



2nd February 2003

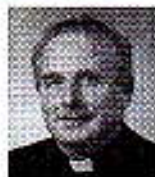
No. 747

Ballineaspig Bulletin

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEY'S CROSS, COBK



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

A SENSE OF POWERLESSNESS

The prelude to war leaves many people with a sense of powerlessness. There is a nagging yearning that one should be able to do something to help avoid the terrible impending destruction. In many hearts there is a helpless anger stemming from an unfocused longing for a better way to solve the problem.

In so many conflicts, aggression surfaces as the only way forward. Even when the aggression is not physical, it can be very destructive. A very strong instinct in the human heart is to down the other person, to consolidate one's own possessions and privileges, to exact full payment for another's mistakes. The root of such selfishness is fear, a fear that, unless we are better than others, we are worthless.

The core of Christ's message is to assure us that this is not true. The good news that Jesus preached is that each one of us is uniquely loved by God and is precious in his eyes and in our own. Such belief is the foundation stone of genuine self-appreciation and of our respect for each other. To live out of

such an attitude is to create a cell of peace wherever we are. To do so is an opportunity open to each of us. It is only a network of such peace cells that will bring lasting peace to our home, our neighbourhoods and our world.

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

On Friday January 17th 2003, MICHELLE FOLEY, 5th Year, was presented with a medal by the Belarusian Minister for Health and Social Work, Iryna Alexanova, as an appreciation for the work she did during last summer in the orphanage there.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Why is our Parish Centre known as the C.P. Centre? The letters C.P. stand for Christian Pursuits. I suspect not all of us knew that. So, now we know!

We thank those of the Laburnum area who composed and read the Prayers of the Faithful during January.

CANDLEMAS

Traditionally this day was called Candlemas. It seems that with ever-lengthening days, by 2nd February people used one candle less to light the household at night – hence Candlemas.

Though we use candles today more for ornamental rather than practical use, it's still a good title for today's gospel encounter of the Holy Family with Simeon and Anna. Just as a candle gives the exact same quality of light no matter what stage it is at, be it a stub or a pristine new taper, people of all ages have access to Christ.

Age was no barrier for the aged Simeon and Anna. Their qualities of faith, hope and expectant waiting can be the possession of any age. Whether you're 18 or 88, Jesus is inviting you to draw ever closer to God. It's a non-stop, standing invitation to share ever more deeply in the love-life of God.

In our more brilliantly lit homes and workplaces, there are few physical shadows compared to the dimly lit house of the recent past. Today everything is shown up – not just the cobwebs. Transparency is king, yet we have found that the human heart can have its own peculiar darkness that no amount of electricity can penetrate.

Today's Candlemas invitation is: Come to Christ, only he can dispel the shadows of your life.

*Fr. Tom Cox
Intercom*



Rest in Peace

Mrs Eileen Walsh, Sheares Park, died at the South Infirmity Hospital on the 9th January after a long illness. Eileen grew up in Sheares Park and lived all her life there. She was a very gentle, loving lady who had a kind word for everyone and always saw the good in people. She was well loved by her neighbours and her friends. Her daughter's friends all held her in very high regard. We extend sincere sympathy to her husband Michael her sister Phil, brother, Michael and to her cherished daughter Breda, and Ed and granddaughter Lauren.

Reunion

*Why should we want to see them again?
Because we love them.*

*Where did we get the capacity to love?
Surely it was the gift of God.*

*How could God foster within our
hearts the capacity to love
letting it grow stronger
and more perfect with the years
if at the end He meant to destroy it
by death?*

*That would be futile, cruel
and unthinkable.*

*He gave me the gift of loving
He will give me again my beloved*

Leslie Church

Know that I am with you always:
yes, even to the end of time.

Matthew 28:20



Bible Corner



THE PROMISED ONE

This weekend's feast of the Presentation of the Lord is like a flashback to the infancy of Jesus and to his roots as a Jewish child. The date of the feast is determined as forty days after his birth at Christmas, so we only have this feast on a Sunday once in seven years. The occasion originally was a Jewish custom of making a thanksgiving offering in the Temple of Jerusalem for every first-born male and consecrating him to the Lord. It was a custom that Jewish parents had practised for centuries. Mary and Joseph were not to be found wanting in fulfilling their traditional religious practice as described in the Law of Moses. Jesus is to be the Saviour, long foretold among the Jews.

The readings are loaded with references (some obscure!) to Jesus' Jewishness. "He took to himself

descent from Abraham." Abraham's son Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. It was after Jacob's sons that the twelve tribes of Israel were named. Descendants of two of them, Levi and Asher, feature in today's readings.

It is a reminder to us of our indebtedness to the Jewish people who kept faith in the one true God alive. Their history is our history. It was through them that Jesus chose to share in our humanity. We are inheritors of their role as God's chosen people.



BISHOPSTOWN G.A.A.

The Club wishes to congratulate ANDREW WOODWARD, Firgrove, on his outstanding success at the recent World Sailing Championships in Tasmania, Australia. On Friday 7th February a function will be held in our Pavilion at 8.00 p.m. to mark his achievements. We cordially invite neighbours and friends to attend.



We offer our sincere sympathy to MARGARET O'MAHONY, Bendemeer Park, on the death of her uncle.

To JOHN HIGGINS, Parkway Drive, on the death of his father.



First Friday

Next Friday 7th February is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick housebound on the usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday 7th February from 10.30 to 7.30 p.m. followed by Mass.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 6th at 8.00 p.m. in the C.P. Centre.

Lourdes Invalid Pilgrimage

Annual collection will be held next weekend.

Bishopstown & District Lions Club

Annual Social in the S.M.A. Hall on Friday 14th February at 8.00 p.m. All senior citizens welcome. Admission free.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 9th February

First Reading:

Job:7:1-4,6-7. Job's prayer is of one seriously ill. People who have been in that state will recognise the sentiments of despair and desperation.

Psalm 146.

Second Reading:

1 Cor.9:16-19,22-23. Paul talks about his own ministry as an apostle, and what motivates him.

Gospel:

Mk.1:29-39. Jesus begins his busy ministry of healing, praying and preaching.

Bishopstown Lay Dominican Chapter

Retreat will be held at Ennismore on Saturday 15th February from 10.00 to 6.00 p.m. including Mass. Further details at 4544509, ext. 26.



FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

St. Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, was famous for the many miracles he wrought. Among them was his saving from death a boy in whose throat a fish bone had lodged. So, we pray for his blessing on our throats. He was put to death in 316 A.D. in the persecution under Licinius.

Throats will be blessed at Masses on Monday.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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