

3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2002



No. 709

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

# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

## THE VERY HEART OF CHRISTIANITY

Last week I met a lady I had known for a long time. She had suffered unbelievable tragedies in her life – loss of both parents in her teens, a dreadful mistake in her choice of marriage partner, financial ruin through no fault of her own, and now a life-time friend disowning her when she needed support like never before. Anger, bitterness, resentment were seething within her.

I could understand her suffering, but no way could she let go or forgive, even though it was the only path to healing and freedom.

Then came Fr. Aidan Troy from the Ardoyne in Belfast. The anger, spite, and most foul insults hurled at him day after day by Loyalist bigots was unbelievable. Added to this were real threats to his life. But in spite of all this he told those who threatened him and literally spat on him that he bore them no ill will – that they had nothing to fear from him or the parents of the children he shielded on their way to school.

This is at the very heart of Christianity – following in the footsteps of the Master who prayed: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

The subject of forgiveness was preached more often by the Lord than any other topic. Of course He knew how central it is to Christian living – how vitally important it is for victim and perpetrator - how awfully difficult it is in real life situations.

"Lord, make me an instrument of  
your peace,  
Where there is hatred let me pour  
love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we ourselves  
are pardoned.  
And it is in dying that we are born  
to eternal life."

*Aidan Troy*

Our parish e-mail address is:  
[holyspiritparish@eircom.net](mailto:holyspiritparish@eircom.net)

**PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING  
AT MASS**

### 10 Facts on Child Soldiers

1. The use of children as soldiers is a global issue. At any one time, more than 300,000 children under 18 are fighting as child soldiers in about 40 countries worldwide.
2. More than 120,000 children under 18 years are believed to be fighting in conflicts across Africa.
3. Countries most affected in Africa include Sierra Leone, Angola, Burundi and Uganda.
4. In Sierra Leone, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) have recruited children as young as seven during the Civil War.
5. Most child soldiers are aged between 15 and 18 years. The youngest recorded age is seven.
6. Children are used in the frontline and are also used as spies, messengers, sentries, porters, servants and sex slaves. Children are often used to lay and clear landmines.
7. Children are conditioned to commit atrocities even against their own families and communities.
8. Some children are recruited forcibly but poverty, alienation and discrimination drives others into armed forces.
9. Children are cheap, expendable and easier to condition to become killers.
10. Children are given drugs and alcohol to make them more brutal.

*Don't forget to support the Trócaire campaign to stop the worldwide use of children as soldiers. Add your signature to the Trócaire petition sheets, available in the church this weekend.*

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### Saints This Week

**5<sup>th</sup> St. Kieran.** Kieran of Saigir was born in Cape Clear. He is numbered among the pre-Patrician saints of Ireland. He went to the continent, where he was baptised and later ordained priest and bishop. He returned to his father's territory, Ossory, and seems to have lived as a hermit.

**8<sup>th</sup> St. Senan.** He was born near Kilrush, Co. Clare. His vocation seems to have resulted from an experience of danger from the sea. His early studies were mainly made at the monastery of Kilnahanagh. His principal monastic foundation was on Scattery Island, near Kilrush, in the Shannon estuary. He was *anamchara* to Ciarán of Clonmacnois and Brendan, and died in 544.

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### St. Catherine's National School

In early February our Confirmation girls had their Commitment Ceremony. They had all thought about what Confirmation means to them and some read out their reflections.

Last Saturday we had our Enrolment Ceremony for the First Communion class. Everybody participated fully and the singing was angelic!

Our 5<sup>th</sup> class camogie team have qualified for the county final of the Indoor Camogie Competition. This will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Well done also to the four teams from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes who qualified for the final of the Primary Schools' Spellathon which will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Best of luck to all!





## BEST WISHES

The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Jackson was Dean of Cork and administrator of St. Fin Barre's Cathedral for the last three and a half years. During that time he initiated many projects including the St. Fin Barre's Beyond 2000 and the St. Fin Barre's Transition Year debates for schools. The respect and affection he won from the people of Cork was evident in his final Evensong at the Cathedral, which was attended by a large congregation from the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and from the wider Christian community in Cork.

