

9<sup>th</sup> March 2003



# Ballineaspig Bulletin

First Sunday in Lent



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Fr. Patrick writes*

## BEAUTY

People often associate Lent with doom and gloom, a sad time. The opposite is the case really. The word Lent comes from the old English term for length, since at this time of the year the days are getting longer. Winter is past, now is the time of growth, of beauty, flowers and birdsong. For the Christian too it is a time of growth and development in the relationship with God. Three things are needed for this growth: prayer, where we really communicate with God, fasting – where we deny ourselves something of pleasure, almsgiving – where we share our resources (time or wealth) with others. When we have these right conditions for growth, then beauty will begin to emerge in our lives, the beauty of God Himself.

### The Widening Gap

Fr. Sean Healy and Sr. Brid Reynolds, CORI on National Partnership for Prosperity with Fairness, will give a lecture at the SMA Centre, Wilton on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

# Lent on the Edge

LUNCH TIME TALKS

**FR. SEAN HEALY**  
**DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE**  
**C.O.R.I.**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 1.10 – 1.30 p.m.

Light Snack Available

**Church of the Holy Spirit**  
DENNEHY'S CROSS

### Questions People Ask

**Q.** What would you recommend people to do for Lent?

**A.** As a general piece of advice, give up and take on. Especially 'give up your old' sins?! Give up something you enjoy like sweets, smoking or some television. Give up anything that annoys people. It will train your willpower. Then take on something beneficial for your spiritual life like daily Mass, reading the Bible, a silent space each day or a work of charity. In this way Lent will focus your life more towards Christ.



St. Joseph's Community in Model Farm Road were saddened at the death of Sisters Ita Carroll and Rita Murphy as we said goodbye to them during the last week of February. May they rest in peace. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to both families who visited and kept contact with our sisters over the years.

Sr. Ita lived and worked in Ireland and England and was well known by many housewives in Munster whom she taught in the "Tech" in Drishane, also in Upton where she worked with the Rosminian Community and Staff. Over the past year her silent, patient suffering gave us an example of how to accept a prolonged illness with dignity and gentleness.

Sr. Rita travelled to Malaysia after the war to be a 'missioner' there for twenty four years of her life. She returned home and continued to teach in Weybridge, Surrey until she came to live in Dublin in 1983. The years she spent there gave her special fulfilment as she visited housebound neighbours and brought a warm, caring presence to the men who came to the Alexian day centre. Her deep faith was very evident in the way she communicated this to young and old, family and friends alike.

Both Sisters prepared well for death and often spoke about their dear departed whom they know in their fullness in heaven. Now everyone and everything they loved will be present at once. They see and experience the fullness of life with God as they give thanks and praise forever and ever.

## Baptism in Christ



We welcome into our Christian community the following who were baptised in 2003.

Ryan Frank Ford  
Eabha Sorcha Fiona Connolly  
Jay Edward Browne Gubbins  
Chloe Patricia Lynch  
Shaunelle Kate Sembrand  
Jack Salvador Fahy  
Orlaith Mary Murphy



### God's Word

#### Readings for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March

##### **First Reading:**

Gen.22:1-2,9-13,15-18. The heart-breaking story of Abraham offering up his only child Isaac teaches that true sacrifice is about faith and obedience rather than slaughter.

##### **Psalm 115**

##### **Second Reading:**

Rom.8:31-34. God's will is that we be saved, not condemned. Jesus, who died and rose for us, intercedes for us still.

##### **Gospel:**

Mk.9:2-10. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, the story of Jesus' transfiguration is read - this year, as Mark recorded it.



## LENT ON THE EDGE

In the first in the series of *Lent on the Edge* talks, Nuala O'Loan, Ombudsman of P.S.N.I. spoke passionately on the theme of justice and peace. As the basis for her talk she used the philosophy for life from the prophet Micah, "To act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God."

