



23rd February 2003

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DUNNEARY CROSS, CORK.



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

NO ONE HAS A MONOPOLY ON WISDOM

Last weekend, millions of people worldwide told their elected leaders that they have no authority to go to war in their name at this time. Some are totally opposed to war and will give nobody the authority to wage war in their name, claiming that there are better ways to bridge our differences and to counteract oppression. Others would accept war as a last resort if the majority of the family of nations gives it the required authority through the United Nations.

By being elected, some leaders see themselves as having a mandate to judge what is right and necessary and to support war if needs be. Other leaders seem to believe that just because they have the power to run they are thereby entitled to do whatever it takes. For them, authority comes with power. It does not.

Authority to make a decision belongs to everybody in the community affected by the decision. True, the opinions of some people may be more central than others because of their responsibilities and experience. For example, in family situations parents have a particular

authority because of their role. But even there, their authority is not absolute.

The needs and gifts of all involved must be taken into account. No one has a monopoly on wisdom. The Spirit comes in many and varied ways. All genuine authority must be exercised in unselfish love based on wise courage.

The authority of Jesus to forgive sin is challenged in this weekend's gospel. He points out that it has been given to Him by the Father for the good of others like every other gift of God. He uses it with no advantage to himself and no harm to anybody else. This is a good guideline for all who have authority in matters big or small.

Don Blaney

CRYPT RENOVATION THE EXTRA EURO

Thanks to everyone who responded to the invitation to put an extra Euro in the Sunday collection to pay for the renovations. Keep up the effort, please! Many thanks also to the generous people who have given extra gifts or promise donations. The work goes well and will be finished in time for *Lent on the Edge*. Thank you.

TODAY'S PSALM

*Happy the person who considers
the poor and the weak.*

*The Lord will save him in the
day of evil.*

The evil experienced by the psalmist is felt in body and soul. He lies on a bed of pain and confesses that he has sinned against God.

Sometimes healing of the spirit is necessary before physical healing can occur. Jesus first offered the crippled man forgiveness of his sins. Layers of roofing, then layers of guilt and negativity had to be stripped away before Jesus ordered him to stand up, take up his stretcher and walk. It was as if the physical healing came from the man's own strength, newly released after the healing of his inner self.

God is ever ready to forgive our sins. Our part is to prepare ourselves to receive his mercy. Prayer and fasting are good remedies. But better still are acts of kindness and generosity which cost us in money, time or attitude. Charity covers a multitude.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn
Intercom

Don't mind criticism.

If it is untrue –
disregard it;

if it is unfair –

don't let it irritate you;

if it is ignorant –
smile;

if it is justified –
learn from it.



FEAST OF ST. DAVID

1ST MARCH

David, originally a hermit, lived the simple life, a life of prayer. His diet was just bread, water and vegetables, including leeks, now a symbol of Wales.

He later went on to found monasteries. Many came to him for guidance including some of our Irish saints. Through them David influenced Irish monasteries.

His monasteries were very strict. Instead of using oxen to pull the ploughs they pulled them themselves!

He died in the year 544 and is venerated as the patron of Wales.



Don't forget to send us any items of news in the parish, anything special that might be happening. Also, of course, we welcome your letters.

It's up to you to help to make our Bulletin as interesting as possible.



We offer our sincere sympathy to KAY DOYLE, Wilton Road, on the death of her brother Fr. Patrick Crowley.



YOUR CHILDREN

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of
Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from
you,

And though they are with you yet they
belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not
your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their
souls,

For their souls dwell in the house of
tomorrow,

which you cannot visit, not even in your
dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek
not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries
with yesterday.

KAHLIL GIBRAN



Respectable Inactivity

The nice thing about quiet
meditation is that it makes doing
nothing look very respectable.



St Catherine's Race Night!

A reminder that our race night is on next
Friday 28/02/03 in the Bishopstown
GAA Club at 8 p.m. It should be a great
social evening and everyone is very
welcome.

St Catherine's Parents Association

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

On Thursday February 6th 2003, Forty-
nine Mount Mercy Transition year
students travelled to Andalusia in Spain
on their annual school tour. While there,
they visited Granada, Seville, Ronda,
Puerto Banus and Gibraltar.

VIVA ESPANA - hasta luego!

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 2nd March

First Reading:

Hos.2:16,17,21-22. Nowhere in the Old
testament is the image of God as the
bridegroom of Israel as richly presented
as in the Book of Hosea.

Psalm 103

Second Reading:

2 Cor.3:1-6. Paul's emphasis is on living
the Christian faith rather than writing
about it.

Gospel:

Mk.2:18-22. The Jews fasted as they
waited for the Messiah. By not
observing those religious fasts, Jesus and
his disciples made the point that the wait
was over.



NOTICE BOARD

St. Vincent de Paul
Monthly collection next weekend at all Masses.

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

The Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima
Mass and Holy Hour at St. Maries of the Isle on Monday 24th February at 7.30 p.m. Priest Fr. Dan Crowley.

Oxfam
Urgently require men's and women's clothing, books and household items. Please contact Maggie at 10 Cook Street, tel. 4275490.



Bishopstown Senior Social Centre
Weekly Activities at 2.30 p.m.
Mon: Relaxation and gentle exercises with Hosannah Driver.
Tues: Cards - 45 - beginners welcome. Coached by Jack O'Connell and Haulic Lynch.
Wed: Tai-Chi with Patricia Chalmers.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

**SPECIAL
events**

Peace Services
Fr. Aidan Troy, C.P. will be the special preacher at the Peace Mass on Sunday 9th March at St. Augustine's Church, at 3.30 p.m.
Rev. David Armstrong (Church of Ireland) will preach at the Ecumenical Peace Service on Sunday 16th March at the Church of the Way of the Cross, Togher, at 4.00 p.m.



Monster Book Sale
In aid of Cois Tine Cork - integrating communities, cultures and faiths - at Fr. Mathew Hall, Fr. Mathew Street, on Saturday 1st March, 10.30 to 8.00 p.m. and Sunday 2nd from 10.30 to 5.30 p.m. Novels, spirituality, history, ecology, gardening, arts and children's books and many more. Also bric-a-brac, unused presents, free face painting for children.

The Holy Land and Zionism : A Moral Challenge to the Church.
Lecture at 8.00 p.m. next Tuesday 25th February in the Crawford Art Gallery, Emmet Place, (next to Opera House). Speaker Fr. Michael Prior, a Cork born Catholic priest who lectures at the University of Surrey. For further information phone James on 086-3971070 or visit www.corkpsc.org.

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