

13<sup>th</sup> May 2001



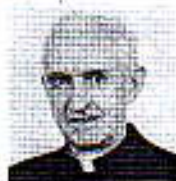
# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Easter



No. 678

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

This Sunday's Gospel brings us back to the first Holy Thursday night. After the Last Supper Jesus had a long talk with his apostles, and then left his final legacy to them and to all of us. "My little children," he said, "I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another just as I have loved you. By this love you have for one another everyone will know you are my disciples." Sounds simple enough, and somehow appeals strongly to our better nature. Aren't we all good at loving people (??). The challenge goes deeper than we might think at first reading. St. Paul spells it out in more detail - "Love is always patient and kind; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins, but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and endure whatever comes." Which one of us can put our hand on our heart and truthfully say: "That's me". But the wonderful thing is that God has also given us new power to love through his Holy Spirit - surprising even ourselves.

"See how those Christians love one another." This was the comment of the pagan neighbours on the early Christians. This is the challenge for us in our time. "As long as we love one another, God will live in us, and his love will be complete in us."

"Our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active." And it isn't just for people far away, but first and foremost for those nearest - and hopefully dearest to us.

"So let us love one another, since love comes from God."

*Aine E. Conroy*

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## BAPTISM

We welcome into our Christian community the following who were baptised recently:

Mollie Ellen Byrne  
Sorcha Emily O'Sullivan  
Deirbhile Ní Dheasmhúnaigh  
Eloïse Catherine Annick Tobler  
Stephen Patrick Killeen  
Shane Michael Minihane  
Michael William Murphy  
Ciara Paula Power

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

One opinion is that the first child in a family is often the quickest to be articulate because the parents constantly chat up their first arrival. Others might think that it may be a later child, the third perhaps, who progresses most rapidly as the elder two coax, cajole and encourage the younger one to repeat what they say.

Whatever about the differing opinions, the fact is that we develop our talents and skills, our attitudes and lifestyles, by imitating others. Imitation makes us what we are. Our uniqueness will later enable us to be creative, but firstly we are imitative.

To imitate Christ is to be Christian. To recognise his values, and to make them our own is how we live, is to be true to our destiny.

Today's gospel points out that the crucial imitation is to love the other person just as Jesus loved each of us first. His love knew no bounds. He forgave his executioners and he loves each of us as much as he loved them. Secure in that love, we must reach out to one another.

It is on this love that salvation is based, and not on private religious practices. The challenge is intimidating, but love of the neighbour is the identity badge by which the followers of Jesus will recognise each other and, in turn, be recognised by people everywhere.

For one's own long-term benefit, it is important always to carry this essential means of identification and to update it daily.



*Make it a point to do something every day that you don't want to do. This is the golden rule for acquiring the habit of doing your duty without pain.*

Mark Twain





### After Death

A priest started his homily at a funeral saying, "I am going to speak about judgement". There was dismay in the congregation. Then he went on: "Judgement is whispering into the ear of a merciful and compassionate God the story of my life which I have never been able to tell."

Many of us have a story, or part of one at any rate, about which we have never been able to speak to anyone. Fear of being misunderstood, inability to understand ourselves, ignorance of the darker side of our hidden lives, or just shame, make it very difficult for many people. Our true story is not told, or only half of it is. What a relief it will be to be able to whisper freely and fully into that merciful and compassionate ear. After all that is what He has always wanted. He waits for us to come home to Him. He receives us, His prodigal children, now contrite and humble, with an embrace. In that embrace we start to tell Him our story, and He begins that process of healing and preparation which we call Purgatory.

- Cardinal Basil Hume



27 Her spirit returned and she got up at once. (Luke 8:55)

### Love Thy Neighbour

During Our Lord's life on earth He often told us to "love thy neighbour". But I question who is my neighbour?

The answer in the Catechism I learnt at school was: "Mankind of every description and without any exception of persons, even those who injure us or differ from us in religion."

I had forgotten that I must try to love all these people! In the Ireland of today this will require greater effort - I must work on it!

But I am a Christian, a follower of Christ. This message to us was "Love thy neighbour", so here goes....

- P.B.

### A Motorist's Prayer

Lord, grant me a steady hand and watchful eye,  
That no one may be hurt when I pass by.  
You give life; I pray no act of mine  
May take away, or mar, this act of thine.  
Save those, dear Lord, who bear me company  
From shock and pain, and all calamity.  
Teach me to use the car for others' need,  
Nor miss through love of speed  
The beauty of this world; that so I may  
With joy and courtesy go on my way.  
Amen.





**Bulletins to Homes**

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next weekend.

**Confirmation**

Sixth class pupils of St. Catherine's National School will receive their Confirmation next Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 p.m. Please note - **no 10.00 a.m. Mass on that day.**

**Santiago de Compostela**

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in Europe, ex Cork from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July, to coincide with the Feast Day of St. James. Organized by the Cathedral of St. Mary & St. Anne, enquiries to Premier Travel, Daunt's Square, tel. 4277700.

**Return to Education for Adults**

Mornings only. Ideally suited to those with children at school or those who have only a limited amount of time. Subjects include computers.

*Junior Certificate (for Adults)*

*Leaving Certificate (For Adults)*

A public meeting will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 10.30 a.m. at Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, Tramore Road. For further details contact Mary Scriven at 4961029.

**Readings for Sunday 20 May**

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29.

Ps. 66

Apoc. 21:10-14, 14-23.

Jn. 14:23-29.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**087 - 251 9940**

**CONFIRMATION**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

**10.30 a.m.**

Fifty-one girls from St. Catherine's School will be confirmed, receiving the fullness of the Spirit which they received for the first time in Baptism. We pray that they will receive the gifts of the Spirit.

**Wisdom:** That they may always know what is the best thing to do.

**Understanding:** That they may understand especially those whose needs are greater than their own.

**Right Judgement:** That they may never be too quick in judging others.

**Courage:** That they may always do what is right even if others oppose them.

**Knowledge:** That they may know God better and know what He wants us to do.



18.7 Confirmation  
The Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit  
(2 Cor 1:22)