

10th March, 2002



Ballineaspig Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent



No. 710

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Patrick writes

WE GIVE THANKS

In any one day we can meet so many people. Some of these encounters are short, more will have a lasting effect. During our *Lent on the Edge* series we have met so many, all those who came to the talks, and particularly those who gave them this year, Oliviu Matiut the asylum seeker, Fr. Aidan Troy of Ardoyne, Sr. Consilio of Cuan Mhuire, and Dr. Mark Patrick Hederman of Glenstal. For all these encounters and sharing, we give thanks to God. It is hoped that when we discover 'The Edge' in our lives we will realise that we are really moving to the centre of things.

This series of talks is made possible by the work of so many people of the parish. There were endless jobs to be done but, again, there was always someone to pour a cup of tea, put up a poster, direct a car.... We give thanks for such generosity. We would like to thank, especially, Jerry Hurley of Denroches Cross who supplied the sandwiches F.O.C. (free of charge!),

and Pat Dennehy who, as ever, was equally generous with our signs.



The parish has acquired an e-mail address. Letters or notices for the bulletin welcome via this route. Please send them to:

holyspiritparish@eu.com.net

**PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING
AT MASS**



We offer our sincere sympathy to MARIE CROWLEY, Rosshrook, on the death of her mother, Catherine Murphy.
To DOMHNALL O'HALLORAN, Court Cairn, on the death of his father, Joseph.



DYING OF POVERTY

- One-fifth of the world's 5.6 billion population are living in extreme poverty.
- One-third of the world's children are undernourished.
- Half the world's population lacks regular access to the most essential drugs.
- 12.2 million children under five die every year, 95% from poverty-related illness.
- More than half a million mothers die in childbirth.
- More than one million children die of measles each year. Vaccines to save them would cost 9p each.
- More than half a million babies die of tetanus every year.

It's *Laetare* Sunday! Is your mood today one of rejoicing, or do you need the wake-up call Paul seems to be giving? Are you in the doldrums, or is Lent going well for you? How has it been so far? Use this Sunday, halfway through Lent, to take a good look at yourself. A 'good' look!! Stop fooling yourself.

Listen to what the Lord wants of you. Come out of the darkness. Recognise that belonging to Christ gives us a new vision of reality. Remember that Lent is an invitation to renewal for everybody, a reminder of the final Judgment.

Come out of the darkness. Let yourself be anointed and healed this Lent.



Questions People Ask

Q. Was Saint Patrick the first Christian missionary in Ireland? Did he really cast out the snakes?

A. Historians say that there is ample evidence that there were other missionaries, particularly in the east and south, at the same time as Patrick, possibly even before him. In his autobiographical Confession, Patrick is aware of other bishops administering baptism, confirmation and ordination. The mission of Patrick was so outstanding that he is rightly celebrated as the apostle of Ireland.

As for the snakes, since a serpent was associated with the first sin, the legend is a fanciful way of expressing the power of Christianity over sin.

- Fr. Silvester O'Flynn, OFM Cap



Prayer For Strength

(Attributed to Pope John XXIII)

*Every day I need you Lord!
but this day especially,
I need some extra strength,
to face whatever is to come.*

*This day, more than any other day
I need to feel Thee near me..
to fortify my courage
and to overcome my fear.*

*By myself, I cannot meet
the challenge of the hour...
how much frail human creatures
need a Higher Power sustaining
them in all that life may bring.*

*And so, dear Lord, hold Thou
my trembling hand... Be with me,
Lord, this day! To know Thy
guiding hand at work in all, to
know Thy Blessed Presence...*

EVER NEAR

Bible Corner



FROM BLINDNESS TO FAITH

Even though it is a growing concern worldwide it is hard for us, especially after the rain of the last few months, to visualise water supplies being a priority concern. However, for the people of Jerusalem it was always a daily priority. They built very elaborate holding tanks and intricate aqueducts to conserve and deliver the limited supplies. One such water tunnel and pool was called Siloam. It is mentioned a few times in the gospels. St. Luke records a fatal accident at Siloam when a tower fell killing several construction workers.

This weekend's gospel has Jesus sending the blind man there to wash his eyes and be cured. Of course, the miraculous power came from God and not from the water, but Jesus often uses water as a symbol of the new life and love he offers us. In particular, this gospel is highlighting the efficacy of baptism in opening our faith eyes to see the wonder of God and his love for us. The Pharisees chose not to see the new reality. The cured blind man received both his physical sight and the gift of faith. Shrewd man!



A Blessing Before a Family Meal

Heavenly Father,
not only did you make us
but you have also
provided this food
to sustain us in life,
and we thank you.
Amen



Holiness consists not in doing uncommon things, but in doing all common things with an uncommon fervour. *Bernard Manning*



Monday 18th March – Bank Holiday

Masses at 9.00 and 10.00 a.m.

No evening Mass.

Pastoral Council

Meeting on Monday 11th March at 8.10 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

Bulletins to Homes

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

The Priesthood

Deciding to become a priest is never a black and white decision. Time spent talking, listening, discussing, praying and reflecting will help you explore the grey areas. But it is still your decision. Information Day about becoming a priest in Cork & Ross will be held on Saturday 23rd March at Ennismore Retreat Centre, 11.00 to 5.00 p.m. (lunch provided).

Local Schools

Mount Mercy

Congratulations to the Senior A's who won "The Plate" in Garryduff on Wednesday 27th February, beating Scoil Mhuire in penalties, 3-1. Well done girls and a special thank you to their supporters.



A celebration of Music for Easter

On Palm Sunday, 24th March at St. Mary's Dominican Church, Popes Quay, 8.00 p.m., with St. Mary's Choir and Cara O'Sullivan. Conductor Sean Lehane, Accompanist Colin Nicholls. Adm. €10, pay at door.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Residential weekend designed to give married couples an opportunity to reflect on their lives together... a time to share innermost feelings, hopes and joys between spouses. Next venue at Coolcower House, Macroom, 12-14 April. Details from Dave & Anna Mahony, 026-42579.

Cúrsa Gaeilge 2002

At Mount Mercy College, one week Irish Course for girls and boys, 10-16 years. July 8th to 12th, 10.00-3.00 p.m. Catering for Fourth to Sixth Class Primary and 1st to 3rd year Post Primary. Seisúin Teagaise, Drámaíocht, Céill. Apply to Secretary, Mount Mercy College, 4542366 (10.00 to 4 p.m); 4968496 (6.00 - 8.00 p.m.).

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 17th March

First Reading:

Ez.37:12-14. Ezekiel says that those committed to God will find life after they die.

Psalm 129

Second Reading:

Rom.8:8-11. Paul says that through the Spirit we can find life.

Gospel:

Jn.11:1-45. The Gospel describes the raising of Lazarus and shows that all God's power is found in Jesus, who brings believers fullness of life.

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