

8th June 2003



Ballineaspais Bulletin

Pentecost Sunday



No. 765

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Patrick writes

With the decline in the numbers of people attending Sunday Mass, and the fall off of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, (not to mention married life), it could so easily be concluded that the Church is on the way out. Perhaps it is in Ireland, God alone knows. But then we must reflect on the origins of the Church. Its first members were a group of mostly uneducated (at least in theology) people hiding in the upper room for fear of the Jews, and through the power of the Holy Spirit these individuals were transformed into being the community of the people of God, the Church. They preached fearlessly, they performed miracles of healing, they suffered for the faith and, most importantly, they gave their lives to witness to Christ. The huge mosaic over the altar of our own church is a reminder to us of the great transforming power of God's Spirit. How much do we need that Spirit today to give us new birth, and new life. We must never underestimate what God can do.

Patrick Webb

ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

Our swimmers were very successful in the recent Cork Schools Novice Gala. The under-13 relay team came first, the under-11 relay team came second and the under-9s were pipped out of third place by a fraction of a second! Overall, we came third in the competition. Individual medal winners were: Aife O'Connell (4), Margaret Perry (2), Nessa Donnelly (2) and Kelly McGrath (1).

We are also celebrating great success in the Maths Olympiad competitions, with 13 girls receiving certificates and awards. Top of the list is Katie Hickey who came 1st overall in 6th Class. Jenna O'Sullivan and Danielle Barry shared the honours at 5th Class level. Suzanne O'Sullivan, Aoife O'Callaghan and Sophie Gough were all prizewinners in 4th Class. Chomhghairdeas leo go leir.

CONGRATULATIONS

A word of congratulations to Fr. Declan Mansfield, originally from Farranlea Grove, who this year celebrates the silver jubilee of his ordination to priesthood. May the Lord reward him for his dedicated years of service.

SAINTS FOR THE WEEK

9th June : St. Columba

Columba, also known as Colmcille, Columbas, Colum, was of Irish Royalty, son of Fedhlimidh and Eithne of the Ui Neill clan. Born in Donegal in 521, he devoted himself from early boyhood to the study of the scriptures. He founded the abbeys of Derry and Durrow.

He later travelled across to Iona with twelve of his followers and built a monastery there which became world-famous. He died and was buried there in 597, but in the 9th century his remains were brought to Downpatrick.

Columba is next to St. Patrick and St. Brigid in the roll of Irish Saints.

13th June : St. Anthony of Padua

Anthony was destined to be a great nobleman but for the sake of Christ became a poor Franciscan priest. He lived in a cave in St. Paolo, leaving only to attend Mass and sweep the nearby monastery. One day, when a scheduled speaker failed to appear, the brothers pressed him into speaking. He so impressed that he was thereafter constantly travelling, evangelising and teaching theology through Italy and France.

He was born in Lisbon in 1195, died on 13th June 1231 and was canonised in 1232. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

Anthony is patron of expectant mothers, fishermen, travellers, the elderly and, of course LOST ARTICLES.

A thought

The scene in Jerusalem, post-resurrection - earth, wind and fire come together in a dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples.

The drama cannot be contained in the room as it spills on to the streets where people of different nationalities and languages can understand each other. What a strange and wonderful thing! Perhaps it is telling us that the language of love crosses all divides, breaks down every barrier and knows no boundaries.

In the gospel, Jesus tells us that the Spirit of love is also the spirit of truth - but is it a spirit our world wants to know or accept? The Spirit can take the form of a dove. We need doves more than we need hawks. So today we pray that the dove of peace and joy and love be released throughout our troubled world, bringing truth and justice and hope.

Let the dove fly to Iraq so devastated by war, to Africa decimated by famine and disease, to America, England and Australia to remind them that the meek, not the powerful will inherit the earth. Spirit of God, speak to all our wayward hearts, our troubled lives, our restless spirits and renew the face of the earth.

This coming week the Special Olympics open in our country. The spirit of joy and love will surely shine through these special athletes for all to see.

Fr. Thomas Barden
Intercom



Catherine Murphy, Sheares Park, died unexpectedly at home on 26th May. A native of Dunmanway, Catherine came to live here with her brother Jeremiah, who died two years ago. She will be remembered as a gracious neighbour and a good friend. The last of her family, she was mourned by nursing colleagues some of whom trained with her many years ago in Our Ladys's, by friends, by good neighbours and carers who minded her with devotion in later years and who accompanied her funeral to the beautiful graveyard beside Innishannon Church. May God reward their goodness. Ar dheis Dé, go raibh a hanam dílis.



Bible Corner



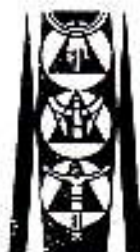
JEWISH PENTECOST

Throughout their history, the Hebrew people were often oppressed and dispossessed of their homelands. Their return journeys home were marked with thanksgiving prayers to the God who had liberated them. As a result, annual pilgrimages to their Temple in Jerusalem became a key feature of their religious practices. The big three pilgrimage feasts were Passover, Tabernacles and Pentecost.

Pentecost was a harvest feast. There were fifty days from the harvesting of the first barley sheaf to the end of the wheat harvest. So Pentecost came fifty days after Passover. It was a joyful thanksgiving for all God's gifts, "the mighty works of God".

So, by the time of Jesus, a strong pilgrimage tradition would have brought hundreds of Jews of several nationalities to Jerusalem for Pentecost. These would have been there when Peter went public to preach in tongues the gospel of the Risen Jesus, as the first reading recounts this weekend.





QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

Q. What does the name Pentecost mean?

A. 'Pentecost' comes from the Greek word for 50. Fifty days after Easter, the first day after seven weeks marked the beginning of a new era. The Jews had a feast for the first fruits of the season on the 50th day after Passover. The coming of the Holy Spirit marks the birth of the Church. The many nations in Jerusalem that day are the first fruits of the harvest. The disciples received the wind of new breathing, the fire of new loving and the tongues of new preaching.

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap
Email silvestero-flynn@oceanfree.net



Bulletins to the Homes

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

Appeal for Collectors

We need collectors for all Sunday Masses to collect on alternate months, but especially for 10.30 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Masses. Ladies and gentlemen of all ages welcome. Contact parish team, the sacristan or any collector.

Creative Writing

A full time course for people who are interested in developing writing skills and building up a portfolio of work will be held at St. John's Central College in September 2003. Further information at 4276410.

Tuesday Bridge

Will resume on 2nd September in the Crypt.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

Parish e-mail address:

holyspiritparish@eircom.net

Through the Holy Spirit we encounter God

PENTECOST SUNDAY



The Spirit blows where it will

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 15th June

First Reading:

Deut.4:32-34. Moses reminds the people about God's deeds, and declares that there is but one God.

Psalm 32.

Second Reading:

Rom.8:14-17. We are all God's children, co-heirs with Christ, filled with the Spirit.

Gospel:

Mt.28:16-20. The disciples are given the mission to preach and baptise in the name of the Trinity.