



11th May 2003

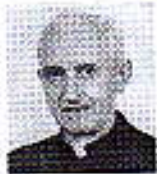
Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Easter



No. 76

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNDY'S CROSS, CO. CK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Very many things have changed in the world in the last half-century. The Church has changed too – changed radically. From a position of influence and stability – with unquestioned loyalty from the vast majority of people – it is now the butt of deep seated anger and resentment from many of its own. The institutional Church, to which you and I belong, has fallen from a position of honour and respect to a position of weakness and suspicion. There are reasons for this of course – very serious reasons. In spite of this, we must never forget the huge contribution of many unsung heroes in religious life in the fields of education, medicine, care for the poor, as well as handing on the precious gift of Faith. Little credit is given for this, nor is it sought, but in the interests of truth, it must be stated. However, the fact remains that the traditional benign portrayal of the clergy and religious as exemplified by Bing Crosby and Barry Fitzgerald in the Bells of St. Mary's, etc. is long since gone.

In the immortal words of Charles Dickens – “It’s the best of times, and the worst of times.” We trust in the Lord, not on human strength or goodwill. Hence, the importance of the prayers of the Poor Clares, St. Joseph’s Young Priests’ Society, and so many dedicated religious and laity. We are a Sacramental Church – I need a priest to minister to me too.

Finally, if a son or daughter is trying to discern their future for heaven’s sake give them all the quiet encouragement and support you can – they need it – and our prayers as well.

And here am I in 2003 trying to encourage young men and women to dedicate their lives to God in the priesthood and religious life. Am I mad? Am I deceitful? I hope not. The Lord’s final instructions were to go out and preach the Gospel to the whole world. This we must do, in season, out of season. And, as one who has lived through the headlong fall from privilege to weakness, I can honestly say our position of weakness and service is far better.

Aennis E. Lomeny

**“Go into all the world
and preach the good news
to all creation.”**

Pilgrimage -
Practical Points



Rain or shine the Pilgrimage will go ahead. Please bring rainwear and, if you wish, a folding stool or a rug to sit on.



Coach

The coaches will depart at 1.30 p.m. sharp from the church car park. They will stop at the No. 5 bus stop near the entrance to Kenley to pick up passengers from that area. Motorists should allow an hour and a half for the journey.



Coach

All pilgrims, whether in cars or coaches, should pass the island, enter the forest and assemble at the first car park inside the forest before 3 p.m. We hope Coillte will waive the entrance fee, but there may be a small charge. PASSES

to the forest park
ARE AVAILABLE.



At the Altar Pews in the Chapel and your altar

Remember to bring your picnic with you as we begin the pilgrimage walk. Please respect the forest: -

- ◆ Extinguish all matches and cigarettes carefully.
- ◆ Light no fires.
- ◆ Leave no litter.

Enjoy the day and the company!

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 18th May

First Reading:

Acts.9:26-31. Saul, a former persecutor of Christians, preaches at Jerusalem for the first time after his conversion.

Psalm 21.

Second Reading:

1 Jn. 3:18-24. Living God's way involves not just words, but genuine love for each other.

Gospel:

Jn.15:1-8. Without a life-giving connection to Christ, our faith will wither and fade. Christ invigorates us.



Link-A-Prayer

Through 'Link-a-Prayer' the Poor Clare Sisters and the housebound in our parish unite in prayer each day for the needs of our parish and people elsewhere.

For our pilgrimage to Gougane Barra, the Sisters have written a beautiful prayer which everyone is invited to share on the day of the pilgrimage. We especially ask those who are housebound, old or infirm, and unable to be in Gougane Barra, to join with us through this prayer so that all of us together will be linked as one community on our day of

Pilgrimage for Peace.

We thank our Poor Clare Sisters for their prayerful support and participation in so many events in our parish.



Bible Corner



Over fifty years ago, when holidaying with rural cousins, I was both amazed at and amused by a U.S. urban cousin who would not drink milk because it came from a cow. She wanted it to come from a fridge!! She had never seen a cow before and I had never seen a domestic fridge. Our experiences of what was central in life were very different.

Not so the experiences of the people to whom Jesus was preaching. They were very conscious of how central the flock of sheep was in the lives of the Hebrew people for centuries. Their flocks were not only a source of wool and food, but were a measure of their wealth. So the one who cared for the flock and its every need was a key figure in their society. He knew his sheep individually and cared for their every need. He protected them from danger as well as guiding them to little patches of pasture and water sources in the rocky terrain of Palestine. He was prepared to spend his life, indeed risk his life, for them.

It is small wonder then that Jesus used the image of the Good Shepherd to highlight his own role of service among his people. Their experience enabled them to tune in intently to his message. The image may not be as immediate for us urban dwellers, but the message is the same. Jesus gives his life for his people. He risks all for those he loves. He continues to be the Good Shepherd, through his Church, guiding, feeding, protecting his people. This weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday.

EASTER CROSSWORD

Twenty-six completed entries were submitted, out of which twenty-one were correct. From these we drew the winners for a prize:

- (1) M. Lane, Melmore, Cherrygrove
- (2) Liz Eiffe, The Ridgeway.





NOTICE BOARD

Bulletins to the Homes

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

Parish Peace Pilgrimage

Coach tickets to Gougane Barra will be on sale at the C.P. Centre after the Vigil Mass on Saturday 10th and all Masses on Sunday 11th May.

Sunday Afternoon Benediction

During the Easter season in the Sacred Heart Church at 5.00 p.m.

Padre Pio National Pilgrimage

At Holycross Abbey, Thurles, on Sunday 25th May, 1.30 to 4.00 p.m. Contact Jackie after 6.00 p.m. at 4541144.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Novena commencing in the Church of the Real Presence, Curraheen, on at 8.00 p.m. Friday 16th May and concluding on Saturday 24th May.

Cúrsa Gaeilge 2003

One week Irish Course for girls and boys, 10-16 years, July 7-11th, 10.00 to 3.00 p.m., catering for 4th to 6th class primary, and 1st to 3rd year post primary. Apply to the Secretary, Mount Mercy College, tel. 4542366 10.00-4.00, or 4968496 6.00-8.00 p.m.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

Pastoral Council

Meeting this Monday 12th at 8.10 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

Family Ministry

Family Ministry in conjunction with Cork & Ross Social Services invites applications for a one year temporary, part-time position as Administrator/Resource Co-ordinator at 34 Paul Street. Commencing employment in September the successful candidate will assist the directors in their work of providing support, education and leadership skills training in the areas of bereavement, parenting and family studies. Experience in counselling, networking with caring agencies and sourcing grant funding desirable. The candidate must be a good team person with good communication skills and be able to work on their own initiative. Ongoing training in the work of family ministry will be provided on site. Application form from Family Ministry, 34 Paul Street, tel. 4275136, to be returned by 21st May.

Bealtaine

Annual Festival for Older People - a celebration of creative exercise and dance. Can be seen performed by Bishopstown Senior Citizens at Wilton Park House this Monday 12th from 2.30 to 4.00 p.m. under direction of Hosannah Driver. "Drop in and View". Free.

Bridge

Bridge will resume at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday 13th May in the Crypt of the church of the Holy Spirit.