



17<sup>th</sup> March, 2002

# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent



No. 711

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



OUR  
**PARISH  
PRIEST**  
*writes*

## SLANE NOW AND THEN

Slane is now better known for its pop concerts than for the Easter vigil fire that St. Patrick lit there. Surprisingly for some, the flame of faith that Patrick enkindled at Slane still continues to inspire many Irish hearts and minds. Indeed, the majority of Irish government ministers will be overseas to take the salute to the Irish people as sons and daughters of St. Patrick.

This is a reminder that our heritage is Christian, formed by a belief that Jesus suffered, died and rose from the dead and continues to gather believers to celebrate that belief and to share it, to live it through the Eucharist and through the care of each other.

At difficult times in our history, this commitment to Jesus has waned and been rekindled. The call of our time is to rekindle it. Nobody else can do it for us. Each one of us has the opportunity and the responsibility to reawaken the embers of faith and to fan into flame a faith that can blossom in 21<sup>st</sup> century Ireland. We can form a heritage for our young that is even more enriching for them than that what we received

ourselves.

The temptation nowadays is to despair. Yet, the outlook must have been pretty bleak in pagan Ireland of Patrick's time. Whatever else about him, he certainly never lacked vision and courage. We must awaken and sustain these sterling qualities in one another on his feast day. To fail to do so would be to deny our roots and reduce St. Patrick's Day to a more secular Paddy's day. That would be surely an enormous impoverishment of the Irish people. The choice belongs to you and to me and to the young of our land. May we make the right decision.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE  
FOR EASTER  
NEXT SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY)  
AT 5.00 P.M.

### Introduction to Morality

A new series on the Study of the New Catechism, 8.00-9.00 p.m. Wednesdays in the C.P. Centre, for ten weeks.

PLEASE JOIN IN THE  
SINGING AT MASS

## PARKING

Parking difficulties are growing for more and more people in the parish. For some, it is the difficulty of parking their own cars. Others find themselves unable to get in or out of their own homes due to cars blocking their entrances. In the churchyard, the problem has escalated seriously in the last few months. Before that, there was some difficulty on the occasion of funerals, weddings and other special events. Now there is difficulty every day for those using the church facilities in the ordinary way. People parking there all day are causing great inconvenience to normal church users. How do we reclaim the car park? Should we clamp people there over three hours? Any ideas? To clamp or not to clamp, that is the question.



### **Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle**

Our monthly recital on Wednesday next 20<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00 p.m. in the crypt of our church at Dennehy's Cross, will be given by Sean Higgins, who guarantees an afternoon of great music. Be wise. Be there.

### **LOCAL SCHOOLS**

#### **MOUNT MERCY**

Congratulations to Aisling Walsh, Transition Year, who was awarded a three week Scholarship to Germany, based on her excellent Junior Cert. results. Aisling will be travelling to Germany in June. "Wir gratulieren!"

#### **Use of Child Soldiers**

The Trócaire Lenten Campaign to petition our government to ratify the UN Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict was supported by 943 people who added their signature to the petition sheets in this church last week.

## Bible Corner



### **SIGNS AND FAITH**

This weekend's gospel is the climax of seven miracle stories or signs that John's gospel records for us. Unlike the other gospel writers who recounted numerous miracles just as they happened, John selected just seven key ones. Then around each one of them, he gathered a core teaching of Jesus, usually in the form of a dialogue. This weekend, our miracle is the restoring of Lazarus to life and the message is about the resurrection of Jesus and about our own resurrection. This is the hub of our religion.

In each of the stories, John highlights that miracles on their own never converted anybody. Those who wish to remain unconvinced, do so. For instance, last weekend it did not suit the Pharisees to believe that a blind man had had his sight restored, so they claimed he had never been blind. For miracles to produce conversion, faith is also required. The woman at the well, the blind man and Martha, each proclaims their faith in Jesus as the Messiah, and so was open to receive the fullness of eternal life. We, too, believe; Lord, strengthen our faith.



## BALLINEASPAIG PARISH DIRECTORY

### Parish Team

Fr. Tom Clancy (4347616)  
Fr. Patrick Walsh (4348588)  
Dean Denis O'Connor (4542972)

### Sacristan

Charlie Leahy (087-2335426)

### Secretary

Anne O'Riordan (4344452)

### Parish Pastoral Council

Seamus Murphy (4541155)

### Liturgy Group

Donal Shanahan (4341010) *3.01.*

### Ministers of Eucharist

Joe Browne (4541521) *Manion Healy*

### Ministers of the Word

Seamus Murphy (4541155)

### Altar Servers

Mercedes Cunningham (4544113)

### Choir and Organist

Puddy Killeen (4888445)

### Church Collectors

Charlie Leahy (087 2335426)

### Altar Society

Charlie Leahy (087 2335426)

### Bookrack

Terry Layton (4544046)

### Bulletin Team

Irene Connolly (4541798)

### Bulletin Delivery

Mary O'Herlihy

### Dues Collection

Parish Team

### PARISH GROUPS

#### Adult Education

Rosalie Moloney (4546812) *K.*

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

4500481

#### Faith in Action Group

Máire Mulcahy (4543180)

#### Friendship Club

Patsy Byrne (4346986) *?*

#### Meditation Group

Nessa O'Donnell (4545441)

#### Pioneer Total Abstinence Association

Judith Coffey

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

Dorothy O'Connell (4541295)

#### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Des Wixted (4541757) *70 8*

### SOCIAL GROUPS FOR PARISHIONERS

#### Tuesday Coffee Morning

Mary Crean, May O'Connell and  
Dorothy O'Connell.

#### Tuesday Bridge Club

Eithne Pollock (4541827)

#### Thursday Senior Art Group

Helen O'Hea (4546167)

#### Gramophone Circle

Eddie Hogan (4875145)



### **HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES**

#### **Holy Thursday:**

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30 p.m.

Holy Hour from 9.00-10.00 p.m.

#### **Good Friday**

Stations of the Cross:

11.00 a.m. by children for children

12 noon for all.

#### **Holy Saturday**

Easter Vigil at 9.00 p.m.

No Mass at 6.15 p.m.

### **Adult Education**

Short Term Courses at U.C.C:

(i) Irish Film classics, commencing Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April for 8 Wednesday nights.

(ii) Permaculture Design Course, commencing Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

For further details please contact 4904717.

Opportunities at CIT:

(i) Adults into Higher Education Certificate for over 23 year olds.

(ii) National Certificate in Business Studies for mature students.

Applications to be returned by 12<sup>th</sup> April for courses commencing September 2002. Contact 4326531.

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

[holyspiritparish@eircom.net](mailto:holyspiritparish@eircom.net)

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

#### **CHILDREN'S STATIONS**

Boys and girls from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes especially are invited to take part.

Rehearsals at 5.00 p.m. in the church beginning Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

### **Irish Blood Transfusion Service**

Blood donor clinic at SMA Community Centre, Wilton, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 6.00 to 9.00 p.m.

### **God's Word**

#### **Readings for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

##### **First Reading:**

Is.50:4-7. This reading describes someone putting up with a lot of suffering.

##### **Psalm 21**

##### **Second Reading:**

Phil.2:6-11. In this ancient hymn to Christ, we are taught that Jesus achieved glory through suffering.

##### **Gospel:**

Mt.26:14-27:66. This year, the gospel of the Passion of Jesus is the version recorded by St. Matthew. It is clear from it that Matthew believed the Jews were to blame for the death of the Messiah. However, the church does not hold the Jewish people today in any way responsible for Jesus' death.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBER**

087 - 251 9940