



10th February, 2002

No. 706

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY CROSS, CORK.



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

Tomorrow – Monday 11th February – is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On that date in the year 1858 Mary first appeared to Bernadette at Lourdes. When Bernadette asked her who she was the answer was “I am the Immaculate Conception”. It was a curious response, but more readily understandable when we recall it was just four years previously the Pope had defined the Immaculate Conception of Mary the Mother of God.

The whole episode was quite extraordinary really. At that time Lourdes was an unknown village in the south of France – Bernadette Soubirous was never heard of outside her own family and a few neighbours. She wasn't a particularly bright child, but she was devout and she did pray. You can imagine her apprehension when she went to the Parish Priest, at the behest of Our Lady, and told him to build a church down by the grotto. “Build a church! We can't maintain the one we have.”

The wonderful outcome is: the church was built – several churches were built - and more importantly, filled by millions of pilgrims from all over the world every year. Bernadette later entered a convent

at Nevers, contracted T.B. and died at the age of 35. She was not cured at Lourdes. The first recorded miracle

there was the cure of a blind man after washing in the water a day after it bubbled up at the base of the grotto. Some extraordinary miracles have been certified at Lourdes – though the numbers are comparatively small. Miracles of grace are commonplace.

Half a century ago a film was made entitled “The Song of Bernadette”. The Director was a non-Catholic. He was deeply moved by the facts as he found them at Lourdes, but he never got the gift of Faith. You and I share a treasure he never knew – and, as St. Paul wisely observed, we hold it in a very fragile vessel.



Lent on the Edge

OVIDIU MATIUT

Asylum Seeker from
Transylvania

Ash Wednesday
17th February 1.00 – 1.15 P.M.

12.00 – 12.15 A.M.

Ovidiu Matiut is an engineer by profession, but had to flee for his life from Transylvania. He tells his own story.



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

On reading the letter *Let the People Sing* in Bulletin 704, my mind went back to the many, many times I tried to promote congregational singing in the Church of the Holy Spirit. I never did succeed.

I'm not sure that I agree with the letter writer that it is all down to the use of the microphone. I think the editor's note inadvertently reveals the solution. Substitute the word 'encourage' for 'invite' and the scene changes. Irish people will sing on buses and trains, in pubs, in their home - practically anywhere. But the atmosphere must be right and this doesn't just happen in most churches. A large, still, silent and solemn church is not conducive to singing. But actively encourage people to sing joyfully, enthusiastically, urge people to use the hymn sheets and the mood changes.

One final point. Trained singers are in the minority in any church gathering. If there is to be any hope at all of full congregational singing, then the singing has to be in a key suitable for the majority of people. Most cantors are well capable of hitting the high notes. But the rest of us are not. Mostly we just give up!

So, give the congregation a chance. Encouragement and affirmation can work wonders so that the Sunday Eucharist can be truly a celebration.

In joyful anticipation
Pat Lemasney

24 Farranlea Grove

Dear Editor,

I would like to state, in case I am thought of as being against Cantors, I most definitely am not. Cantors to my mind are very necessary to teach and encourage congregation in the singing of new hymns and new responses. I would like to see a time when the congregation would sing the Our Father during Mass. I also would like to see the Cantor singing a solo during the distribution of Holy Communion.

In reference to Anita O'Sullivan's letter in last week's bulletin, let me thank her for her contribution. Anita made my point for me when she wrote "and the congregation are welcome to join in". As I understand it, responses and hymns should be sung by the congregation with the cantor there to lead and encourage.

Before signing off, I must congratulate Fr. Walsh for the way he led and encouraged the congregational singing at the 6.15 p.m. Mass last Saturday. I agree with him - the singing was of a very good standard and shows what can be achieved with a little bit of encouragement.

The quietened drowned-out singer is back singing again.

