



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 704

# Ballineaspais Bulletin

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



OUR  
**PARISH  
PRIEST**

*writes*

## CHOOSING FOR THE FUTURE



The deadline is approaching rapidly. Leaving Certificate students are finalising their hopeful choices for third level education for next September. A change of mind option later in the year lessens the tensions associated with filling out the current C.A.O. forms. Still, this week's decisions can have a lifelong significance. So what can most fruitfully guide any of our choices?

Personal talents must be developed in harmony with the existing and evolving world that lies open to the young today. Failure to do so impoverishes us all. The opportunity to make a difference in our world for the good of others is a key strand in building our long-term happiness. To miss out on the joy of freely giving oneself in creative service is to miss out on the cornerstone of true love. Grasping awakens our insatiable

yearning to have more and more. Yet, the young often feel evaluated by what they can accumulate.

It is far more important for human well-being to be cooperative than competitive. There is so much pressure on the young to believe that being better than others is a road to happiness, whereas real inner peace is found in realising one's own potential whatever it may be. To experience one's own talents fully utilised in the service of family, friends, neighbours and the wider community is a blessing beyond compare.

Our God has made us for each other. His love is given uniquely to each one through one another. The talents and opportunities he gives each one are not for the recipient alone, but for the good of the whole community. To lose sight of God's purpose can flaw any planning for the future. To keep God's purpose as the focus of all our plans ensures that our choices reach the targets of achievement, happiness and lasting joy.

May the Spirit of God guide our young in all their life choices, so that they may build a better world of justice, peace and hope.

*Thomas Blaney*



## *Rest in Peace*

Teresa O'Connor, Lima Lawn, died peacefully in the Bon Secours Hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> January. She was predeceased by her husband Edward and her son Edward, R.I.P. We extend the sympathy of the community to her daughter Mary, sons John and Pat, grandchildren and her many relatives and friends.



We offer our sincere sympathy to MAURA COUGHLAN, Kenley Heights, on the death of her son Christy.

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### *Concluding our series on Angels....*

The Archangels, Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are remembered on September 29<sup>th</sup> (Feast Day). Theologians are of the opinion that St. Michael surpasses in glory and power all the other angels in heaven. The church invokes Him as Prince of the Angels. It was St. Michael who defeated and conquered Lucifer (Satan) casting Him into the abyss. "Nowadays hardly anyone dares to speak of the devil," Cardinal Carrone wrote, "a kind of conspiracy of silence prevails on this subject." "Be sober, be watchful, your adversary the devil prowls around like a

roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him firm in the faith." (Peter 5-8).

The Irish people have always held St. Michael the Archangel in great veneration. This is evident from the number of ancient churches dedicated to him. They termed him "Ardrigh na nAingeal" - "High King of the Angels". The Christian name Michael continues to be very popular today in Ireland.

It was Pope Leo XIII who, having had a vision of demons and evil spirits attacking the Church, composed the prayer to St. Michael. Older people will remember it being recited after Mass. "Blessed Michael the Archangel, defend us in the hour of conflict, be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God restrain him, we humbly pray. O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and with him all the other wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls."

The greatest joy that a guardian angel can behold, learned writers tell us, is the happiness of escorting their allotted soul into heaven. This is reflected in the Church's funeral liturgy when we proclaim "May the angels lead you into paradise".

Finally, as we know there are millions and millions of stars. Yet, in daylight we cannot see them. To see the stars we must go into the darkness of the night. Similarly, to see the angels and converse with them, we need to penetrate the "luminous darkness" with "the eyes of faith". God himself has revealed their existence and the role they play in our lives.

Arthur O'Callaghan



# LETTER

Dear Editor,

Please, Please, Please, let the people sing.

One of the best forms of praying is to raise one's voice while singing to the Lord. In most churches and particularly our own, this form of praying is not possible. The reason for this is because the congregation cannot be heard, as they are being drowned out by the microphone singers (cantors and priests).

Microphones were introduced in order that the priests could be heard in the bigger churches while saying Mass. If priests were to raise their voices and sing the Mass there would have been no need for microphones and speakers. To get the people singing again, stop the microphone singers. Bring back the cantors to the altar, they should sing without the microphone and conduct and encourage the congregation to sing.

Last Saturday evening at 6.15 p.m. Mass a glorious opportunity was missed when there was no cantor available. Fr. Clancy could have conducted and encouraged the people to sing, and I have no doubt more people would have joined in if hymn sheets were available.

I would like if this suggestion was tried out and I would be surprised if the people would not respond by singing as well as in the old days.

- A quietened and drowned out singer

(Name and address with Editor)

*Editor's note:*

*At Saturday's 6.15 p.m. Mass*

- 1. There were hymn sheets available.*
- 2. Fr. Clancy came out before Mass to invite the congregation to sing.*
- 3. Nobody used a microphone during the singing.*

*So the required conditions were present. If the opportunity for singing was missed, who missed it?*

## Bible Corner



### ZABULUN AND NAPHTHALI

The Battle of Kinsale has a special corner in Irish folk memory. It is often regarded as a turning point in Irish history. Zabulun and Naphthali had a similar place in Hebrew memories. These provinces were among the first to be overrun during one of the earliest invasions of Israel. Many inhabitants were exiled. Isaiah brought a vision of hope into the story of disaster. He promised that a saviour would one day come to these territories. Centuries later when reporting the arrival of Jesus to these territories, Matthew, the writer of this weekend's gospel, recalls the vision of Isaiah to strengthen his claim that Jesus was, indeed, the promised Messiah. Sunday's gospel recounts the beginnings of the public ministry of this Messiah.



## Brigid, a Blessing



Brigid  
Light to the darkness  
Hope to the downcast  
Woman of faith and of Ireland.

As water  
Falling from full-sky  
brought benediction  
To the crop and creature

As water  
Falling from cupped hand  
Brought benediction  
To the new-born Christian  
We sprinkle water  
Here and now  
In this, a place  
Made blessed by our children.

May the dark of the heart  
never hold them  
May the light of the faith  
always lead them  
May it shine like the pillar  
of fire before them  
And scatter the dark of their days  
As it mastered the shadows of yours.

Brigid  
Light to the darkness  
Hope to the downcast  
Woman of faith and of Ireland.

*Christy Kenneally*

(1<sup>st</sup> February: Feast of St. Brigid)

## Announcements

### First Friday

Next Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration next Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February after 10.30 a.m. Mass until 7.30 p.m. followed by Mass.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Monthly collection next weekend.

### Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima

Monthly devotions – Mass and Holy Hour in reparation to The Sacred Heart of Jesus and The Immaculate Heart of Mary at St. Maries of the Isle on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m. conducted by Fr. Vincent Hodnett. All welcome.

### Art Classes for Seniors

Will resume on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January in Crypt at 2.30 p.m.

### God's Word

### Readings for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

#### First Reading:

Zeph. 2:3. 3:12-15.

#### Psalm 145

#### Second Reading:

1 Cor. 1:26-31.

#### Gospel:

Mt. 5:1-12.

### EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940