

6th May 2001



Ballineaspig Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Easter



No. 677

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



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**

writes

A CALLING FOR THE TRULY BRAVEHEARTED

The arrival of the first tourist in space this week is a reminder of how rapidly changing is the world in which we live. The extraordinary changes in technology, especially in communications, are paralleled by exploration of the development of the human person and how we relate to one another. Instant communication often co-exists with ever increasing isolation and loneliness as community in the western world disintegrates. Professional as well as social relationships are tending more and more to be matters of convenient compatibility rather than committed co-responsibility.

The growing awareness of individual rights often divorces these rights from the welfare of others and, indeed, of the planet. The right to one's opinion is fast becoming more sacred than truth.

In such a world there is a community who believes in the love of Jesus for us, strives to live a life committed to the truth about Jesus especially his presence in the Eucharist and lives to communicate this faith to others. It is

not surprising that this community, our Church, is in such upheaval in an environment where some of the cornerstones of its being, truth, commitment, community are themselves in turmoil.

But such is the world given to us in our time, a time of unrivalled opportunity and diversity, of challenge and insecurity, of need and plenty, of hope and despair, of faith and doubt. It is in such a world that the Church needs leaders of committed vision who are willing and able to commit themselves to live by core truths about ourselves and about God. Such visionaries must be inspired by God to choose service of God and His people as a fulltime lifecalling. At this time, it is a calling for the truly brave-hearted who can integrate our spiritual heritage into the whirlpool of life today. It is a calling for those whom God chooses.

Vocations Sunday is about asking God for such leaders, but it is also about being willing ourselves to facilitate the emergence of such faith-filled disciples and ensuring their sustenance on the pilgrim road that the community of believers in truth must travel together.

Vocations Sunday is an audit day for all of us.



Rest in Peace

On April 26, 2001, Felix Hughes, Liam Lynch Park, died at C.U.H. in the presence of his children and grandchildren after a very brief illness. His wife Chrissie had predeceased him a year ago and, in fact, he was buried on the first anniversary of her death. Together they had been among the first arrivals in the Park to set up home and rear their family which was the focus of their lives. Felix continued to be blessed in the joy that grandchildren visiting him brought him. His other love was sport in all its forms and he never lost his attachment to his native Blackrock and all associated with it. He will be sadly missed by his children, Sean, Margaret, Catherine, Eileen, their spouses and children, by the wider family and many friends. We offer them our sincerest sympathies.

"TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY"

Whenever I hear an advertisement end with this familiar refrain, I am reminded that

- ◆ God loves me unconditionally and
- ◆ forgives me endlessly.

A far better deal than any financial institution can offer.

EASTER CROSSWORD

We received 33 entries to our crossword competition of which 27 were all correct. From these we drew for prizes: Mary Nolan, St. Helens, Wilton Road E. Richmond, 57 Westbury Grove

Getting our priorities right

For the size of our population we certainly come up with some dramatic contrasts. Take the proposal to spend an estimated **one billion-plus** (one thousand million) on a new national super stadium versus the scandalous lack of a comprehensive care service for the elderly and the delay in getting "public patient" hospital treatment for death-threatening conditions like cancer.

On television recently we saw the widow of a retired garda tell how their entire pension money and their savings - totalling £80,000 - had been eaten up on residential care for her late husband who had suffered from Alzheimers for years.

Our secondary roads are in shambles. Every suburban and rural road junction is in shreds. Youth sports facilities are crying out for funding. The list seems endless.

It is time to get our national priorities right, cut the wishful thinking and get back to the real world before the cash runs out. - D.C. (Pensioner)





A PARISHIONER WRITES...

Dear Editor,

Last weekend's Bulletin carried three letters referring to Aideen Clifford's comments on the subject of the Easter Vigil Ceremony. One of them, by Carmel O'Shea, needs an immediate response.

Mrs. or Ms. Clifford was perfectly right in saying that the people are the Church and have a right to express opinions and viewpoints. In fact, the Bulletin only recently asked parishioners to contribute news items and comment on different aspects of parish life.

I did not read Aideen Clifford's letter as a sweeping criticism of our priests. She questioned the wisdom of having a homily which, she noted, was 15 minutes in duration during an essentially long ceremony and she also questioned the need for such a long ceremony in the first place.

We are blessed in our parish to have exceptional priests. They are wonderfully different in age, personality, style and presentation. But all have the same high level of commitment, sincerity, compassion and concern for people of all ages.

Surely Aideen Clifford is absolutely entitled to tell her story as she sees it and motivated, as she appears to be, by the very best of intentions. A great many people would say that, across the entire Irish Church, homilies are too long, too abstract, too out of touch with that week's joys and sadness and that they too clinically follow the Gospel or the Readings of that day. At a broader level, there is little room, it seems, for

diversity in the formal ceremonies of the Church. And young people are drawn to diversity and challenge.

Aideen Clifford would seem to be merely offering an honest opinion as a person committed to her religion and as a member of this community trying to lead by example. We should welcome debate and see if there is a useful message in there somewhere from which the wider institutional Church and we, the real Church, can all equally benefit.

- Dick Cross

A Reflection

THE WEIGHT OF A SNOWFLAKE

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a coal mouse inquired of a wild dove. "Nothing more than nothing," was the answer. "In that case I must tell you a marvellous story," the coal mouse said. "I sat on a branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not in a giant blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn't have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch - nothing more than nothing, as you say - the branch broke off." Having said that, the coal mouse flew away. The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself, "perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come about in the world."

Joan Chittister
'In a Spiritual Season'



NOTICE BOARD

Public Meeting on Volunteering

Good Shepherd Services and Brian Crowley, MEP, invite those involved in voluntary and community groups to Jury's Hotel on Monday 21st May at 8 p.m.

Padre Pio Devotees

Pilgrimage to Holy Cross Abbey, Thurles, on Sunday 27th May, departing from Opera House at 10 a.m. sharp. Cost £6. Tickets available from Jackie O'Herlihy at 4541144 after 7.00 p.m.

Alzheimer Society Cork Branch

Carers support meeting at Jury's Hotel on Monday 14th May at 8.00 p.m.

Stamps for the Missions

Your stamps can help provide homes and education for adults and street children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Please send to Sister Maria, Mission Centre, Handmaids of the Sacred Heart, Upper Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Tel. 01-2889963.

Family Pilgrimage to Knock

Organised by Presentation Brothers next Saturday 12th May, leaving from the Mardyke at 7.30 a.m. Cost £14 (travel only). Preacher Fr. Jack McArdle. Please contact Br. Clement 4392160.



INVITATION

Video Show

Columban Missions will have a Video Show on their missions in the Imperial Hotel on Tuesday 8th May at 7.30 p.m. All welcome.

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Jesus, send labourers into your fields,
which are awaiting holy apostles,
saintly priests,
heroic missionaries and
dedicated sisters and brothers.

Enkindle in the hearts of men and women the spark of a vocation.

Grant that Christian families may desire to give your Church,
helpers
in the work of tomorrow.

Amen.



Chernobyl Children's Project

Host families are needed for this summer, two or four weeks, from 22nd June to 20th July 2001. If you could help, please phone Anne at (021)4505094.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

Readings for Sunday 13 May

Acts. 14:21-27

Ps. 144

Apoc.21:1-5

Jn. 13:31-33, 34-35.