Following firmly the ideal of "doing nothing separately that we can do together" he participated on several occasions in inter-church prayer services in the church of the Holy Spirit and encouraged an "open Door" policy at St. Fin Barre's, a door which, as he said, opens both ways.

Our prayers go with him as he is ordained Bishop of his native Clogher next Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, the eve of the feast of Saints Felicity and Perpetua, saints dear to his heart.

May the spirit of God empower him in his ministry.

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### Spanish Exchange with a difference...

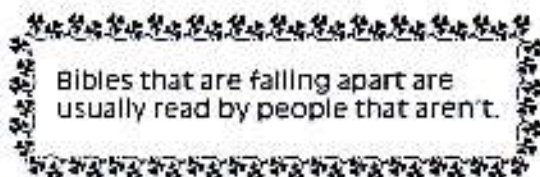
Personal tuition and supervision of small group by experienced teacher (at local venue and in Córdoba) makes this exchange programme special. Give your 13-16 year old a great opportunity to learn the language and experience life with a Spanish family two weeks in July. Numbers limited. Details Monessa 4341551 (afternoons).

## Bible Corner



The Gaelic proverb "An rud is annamh is iontach" (What is rare is wonderful) epitomises the Hebrews' abiding appreciation of water. In an arid land, they saw plants and animals die from lack of water. For them water was to be always treasured as, without it, there could be no life. The ancient rabbis compared the Law of the Lord with water, cleansing, satisfying thirst (thirst for God), and promoting life. It was a short step to use water as an image or a symbol for the life of God, his shared life with us that we call grace.

The weekend's story about Jesus and the woman at the well uses water to describe both the natural water in Jacob's well and the life God shares with us. The woman was conscious only of the mundane well water which a parched Jesus needed so obviously. Jesus was leading her to glimpse the gift of grace that was on offer through belief in him. She was a slow learner. Aren't we all! She had some excuse. Her whole Samaritan upbringing had taught her to distrust every Jew. Maybe, our upbringing has made us so familiar with the water of life that we no longer expect to be nourished or changed by it. What a loss!



Bibles that are falling apart are usually read by people that aren't.



**NOTICE BOARD**



**BIBLE STUDY**

**Matthew's Gospel**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**8.00 p.m.**

**C. P. Centre**

The gospel emphasises the teachings of Jesus more than his miracles, meshing together his origins and his destiny. To explore Matthew's gospel a small group of readers and others interested has begun to meet for an hour or so, once or twice a month. Fr. Tom Clancy will lead the group at the moment. All are very welcome. Please bring a Bible or a New Testament, if convenient.

**Lenten Scripture**

Victor Tabone. Three stories of conversion from the Lenten scriptures at Dominican Centre. Pope's Quay, three Thursdays, 7<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March, 8.00 - 10 p.m.

**TAKE NOTE:**

**An Opportunity Not To Be Missed**

Statement of the Irish Bishops' Conference on the Abortion Referendum March 2002. Leaflets available in the church this weekend.

**St. Joseph's Young Priests Society**

Monthly meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March in the C.P. Centre at 8 p.m.

**Peace and Reconciliation**

An Ecumenical Service will take place at the Methodist Church, Ardfallen, Douglas, on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 4 p.m. Preacher Rev. Robert Heron, Presbyterian Church, Omagh. All are welcome.

**Alzheimer Society Cork Branch**

Carers' support meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March in Jurys Hotel at 8 p.m.

**Tráth na gCeist – Table Quiz**

On Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup> in Bishopstown G.A.A. Pavilion at 9.00- p.m. organised by Gaelscoil Úi Riada. Fáilte roimh cách.

**God's Word**

**Readings for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**First Reading:**

1 Sam. 16:6-7, 10-13. God's choice of the young boy Samuel is described.

**Psalm 22**

**Second Reading:**

Eph. 5:8-14. Reflects on light and darkness, and the new sight that believers can have.

**Gospel:**

Jn. 9:1-41. The healing of the man born blind is described, suggesting that we need to go from blindness to new sight.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

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