *Living the Word*



## Feast of Divine Mercy

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Devotions at two local venues

1. Curraheen 3.00 p.m. Chief Celebrant Very Rev. Canon Micheal Ó Dálaigh.
2. St. Augustine's Church, 2.00-5.00 p.m. Chief Celebrant Fr. Anthony Finn, O.S.A.

Patron of this Devotion is Sr. Faustina who was canonised on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2000.

### Episcopal Commission

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

### Situation Vacant

Wanted person for cleaning duties for local school. Hours 4 – 6 p.m. Telephone 4542685.

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### **ERROR IN EASTER CROSSWORD**

No. 1 across should read:

She turned round and then said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbuni!" which ... .. Jn.20:16 (5,6)

Apologies for any confusion caused!

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## God's Word

### Readings for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Acts 5:27-32. The apostles are reprimanded for teaching about Jesus.

Psalms 29; Praise God, who rescues us from our enemies.

Apocalypse 5:11-14. John shares his vision of heaven.

John 20:1-19. Jesus' third appearance to the disciples is described.

### For Teens who want something deeper

A new teenage magazine has arrived – **FACE UP**. Colourful, loud and lively, **FACE UP** is an informative and challenging magazine that explores serious issues in a lively, sensitive and balanced way. It is published by the Redemptorists. Each issue takes an in-depth look at a topic of importance to teens, everything from bullying to racism, to going to Mass, to coping with grief and loss. The current issue is on 'Teens and Racism' and there are free copies at the back of the church, together with some order envelopes.

If they are all gone by the time you read this, contact Redemptorist Publications, 75 Orwell Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6. A year's subscription costs £10 by post. Recommended for teenagers and parents.

### FOOT AND MOUTH PRAYER

Creator God and Father of all.

You entrusted the world to our care and set it teeming with the beasts of the fields, for our benefit.

For this abundance we thank you.

Now we turn to you at this time of national anxiety, for across this season of birth and new life moves the shadow of disease and destruction.

Lord, give us the wisdom to work together for the good of all;

watch over all whose livelihoods are threatened by this plague;

guide all who strive to protect farm animals from Foot and Mouth Disease.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

<b>EMERGENCY NUMBER</b>
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