Justice, she said, is about having a place to lay your head and food on your plate. There are deprived children who didn't ever experience this justice – and grew up to be killers.

We are all challenged to fight injustice. She quoted St. Teresa of Avila who said that Christ had no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours. We have to walk with people in their pain.

Ms. O'Loan spoke of the hate that exists in Northern Ireland, people who had to face hate in just going to church, of how frightening that can be. Fighting for justice in Northern Ireland is a mighty battle! She spoke of her own very sad personal experiences as a result of the violence in the North. The Peace Process is so precious. She had also seen terrible injustices in the years when she lived in Kenya – real starvation.

What can WE do for peace? We can be with people in their pain, do anything we can to undo some of the injustices in the world. We are challenged!



prayer · fasting · almsgiving

## Bible Corner



### A RAINBOW COVENANT

Love is the life-giving core of our daily routine. Without it, even achievement and success pale into irrelevance. With it, even the heaviest burden can be carried. Yet, the paradox is that we often take love for granted or ignore it in the ordinary whirlwind of daily living. We need reminders to keep our appreciation alive.

For the Hebrews, one such reminder of God's loving goodness was the rainbow. To be a rainbow, the ordinary dark cloud needs to receive the rays of sun at a particular angle, breaking the white light into its seven constituent colours as it is reflected back to all who look at it.

For the Hebrews, God made an enduring promise, a covenant, to love them always. This love lit up the dark clouds of their history as well as their joys. This weekend the first reading highlights that we are rainbow people, a covenanted people, a people loved by God. When this love is reflected outwards, there is a rainbow of joy. When love is merely self-centred, there is only the darkness of despair. To appreciate a rainbow, one must face it. Lent is a reminder to face our God. Let us not turn our backs on the opportunity.



**NOTICE BOARD**

**Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2003**

**An Important Lecture**

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March, Dr. Katie Mitchell, a medical doctor who has worked in Guatemala for the last five years, will give a talk at 8.00 p.m. in the crypt. All are welcome.

**Lent**

Daily Mass (Monday to Friday) for Lent at 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

**Bulletins to the Homes**

Bulletins will be delivered to every home in the parish next weekend.

**Friends of Suicide Bereaved**

The new drop-in centre is now located in the Planning Office, St. Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, tel. 4316722. If you are in need of support, do drop in for a chat and a cup of tea on Wednesday nights, 8.00 to 10.00. We look forward to seeing you.

**Springtime Concert**

In St. Patrick's Church in aid of their renovation fund at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Soloists Fiona O'Reilly, Soprano and Brian Callanan, Tenor, together with brass bands and choirs. Tickets €15 available from St. Patrick's or Pro-Musica.

**Parish e-mail address:**

**[holyspiritparish@eircom.net](mailto:holyspiritparish@eircom.net)**

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**087 - 251 9940**

**'Good Doctor'**

C.I.T. Drama Society presents 'Good Doctor' by Neil Simon, in the C.I.T. Theatre on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 p.m. Tickets at door, €5, €2 concession.

**Bishopstown Senior Social Centre**

Good news for Bishopstown senior citizens – due to demand we will shortly begin a second weekly session of relaxation and gentle exercises directed by Hosannah Driver each Thursday at 2.30 p.m. plus cuppa. Register as soon as possible with Roger or Breda at 086-3866975 or 4541955.

**We Are Moving!**

Cork County Library will be relocating to the Model Business Park on Model Farm Road in mid March. The entrance is approx. 70 yards west of the junction with Rossa Avenue.

**MOUNT MERCY NEWS**

Well done to students, Kate O'Flynn, Gillian Ryan, Laura Lynch and Karen Walsh who received their awards and prizes at the Peace Awards Ceremony held in St. Finbarr's Hurling & Football Club on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. The competition is organised by Mr. Cecil Hurwitz and the girls were presented with special awards from Gael-Taca for their prize winning slogans *as Gaeilge*.

Comhghairdeas.