

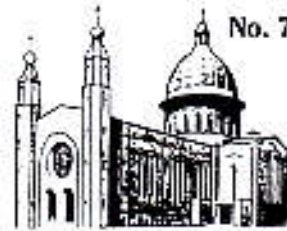


10th November 2002

No. 735

Ballineaspais Bulletin

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENMEAH'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

Victor Hugo, the famous French novelist and dramatist lived much of his life on the island of Jersey. While there he wrote his famous *Les Misérables*, *Toilers of the Sea* – and as the King of Siam might add – *et cetera, et cetera*. Public acclaim gave him a sense of power, so he started a campaign against the Governor of the Island – “He has to go, he has to go”. The Governor invited him to his palace, and stated briefly and succinctly – “Victor, you go” – and Victor went.

As you know the real rulers of our country are the media – very necessary in a democracy – but all power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. So who shall curb the power of the media? I don't know, certainly not the F.A.I. (as Mick Mac knows by now). But what really worries me is that Christian values are none of their concern. If any Christian wrote about Jesus or Muslims like Damien Byrne did about Catholics in the *Irish Examiner* last week he would be up for incitement to hatred. Last week a young man was crucified in Belfast and battered beyond recognition. Was there any public outcry against it? I didn't hear it. The Godfather films sent shivers of fear through many hearts. Such horror films

have become commonplace (I'm told) but, worse again, are translated into life.

It is acceptable, even funny, to be uncivil, irreverent, and rude. It is all very far from the Sermon on the Mount, or the prayer of St. Francis: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred let me sow love.” There is good and evil in the world. We believe that Jesus died and rose again. He conquered evil, and gave us the power to conquer evil too. The choice is ours, and choose we must, hopefully the better part, at least for our children's sake.

Kevin E. Conroy

Questions People Ask

Q. Jesus said to the repentant thief: “This day you will be with me in paradise”. There was no mention of purgatory. Where does this idea of time in purgatory come from?

A. The repentant thief had to wait at least from Good Friday until the Resurrection completed the act of salvation! The Bible also says that with the Lord a thousand years is like a single day. On departing this life one moves beyond the succession of moments which we call time, into the eternal present. Speaking of time in purgatory is a familiar way of trying to express a mystical purification.

*Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap
Intercom*



LETTER

Dear Editor,

In reference to the Sunday 3rd letter, three points were made in relation to our liturgy. I cannot comment on two of those but I can in relation to the singing. There are several well-founded reasons why certain (not all) hymns are sung at the (slower) speed at which they are. If the writer of the letter wishes to volunteer his/her name, I would gladly return a more detailed reply. Generally, it is a combination of acoustic space, physical layout, relative volume levels and feedback (to the cantor). These are issues that are currently being discussed. Yes, the singing at the 6.15 p.m. (and 12.15 p.m.) is greatly improving. Keep it up...

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedicated hard work of our choir and cantors? They offer their services on a voluntary basis week-in, week-out...

Last weekend we had commissioning of ministers of the Eucharist. We also have commissioned ministers of the word. It is good that such services are acknowledged. One of the most active ministries in our church (and many other churches) is the ministry of music... it is a curious fact that the ministry of music is consistently passed over in many churches in this regard... Strange indeed?!!

If anyone feels they might be able to offer their musical talents in these areas (choir and cantor), come and talk to us. We would be delighted to meet you.

Patrick Killeen (Organist)

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 17th November

First Reading:

Prov.31:10-13,19-20,30-31. The different talents people possess are highlighted in today's readings. The first describes some of the gifts a woman can bring to marriage.

Psalms 127

Second Reading:

1 Thess.5:1-6. We're reminded that the Day of the Lord could come at any moment, so we must be on the watch.

Gospel:

Mt.25:14-30. The talents we receive are given to us for a purpose - to be used.

