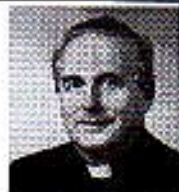
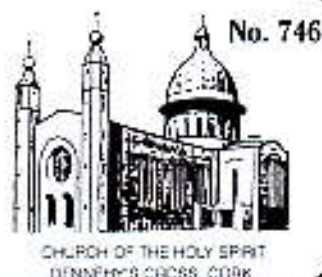


26th January 2003



Ballineaspais Bulletin

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

would be done in caring respect. Have we the humility to be so honest? All precious gifts of God need to be protected. Human life deserves it.

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

CRYPT RENOVATIONS

Work has begun to make the Crypt safer and more user-friendly for the various parish groups who use it now, and others who will hopefully use it in the future. The work can be classified under seven main headings:

1. **Safety:** An additional emergency exit is being installed and fire doors fitted throughout.
2. **Access:** Ramps for wheelchairs are to be put in place.
3. **Heating:** A gas-fired heating system is planned to make the crypt more user-friendly throughout the winter.
4. **Flooring:** Wear and tear over the years necessitated new floor covering.
5. **Kitchen:** Facilities for tea making and wash up need to be improved.
6. **Furniture:** Chairs need replacement.
7. **Lighting:** Inside and outside is to be improved.

The cost will be over €60,000. We will be relying on everybody's financial support for this community project.

The New Year has seen a serious effort by many responsible drivers to slow down. The change has brought tangible relief among all concerned with safety on our roads. This welcome improvement seems to be mainly the result of the arrival of penalty points for motoring offences. It is a sobering thought that sometimes it is the threat of punishment that focuses minds on the preciousness of human life. One way or the other, it is a clarion call to each of us to review and probably modify our motoring habits.

While drivers have the greater responsibility everybody, passengers and pedestrians, must play our part in making our roads safer. It is so easy to be careless occasionally, or to think that what we are about is so important that the rules do not apply to us just this once. Such arrogant behaviour leads to deaths. Arrogance on the roads may be as lethal as alcohol.

It is easy, too, to see others' faults rather than our own. Maybe, we could have a week where we would give others the freedom to point out to us the weak points in our behaviour on the road. It

ST. BRIGID
died AD 524

Feast Day: 1 February



Brigid was born c. 454 at Faughart, near Dundalk. There were no convents in Ireland then, so she founded several, including Kildare, her most famous. Here she prayed, provided for the poor and cared for the sick.

Brigid's simple life of goodness and hospitality helped the Church to grow in Ireland. Even in her lifetime, her reputation spread throughout Europe. When she died, she was buried with Patrick and Columbanus at Downpatrick.

Her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in a number of continental European lands. She is invoked as a patron of scholars, poets, blacksmiths, healers, cattle, dairy workers, newborn babies and fugitives.

Brigid's feast marks the first day of the season of growth: she helps chase away the winter and usher in the spring!

Brigid, courageous woman and Ireland's second patron – pray for us.

Encouraging Words



At the start of each Spring, taking "one day at a time", it's good to reflect on the following, from the pen of an Indian wise man:

'I slept and I dreamed that life was joy,
I woke and saw that life was but service,
I served and understood that service was joy.'

Jill Sheehan

LETTER

Farranlea Grove

Dear Editor,

I refer to the procession through the church before the 10.30 Mass on Sundays. I think the idea is a very good one, but I do have some misgivings about the young altar servers carrying lighted candles. Could they perhaps carry covered lamps instead? I know that lighted candles have great symbolism, but I do feel they are dangerous here.

Sincerely,
Tim Spillane



Bible Corner



A PREACHER WITHOUT HIS WHALE

Jonah is best known as the man who supposedly survived being swallowed by a big fish rather than as a fiery preacher of repentance. However, it is as a preacher that he comes to us in this weekend's first reading. The context of the story is Jonah being sent to preach conversion in Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. The Assyrians had defeated and crushed the Hebrew people almost to oblivion. The chances of Jonah being listened to in Nineveh would be about the same as Johnny Adair being heeded by the Provisionals. It did not happen. It was to his own that Jonah preached.

The key to understanding the reading is to realise that it is part of a story, and only a story, being used to convey the message of repentance that Jonah did in fact preach so uncompromisingly to his own people. Jonah was deeply disturbed by how quickly his fellow Hebrews forgot God's goodness and neglected their commitments to their creator. He was not slow in letting his hearers know the consequences of their infidelity but, also, the power of genuine repentance.

It is the message we must heed, not the fanciful details of a story that is used to carry the message. Nineveh did not take three days to cross but God is always ready to forgive the repentant one.



We offer our sincere sympathy to CATHAL BREDIN, Court Cairn, on the death of his brother Kieran.

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

Q. Why are Irish liturgies and Masses so dead compared with other countries?

A. Your question raises many other questions. Why do people pack the back of the church and leave the front empty? Are people willing to participate actively in singing, responding clearly, willing to be readers or ministers of the Eucharist? Is it a sense of duty and fear of sin rather than a deep desire to worship God that brings them to Mass? Why do people come late and leave early?

A responsive congregation will lift the priest's morale. And a word of affirmation will work wonders.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap
Intercom

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to parishioner, Laura Hurley, Transition Year, Mount Mercy College, who was nominated for a German Scholarship based on her excellent Junior Certificate results.



NOTICE BOARD

St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly collection will take place next weekend.

Letters to the Editor

All letters sent to the Bulletin must include the sender's name and address, not necessarily for publication.

International Day for Religious

A Celebration will take place on Sunday 2nd February at the SMA Hall, Wilton, from 3.00 to 5.30 p.m. with laity and religious listening and sharing. Facilitator Linda Irwin. Come and celebrate with us. All welcome. Organised by CORI and lay colleagues, Cork, Ross and Cloynce.

Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima

Mass and Holy Hour at St. Maries of the Isle on Monday 27th Janaury at 7.30 p.m. Priest Fr. Vincent Hodnett.



Sunday Afternoon Adult Dancing

At St. Finbarr's H & F Club in aid of Lough Church Restoration Fund on Sunday 2nd February, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. Music by Liam Cleary, Adm. €6.

INTERESTED IN THEOLOGY?

www.theology.ie

This excellent website is sponsored by the Irish Theological association to support people in learning and doing theology. Essentially it is a reference site providing links to a wide variety of resources available on the Internet.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The building in the churchyard, which houses the Parish Office, is known as the C.P. Centre. What do the letters C.P. stand for? Read the answer in next week's *Bulletin*!

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 2nd February

First Reading:

Mal.3:1-4. Malachi makes a prophecy that God will send a messenger to his Temple – which God did today, in the form of a little child.

Psalm 23.

Second Reading:

Heb.2:14-18. It was because Jesus was fully human that he was able to redeem humans.

Gospel: Lk.2:22-40. The Gospel describes what happened when Jesus was presented in the Temple.

Parish e-mail address:

holvspiritparish@eircom.net

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940