



30th March 2003

Ballineaspig Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent



No. 755

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CO. DK.



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Patrick writes

WHY THE EDGE?

A journalist asked me recently why do we have 'Lent on the Edge' in our parish. I cannot recall what answer I gave at that time, but on reflection the answer must go back to the fact that when the Master went up the mount to preach his sermon, his first words were 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. When he died himself he died as a criminal outside the town, naked, deserted and alone. The parables he taught emphasise that the poor man Lazarus was carried away to the bosom of Abraham. The rich went to Hades. With Christ, the poor are on the inside track, they are closest to him.

And so we need to stop and listen to this amazing truth of the Gospel. Those on the margins of our society, the AIDS sufferer, the victim of violence or injustice will perhaps understand this truth easier than ourselves. But then who has it all together? There is poverty in all our lives. Loneliness, rejection, illness, old age; failure in relations can make a pauper out of someone with the biggest bank balance.

Those on 'the edge' or those who work at 'the edge' help us to cope with our own poverty, and inspire us to find the happiness that is promised to the poor in spirit. The strange thing is that we all have to go to 'the edge' to find our way to the centre of things.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our speakers this year, Nuala O'Loan, Ombudsman, P.S.N.I., Fr. Sean Healy, Director of Justice for CORI, Fr. Patrick McGrath, Chaplain to the AIDS housing project; to Pat Dennehy of Pat Dennehy Signs who provided the signs on our gates, to Jerry Hurley of Hurley's Catering who provided the sandwiches, to the army of people who distributed posters and flyers, made and served tea, ushered crowds, parked cars and indeed, those who prayed. A special thanks to our secretary Anne who coped so efficiently with the huge extra work load.

Lenten Devotions

This Sunday at 5.30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL

4.30 P.M



Rest in Peace

Dermot Daly, Suncroft, Model Farm Road, died at Bon Secours Hospital, on Monday 24th March. He had been in failing health for some months. Dermot was a native of West Cork, and from a family who were well-known in Cork City and County. He and his wife Betty conducted a thriving business at Grand Parade for many years before their retirement a few years ago. Through all the demands on his time as a business man, Dermot always found time for the Lord and for his religious duties. We offer our very sincere sympathy to Betty, his son Denis, his brother Tim (Western Road) and his many relatives and friends.

Prayer

Draw us closer to Thyself that we may know ourselves nearer to our loved ones who are with Thee. And while Thou doest prepare a place for us, prepare us for that place, that where they are and Thou art we too may be, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

Readings for Sunday 6th April

First Reading:

Jer.31:31-34.

Psalm 50

Second Reading:

Heb.5:7-9

Gospel:

Jn.12:30-30.

LENT ON THE EDGE

The final lecture in the series was given by Fr. Patrick McGrath, AIDS chaplain in Dublin. He spoke about the mysterious illness that first became evident in the eighties, a virus in the bloodstream against which antibiotics didn't work.

At the time, little was done about it, due to the fact that it mostly occurred in gay men and drug takers – not socially acceptable. Of course, AIDS has also affected heterosexuals and haemophiliacs.

Many sufferers were homeless, friendless, dying without support. So the AIDS Funding Project was set up. Volunteers came forward to tend to their many needs. They see it as an honour and a privilege. They have had deaths at the rate of four per year in the ten years of the home's existence. Originally catering for six, they have two centres and can cater for fifteen patients, but have a waiting list of about a hundred and hope to set up a third centre. They work closely with the Hospice. Fortunately, there are more effective treatments now.

Fr. McGrath regretted that both Church and society were so slow to respond. Church, he said, MUST put compassion first.

*Complain because the rose bushes
have thorns
or
rejoice because the thorn bush
has a rose.*



LOVELY SINEAD BLOOMS AT ROSES

Heartiest congratulations to Sinead O'Donoghue who was nominated as Wilton/Bishopstown Rose and will now represent the region in the Cork finals of the Rose of Tralee contest. Sinead, who studies law and Irish at U.C.C., lives in Farranlea Park with her parents Virgilia and Kevin, sister Aoife and brother Terence.

Questions People Ask

Q. Could you tell me where confession came from?

A. The power to forgive sins was bestowed on the disciples in the Upper Room by the Risen Christ; 'Whose sins you forgive they are forgiven' (John 20:39). In the early Church, St. James urges Christians to confess their sins to one another. The practice of private individual confession to a priest, with which we are familiar, became popular from the sixth century onwards. Prior to that the emphasis was more on the public reconciliation of a sinner with the community.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn, OFMCap
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Bible Corner



A COWARDLY CONVERT

"Conqueror for the people" seems a very inappropriate name for one who would only come to Jesus secretly by night out of fear of his peers and yet, that is what the name Nicodemus means. However, these secret meetings between them must have changed him, because when the religious zealots in the council were clamouring for the death sentence on Jesus, Nicodemus was the one who bravely stood up for him and protested that the accused had a right to be heard before being condemned. This plea went unheard, but Nicodemus was there again at the burial of Jesus courageously and generously bringing costly spices to anoint the Master's body.

In this weekend's gospel, John the Evangelist, contrasting darkness and light uses the secret night rendezvous of Jesus and Nicodemus to highlight the Master's teaching about the link between the death and resurrection of Jesus and Faith as our entry into new life.

"The one who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God."

"The Son of Man must be lifted up so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him."

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940



NOTICE BOARD

First Friday

Next Friday, 4th April, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration will take place next Friday 4th April from 10.30 to 7.30 p.m. followed by Mass.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 3rd April at 8.00 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

St. Vincent de Paul

Easter collection will take place at all Masses next weekend.

Our local St. Vincent de Paul Group collects in three churches - Dennehy's Cross, S.M.A. and Poor Clares. The total collection in March was €2814.49, for which the Society is grateful.

Alzheimer Society

Carers support meeting on Monday 14th April in Jurys Hotel at 8 p.m.

TAKE NOTE

Elijah

By Felix Mendelssohn will be performed at the North Cathedral on Saturday 5th April at 8 p.m. by East Cork Choral Society with the Seafield Singers and St. Fin Barre's Cathedral Choir, conductor Colin Nicholls. Soloists Deirdre Moyniahn, Pauline Frizelle, Breffni Horgan and Giles Underwood. Proceeds to Cork ARC Cancer Support House.

The Widening Gap

Lenten lecture organised by Cork Alliance for Justice & Social Care, on Tuesday 8th April at 8 p.m. in S.M.A. Hall, Wilton, Speakers: Margo Hayes, Community Development Worker and Liam Fitzpatrick, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, on current responses to poverty and exclusion.

JOIN US!

Parent and Toddler Group

Thursday morning get-togethers have resumed in the Crypt from 10.00 a.m. to 12. noon. All welcome.

Bishopstown Senior Social Centre

Weekly Activities:

Mon: Relaxation & gentle exercises with Hosannah Driver.

Tues: Cards - 45. Beginners welcome. Coached by Jack and Haulie.

Wed: Bingo and chat.

Thurs: Relaxation & gentle exercises with Hosannah Driver.

New seniors especially welcome. €2 per session (includes cuppa). Queries anytime to Roger Coughlan 086/3866975.

Coeliac Society

The Southern Branch will hold a special meeting in the SMA Centre, Wilton on Saturday 5th April at 2.30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Dr. Fiona Stevens, President of the Coeliac Society of Ireland and Anne Marie Brennan, Dietician. This meeting, which promises to be most informative, will be followed by refreshments.