



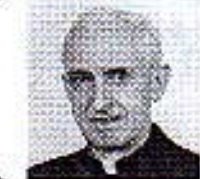
9th February 2003

Ballineaspig Bulletin

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

Tuesday next, 11th February, is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the sick. Lourdes indeed is an extraordinary experience, as those of you who were there can testify.

Millions of people go there every year, some in search of a cure, more often in search of peace and healing of soul and mind.

It all started on 11th February 1858. Little Bernadette Soubirous, aged 14, her younger sister Toinette-Marie and a friend went to gather firewood near the Grotto in Lourdes. Bernadette wasn't a particularly bright child, but she was devout and gentle. Near the Grotto she heard a slight gust of wind and looked up and then, in her own words, "I saw a lady dressed in white. She had a white dress girdled with a blue sash, and a yellow rose on each foot. I rubbed my eyes. I thought I must be making a mistake. I put my hand in my pocket and took out my rosary." The Lady appeared on seventeen further occasions over the following months. When the child asked her - on the instructions of the Parish Priest - who she was, the Lady replied: "I am the Immaculate

Conception". This title was proclaimed by the Church just four years earlier in 1854. Our Lady told Bernadette to go to the P.P. and tell him to build a church on the spot. Understandably, the child was terrified at her commission - and the reaction of the Parish Priest predictable - but the job was done in quick time and stands today with many further buildings.

Lourdes is known the world over for miracles, though only a tiny minority of those who visit there are miraculously cured. Such cures as are reported are rigorously tested, (a) that the illness really existed, (b) that the cure took place, (c) that it cannot be attributed to natural causes. The Medical Bureau at Lourdes is open to all doctors - believers or unbelievers.

Bernadette herself had very poor health all her life. She was never cured, and died at age of 35. Our Lady never promised her a cure in this life - but did assure her of happiness in the next.

Aelis O'Connor

Lourdes Invalid Pilgrimage

Annual collection this weekend at all Masses.

Bible Corner



FROM GALLILEE TO THE SOUTH TERRACE

The near demise of the Cork City Jewish community means that even local southsiders may not know of the existence of the synagogue on the South Terrace. Seventy years ago the people around would have been familiar with the Saturday trips of the Jews to the synagogue on the Sabbath Day, sometimes morning and evening. They were sharing in a worldwide tradition that predates the coming of Jesus and one in which he participated religiously throughout his life. It was there he would have sung and prayed the psalms, heard the Old Testament read aloud and explained. Indeed, it was in his local synagogue in Nazareth that Jesus read the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and pointed out that He was the one who the prophet was promising as Saviour.

This weekend's gospel opens with Jesus leaving the synagogue in Capernaum after evening service and going to Peter's house looking for his supper, presumably. (Notice that it was after the Sabbath ended at sunset that Jesus cured the sick.) The gospel reading closes with Jesus making synagogue preaching an essential strand of his ministry. Later, Paul began his preaching in the synagogue in Damascus and always used the local synagogue to begin his preaching until he or other recent converts were expelled.

We are all the poorer not to have a Jewish community among us any longer worshipping in our own Cork synagogue.



EMERGENCY NUMBER

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AND HE MANIFESTED HIS GLORY



ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

Enrolment

St. Catherine's, the only primary school in our parish, is currently enrolling children for Junior Infants in September. The school is a mixed junior and all-girls senior school. Children are prepared for Communion, First Penance and Confirmation. (We are awaiting Department approval to keep our boys until they have made their First Communion, in second class).

All children do the whole curriculum, including PE, drama and music, with swimming from second class upwards, and aerobics for senior girls. We provide Irish dancing classes for all pupils from 1st class upwards. Children learn French in 5th & 6th class. Every classroom has its own computer, and we have a computer room equipped with the latest technology.

- Children perform regularly in school concerts and Cór Fhéile.
- Our school choir is entered in Feis Maitiu.

- Our Camogie team won its competition in the last two years.
- We have had much success in local schools' quizzes and spellathons.
- Children go to visit the museum and art gallery, and other exhibitions from time to time.
- We have annual visits from drama groups and puppet theatre.

After school facilities include:

- After school care from 1pm to 2.40pm.
- Ballet.
- Guitar.
- French.
- Brownies.
- Hockey at Mount Mercy.

Our Parents' Association is very active. They have brought visiting speakers to talk to both children and adults. They are currently organising a big Race Night at Bishopstown G.A.A. Club, on February 28th. Why not come along and meet us!

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Congratulations to the following second year students who were winners in the recent Peace Slogan Competition organised by Cecil Hurwitz.

Kate O'Flynn won 1st prize and was the overall winner for her slogan as Gaeilge.

Gillian Ryan, Laura Lynch and Karen Walsh were also prize winners.

Comhghairdeas.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dr. Catherine Heffernan of Farranlea Park, who was recently conferred with a Doctorate at Oxford University. Catherine is a past pupil of St. Catherine's National School and Mount Mercy College. Well done.



NOTICE BOARD

Bishopstown & District Lions Club
Annual social in the S.M.A. Hall on Friday 14th February at 8 p.m. Admission free. Music, dancing, refreshments provided. All senior citizens welcome.

Bishopstown Meals on Wheels
Urgent need of two cooks for one Wednesday in three for approx. two hours, and a driver for the Fridays of every third month. If you can help please contact Pat at 4545790 (cooks) or Betty at 4541487 (drivers).

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

Pastoral Council
Meeting will take place on Monday 10th at 8.10 p.m. in the C.P. Centre.

Readings for Sunday 16th February

First Reading:
Lev.13:1-2,44-46. Jesus heals a leper in today's Gospel, and tells the cured man to show himself to the priest. The reason he did this is explained by the first reading, which describes how lepers were to be treated.

Psalm 31

Second Reading:
1 Cor.10:31-11:1 Paul offers himself as a model disciple, and preaches tolerance of non-Christians.

Gospel:
Mk.1:40-45. Jesus feels sorry for a leper and heals him, even though it brings unwanted attention on himself.



Rest in Peace

Mr. Mortimer O'Sullivan (Murt) died on 27th January at his daughter's residence in Blarney after a short illness. A well loved and respected farmer by all who knew him, Murt retired about thirty years ago and came to live in Farranlea Park, where he was predeceased by his wife Nora in December 1981. He was loved by his neighbours and friends and all held him in very high regard. We extend sincere sympathy to his sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

Mary McSweeney, The Ridgeway, died quite unexpectedly at her home on Sunday 19th January. Mary was a member of the well-known Kerins family, Main Street, Macroom. There she met her future husband George who practised his dental profession in a nearby premises. In recent years she dedicated her whole life to caring for George who has been in failing health for some time. Her only social outlet was her game of Bridge where she had many loyal friends. We extend sincere sympathy to her husband George, her sons George (Jnr.) and Gerard, her grandchildren, daughter-in-law, brothers and sisters. Her brother, Fr. Noel Kerins of Columban Fathers travelled all the way from Lima, Peru, to celebrate her Requiem Mass.

Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to **BETTY RONAYNE**, Avondale, Model Farm Road, on the death of her brother.