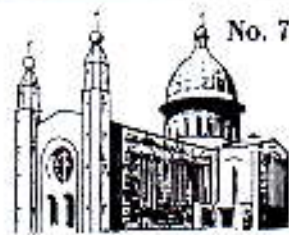




19th January 2003

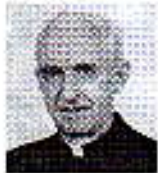
Ballineaspig Bulletin

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



No. 745

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DUNPHY'S CROSS, CORK.



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

Are We Forgetting Something?

One of the features of modern life is a sense of restlessness. It is seen in the small child who finds it difficult to sit still in the infant's class – in the teenager who can't wait to get finished with school and savour the good things in life – in the more mature adult who works long hours to fund a second holiday, a bigger house, or car, or whatever.

Then in the middle of all the work and all the rush, a small voice inside us is asking the question – what is it all for? Is this what life is all about? Are we forgetting something? We may try to stifle these rather awkward questions, but they come up and ambush us at moments of serious concern in life. Perhaps your child or parent is seriously ill – you know you should be praying, and communicating with them at a deep level with love – but the words won't come for God or child.

You are happily married – a good job, a nice house, healthy children. Life should be wonderful – why am I not happy, contented, and fulfilled?

St. Augustine faced this same problem centuries ago when the truth suddenly

dawned on him and he wrote: "Our hearts are restless until we rest in You".

The start of a new year is a good time to face these deeper questions in life. And there is no need to be afraid. We never walk alone. It's a good time to put our hand into the hand of God, and walk out into the dark. Whatever the future holds we can face it with confidence because we trust in Him who loves you better than you know. We try to get our priorities right, and enjoy the company of the Lord. Perhaps He was knocking at the door of our hearts all along, and couldn't get our attention. 2003 is a good time to try again and return to the Lord with all our hearts.

ESAT YOUNG SCIENTIST EXHIBITION 2003

Congratulations to Clare Cooney, 2nd Year, who won First Place in the Social & Behavioural Section in ESAT/B.T. Young Scientist Competition for her project entitled "The Consequences of the Plastic Bag Levy on the non-grocery retail sector". She also received a Special Award from Comhar.

Meditation Group

Meet every Thursday in the C.P. Centre from 7.00 to 7.30 p.m. New members welcome.



MARRIAGE AND COUPLES COURSES

The Cork Marriage Counselling Centre, a service of the Diocese, is offering the following workshops this spring. The workshops are evening sessions and are facilitated by experienced professional practitioners in marital health and counselling.

1. Maintaining a Christian Marriage

A workshop for couples to concentrate on enriching a Christian marriage.

Three sessions fortnightly from Monday February 10.

2. The Marriage Health Check-Up

A workshop for couples who would value a relationship check-up.

Three sessions fortnightly from Tuesday February 11.

3. Marriage Separation Adjustment

A workshop for individuals coping with the aftermath of marital separation.

Three sessions fortnightly from Wednesday February 12.

4. Parents in Marital Breakdown

A workshop to help parents understand and deal with children's reactions to marital separation.

For registration or further information contact the Centre on 021- 4275678.

Bible Corner



THE BOY SAMUEL

Over the generations, the Hebrews were conscious of God's choice of them. While they responded generously at first, they yielded to the cultural pressure around them and were often unfaithful to him. They repented and made fresh starts again and again. To coax them into such new beginnings, the Lord called somebody from among themselves to guide his people.

Among those chosen in this way was the young man Samuel, and we have the story of his call in this weekend's first reading. At the time, Samuel would seem to have been on the night shift as a watchman, taking care of the lamp that burned continuously before the Ark of God. He responded immediately and courageously to the Lord's invitation to be his spokesperson about new developments in God's plan for his people. The first message that Samuel had to communicate was to tell his boss Eli that the Lord intended to fire him and his sons from their privileged jobs in the sanctuary!!

The Book of Samuel was written about Samuel and his times, not by Samuel as is sometimes thought. It is read now as a backdrop to the call of Andrew, John and, especially, of Peter as recounted in today's gospel, marking the beginning of the community of the disciples.



Mount Mercy College

The Principal and Staff invite parents and past pupils to view our new facilities on Saturday 1st February from 10.30 to 12.30 p.m.



Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle

Our usual monthly recitals have been cancelled until further notice due to the refurbishment of our venue, the Crypt.

Karate/Self Defence Classes

In Bishopstown Community School Gym, Monday and Thursday 7.00 to 8.00 p.m. Equipment includes strike shields, focus pads, tonfas, nunchakus. Regular gradings and competitions. Ladies, gents, girls, boys, all ages welcome. Senior Black Belt instructor. New members welcome anytime.

Alzheimer Society

Carers' support meeting on Monday 10th February in Jurys Hotel at 8 p.m.

CURA

Would you be interested in becoming a volunteer? CURA the organisation which caters for people with crisis pregnancy is in the process of recruiting new volunteers for their service in Paul Street, tel. 4277544. Information meetings will be held in Paul Street on Monday 3rd February 2003 at 10.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. You are invited along without any commitment. No experience necessary as full training will be given.

Ladies Social Badminton

Group seeks new members. Monday mornings 10.30 to 12.30 p.m. in S.M.A. Hall, Wilton. Please phone 4544529 after 2.00 p.m.

Coeliac Society

Meeting in the S.M.A. Centre, Wilton, on Tuesday 4th February at 8.00 p.m. Please note that Nutricia Ireland Ltd. will hold a Juvela demonstration in the Silver Springs Hotel on Thursday 23rd January at 7.30 p.m.

Lourdes

Knocknaheeny Hollyhill pilgrimage will take place 26th to 31st July, price €589. Details from Michael Walsh 4397417, Kay Joyce 4396171 or Donnie Riordan 4300747.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 26th January

First Reading:

Jonah 3:1-5,10. Jonah's mission to the people of Nineveh is described, and their immediate response to his call to repentance.

Psalm 24.

Second Reading:

1 Cor.7:29-31. Paul wrote this letter, believing that the end of the world wasn't far away. So he asked people to concentrate their whole energies on the things of the spirit.

Gospel:

Mk.1:14-20. For most of this year, we will read from Mark's Gospel, the first to be written and the shortest. We begin the journey through that Gospel today, hearing Jesus' message of repentance and his calling of the first disciples.

Parish e-mail address:

holyspiritparish@eircom.net