Mount Mercy News

On Friday, 2nd October, Mount Mercy celebrated the official opening of the new extension to the school. Guest speakers included the Lord Mayor, Cllr. John Kelleher, Trustee Representative Sr. Anne-Marie O'Carroll, Building Contractor Representative, Ms. Patsy Supple and Guest of Honour Minister Michéal Martin, who performed the official opening. Fr. Patrick Walsh, School Chaplain did the Blessing Ceremony. A musical interlude was performed by Holly and Sophie McConnell and the School Choir sang the 'Kyrie Eleison' from the Mass of St. Cecilia. The opening was followed by a reception in the new extension attended by staff, guests and students.

"Ni neart go cur le cheile"

Parish e-mail address:

holyspiritparish@eircom.net



The word of God

The word of God focuses today on the gift of wisdom. In the Scriptures, the wise are those who take God into account. The presence of God influences their plans for the 'long haul' of life. So, when the Lord comes they don't have to rely on empty words. No, they have oil in their lamps, that is to say that the Gospel has borne fruit in their lives.

The wise know that God is not confused by their failures, their sins, their mixed up motives. They know God as one who is full of initiative, whose love reaches out with light, forgiveness and hope. They grow in sensitivity to his coming, to his presence. They learn to tune in to God's pace, allow him to come in his way and in his time.

What do we want of the Lord when he comes? How do we expect the Lord to come to us in the Eucharist today? Deep inside us we have needs for food and love. Jesus comes to give us these gifts in the Eucharist.

- *Intercom*

If your heart is in your prayer, God will know it.

U I N D S W A V E D A S T L A W
P R V U W E F A N H E U

We offer our sincere sympathy to AILEEN BRENNAN, Woodlawn, on the death of her cousin Eileen Brennan.

Bible Corner



MARRIAGE BRINKMANSHIP

In civil actions about money and compensation, settlement is often only reached just before the trial begins. In the time of Jesus, such last minute haggling about money had another arena. It could be called marriage preparation!!

The custom of the time was that the waiting guests gathered to be wined and dined in the bride's home while the appointed negotiators met in the groom's home to finalise the monetary details, such as payments to various relatives and arrangements for the bride-to-be in the event of divorce, or the death of her husband. Frequently, such bargaining was protracted with threats of calling off the marriage.

Approaching midnight focused people's thoughts and brought brinkmanship to a halt with happy results. The bridegroom would then hurry off to collect his bride, bring her to his parents' home for the marriage ceremony and another round of wining and dining.

It was such a well-known local custom that Jesus uses it as a parable in this weekend's gospel.





MASS FOR THOSE WHO DIED DURING THE YEAR

Our traditional annual Mass for parishioners who died since November 2001 will be celebrated on Friday 15th November at 7.30 p.m. Families and friends of the bereaved are especially invited to attend. During Mass, as each name is called, a family member will be invited to bring a lighting candle to our November shrine. All parishioners are invited

Bulletins to the Homes

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

Pastoral Council

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

Ministers of the Eucharist

A reminder to those who did not collect the new rota last weekend – they are available at the altar rails.

N.B. When approaching the altar to distribute Holy Communion, please come forward promptly at the Sign of Peace. Also, we would ask you to please arrange a substitute if you cannot attend.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

Wilton Gardens Residents Meet

Residents of Wilton Gardens are invited to attend a meeting in The Crypt tomorrow night Monday 11th at 8 p.m. to consider setting up a Residents' Association. The estate had an association in its early days and many people believe that current and future environmental and other issues might be best approached through a community voice.

Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimb

Parents and guardians of prospective entrants are cordially invited to an Open Evening at the college on Wednesday 13th November from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m. From 7.00 p.m. onwards you will be free to take a tour of the school, to view its facilities, and to meet teachers and pupils. At 8.00 p.m. the Principal will address the gathering in the School Hall and give a broad outline of the philosophy of the school and its curriculum.

Lough Church Restoration Fund

A concert entitled "Your Favourite Melodies" will take place in the Lough Church at 8.00 p.m. on Saturday 23rd November with The City of Cork Male Voice Choir, The Chorus of Opera Cork, The Unity Singers from Kilkenny, with guest soloists Sonya Keogh, mezzo-soprano and Pat Hegarty, baritone. Ticket €10 on sale at Lough Credit Union, the Lough Sacristy, Fr. John Newman (4222758) or at the door on the night.