T. O'Flynn



Scripture study



Bible Corner



SALT - THEN AND NOW

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago as I arrived at the church for 10.00 Mass I heard a group finishing the rosary and they then said the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. Coincidentally, I read in Arthur O'Callaghan's article last week on the Angels that this prayer was recited after Mass. With my curiosity aroused, I consulted my Roman Missal (a treasured family heirloom) and found the Prayers after Mass set out. In 1884 Leo XIII ordered to be recited three Hail Marys, the Salve Regina, a prayer to Our Lady (commencing O God, our refuge and our strength) and a prayer to St. Michael the Archangel (as referred to by Arthur). In 1904, Pius X, in addition to these, recommended threefold invocation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Older people will remember that in Ireland the De Profundis (Ps.129 in Latin) was recited after the last gospel and before the above prayers. Perhaps they may also recall when these prayers were discontinued.

Sincerely,
Joe Crean

MADE IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD

"Every person with whom I come into contact is not only going to tell me something of God, but is also going to reveal something of God's love for me. I like to think that the affection another shows to me is a special word of love from God. It is as if every person who shows affection for me is in some way transmitting God's love to me."

- Cardinal Basil Hume

In our time, medical advice and leading food product advertising often alerts us to the damage of too much salt in our diet. In the time of Jesus, the situation was quite different for Palestinians. Climate demanded a significant human intake of salt, as well as a widespread use of salt as a preservative. Without it the human body would malfunction and fresh food would decay. Good salt was vital in the arduous life style of the people. Anything less than the best was useless and was discarded quickly.

When Jesus challenged his followers to be the salt of the earth, they knew exactly what he meant. Without their wholehearted commitment to the values of justice, forgiveness, service and love, these values in society would decay and die by being spurned in the wider world. In that sense, nothing has changed.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 17th February

First Reading:

Describes the entry of sin into the world through the story of Adam and Eve.

Psalm 50

Second Reading:

Rom.5:12-19.

Paul brings the First Reading and Gospel together, and tells us that the death of Jesus freed all people from sin.

Gospel:

Mt.4:1-11.

The Gospel shows us that even Jesus had to endure temptation.



LOCAL SCHOOLS

Congratulations to Mount Mercy's first year choir who won The Hilsers Perpetual Trophy for U-14 group singing at Feis Maitiú Corcaigh. The girls sang Brahms Lullaby and Old King Cole, a two part canon by Peter Jenkyns.



**FIVE MINUTE DELIGHTS
FOR LENT**

Spare yourself the hassle of rushing for Sunday Mass. Come five minutes earlier! Almost everybody is in church within five minutes of Mass beginning. One good way of enriching our weekend Eucharistic gatherings is for everybody to be there relaxed and ready for the opening hymn. Lent is a good time to develop the early habit. Set your sights on 6.10 p.m. and 12.10 p.m.!!

Wanted

Recorder/Music Teacher - hours negotiable. Apply Principal, St. Catherine's National School, Bishopstown Avenue.

The Worst Forms of Child Labour

Reminder of Trócaire talk by Maura Scully, Programme Advisor in Mozambique, on Monday 18th February in the Crypt at 8 p.m. All welcome. See details on poster in church porch.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

Evening Mass for Lent

Beginning on ASH WEDNESDAY, 13th February, there will be Mass each day at 7.30 p.m. (Monday to Friday) for Lent. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Pastoral Council

Meeting this Monday 11th at 8.10 p.m. in the C.P. Centre.

Diocesan Directories

Now available at €3 in the Church, Sacristy and C.P. Centre.

The Spirituality of Justice & Social Care

A series of five Lenten Seminars on Wednesdays, 8.00-9.30 p.m. at the SMA Hall, Wilton, beginning on Wednesday 20th February.

20th Feb: *The Challenge of Poverty*, Mary Murphy, Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

27th Feb: *What it Means to be Poor*, Sr. Bernadette McMahon, Vincentian Partnership.

6th Mar: *Anti-Poverty Strategies*, Helen Johnston, Combat Poverty Agency.

13th Mar: *Poverty & Education*, Teresa Dowling, U.C.C.

20th Mar: *Where has the Poverty Gone?* Fr. Sean Healy, SMA, CORI

Bereavement Ministry in the Parish

A day looking at bereavement ministry in the Christian community, with Anne Francis, on Saturday 16th February, 10.00-4.00 at Dominican Centre, Pope's Quay.

