

26th October 2003



Ballineaspig Bulletin

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



No. 775

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, DORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Declan writes

Trick or Treat?

Halloween is almost upon us again. Like Christmas first, then Valentine's Day, then Mother's Day, then Father's Day, Halloween has been taken over by commercialism. (Easter, the central feast of Christianity, is still fairly free!) Halloween, a holy feast with a Christian message, is gradually becoming secularised. Ironic isn't it? Historians tell us that the opposite originally happened. Christianity took over and christianised the pagan Celtic feast of Samhain (Oiche Shamhna), the dying of the sun-god in early winter, and many other pagan celebrations centred on the spirits of the dead, and made November 1st and 2nd a celebration of Saints and Souls.

How many young people dressed as witches or skeletons begging unwanted nuts and fruit and (wanted) coins, with cries of 'trick or treat', even know the origin of the word 'Halloween'? Halloween, to give it its full title, means 'the Eve of All Hallows', 'All Hallows' being the older English term for 'All Saints'.

Many families have had to pay out for masks, broomsticks, capes, pumpkins, in

recent weeks. God be with the old days when barn bracks and games with apples were all that was played, and peanuts were appreciated. While snap-apple night is a joke and lighthearted, many young children are frightened and have bad dreams of witches and spells, evil, etc.

The important message of Halloween is that evil has no power over us. We are children of God. God is treat, not trick. God has given us His Son. We can be quite certain about those who have died in Christ. The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God.

We pray for the dead. We visit churches and cemeteries. We offer a Novena of Masses to claim the power of Christ, greater than any magic. We treat ourselves with large amounts of Christian Hope. The Resurrection was not a trick. Faith is not superstition. Jesus calls us towards the greatest treat of all – eternal life, eternal Love. He is knocking on our doors!

APOLOGY

Due to an error in our production arrangements of the Bulletin, there was a shortfall last weekend. We offer our sincere apology to the homes which did not receive a Bulletin and to our loyal distributors who were inconvenienced.

Thank you.

The Editor

Reflections on the Mass – I

The Entrance Procession

Last year, the Parish Liturgy Group recommended that some important innovations be introduced into the Sunday Mass. The emphasis was put first on the 10.30 Sunday Mass, with an entrance procession, final procession, formal carrying of the Book of the Gospels, focus on the Word of God, more congregational singing, cantors, offertory procession, consecrating one lot of hosts.... In fact, many of these changes weren't new at all, but should have been done thirty or more years ago in every church, in the years following Vatican II. Many of these things are taken for granted in the American Church, for example, but Ireland was slow to change. The Liturgy Group studied the pastoral letter '*Gather Faithfully Together*' of Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, and tried to introduce what might be suitable for Dennehy's Cross in the year 2003.

Last weekend, after the training of a new group of Altar Servers, the Solemn Entrance Procession was introduced at the 6.15 Vigil Mass and at the 12.15 Sunday Mass. **Why?**

- To process from the back of the Church begins the Eucharist in a dignified and focussed way. It gathers and commands attention. It moves our attention into sacred space – the Sanctuary.
- The Entrance Hymn of the Mass is to accompany a procession, not an appearance out of the side door of the altar, and an impatient waiting to get it over with, before the 'real Mass' begins. Likewise with the

Recessional (final) Hymn. Singing and Procession are inseparable.

- The crucifix, central symbol of the Sacrifice of the Mass leads a solemn entry and is enthroned prominently on the altar.
- The Book of the Gospels, the Word of God is carried with dignity and also enthroned on the altar. (Watch this space next week!).
- On a practical level, it gives the celebrant the opportunity to welcome Massgoers at the door of the Church (assuming they are on time!), and to chat with them in the porch after Mass – essential to parish community-building, offshoot of Sunday Mass.

So, it's all about dignity, gathering a congregation, singing, welcoming, leading Eucharist (thanksgiving), opening and closing a community celebration.... Maybe we are ready to move on a little further from the ideas we grew up with of the Mass as a private devotion centred on the Priest and the Blessed Sacrament – and often in that order.



We offer our sincere sympathy to JERRY O'SULLIVAN, Greenfields, Model Farm Road, on the unexpected death of his brother.



If you would like us to mention any marriages that have taken place in our parish, please let us know. We would be happy to congratulate the bride and groom in the Bulletin.



Foster Carers Required

The Fostering Resource Unit, Southern Health Board, seek people in Cork City and County to foster young people aged 12 years and over. We wish to recruit individuals and families from all walks of life who are committed, adaptable and understanding. A preparation course and on-going support is provided. Foster carers will be paid an allowance to cover costs. For further information please contact 4923025.



EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING!

Thank God for dirty dishes,
they have a tale to tell,
while other folk go hungry,
we're eating pretty well.
With home and health
and happiness,
we shouldn't want to fuss,
for by this stack of evidence,
God's very good to us.

Bible Corner



HERITAGE TOWN

In the country there is a growing appreciation and, perhaps, tourist exploitation of our older towns. Recently, Youghal had a weekend celebration of fifteen hundred years of Christian history. It was a worthy cause for celebration, but pales a little in significance by comparison with Jericho, the scene of this weekend's gospel miracles.

Jesus was leaving Jericho, possibly to go to Jerusalem. It is a journey of over 20 miles by a winding road that rises from 900 feet below sea level to 2,250 feet above, climbing about the height of Carrauntoohil.

For the Hebrews, Jericho was a very significant town. It was the entry point to the promised land for the chosen people on their Exodus journey from Egypt. It was just before crossing the Jordan to enter Jericho that Moses died and left the leadership to Joshua. Jericho was a truly historic place being a walled town over 9,000 years ago with many invasions, destructions and rebuilding over the centuries. Situated overlooking one of the richest agricultural areas in the Near East, Jericho has had a chequered history including Jesus' cure of the blind Bartimaeus.

Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18



Novena for Holy Souls

Lino
Sunday 2nd November is the commemoration of all the Faithful departed. Each priest will start a Novena of Masses on that day for all the dead on our November list. Envelopes and prayer cards are available in the church, and please place your completed envelope in the box at the altar rails before November starts.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Monthly collection will take place at Masses next weekend.

St. Michael's Cemetery, Blackrock

Annual prayers in honour of the Holy Souls will take place on Sunday 2nd November at 3.00 p.m.

Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima

Mass and Holy Hours at St. Maries of the Isle on Monday 27th October at 7.30pm., Priest Fr. J Power, O.S.A., New Ross.

Ardfallen Fair

Saturday 8th November, in Ardfallen House, Douglas, Road (next to the Briar Rose with car parking facilities at the swimming pool entrance) from 10.30-2.00 p.m. A day for all the family with books, cakes, country produce, etc. Adm. adults €1, children free.

Bishopstown Scouts

If you are a member/former member of the Bishopstown Unit and have unwanted uniforms that you would be willing to donate to the Unit, please contact Mary at 4341060 or Sheila at 4543201 and we will arrange collection.

Parish e-mail address:

holyspiritparish@eircom.net

**Calling All Lectio Divina or
Scripture Fans...**

Anyone in the Parish who has ever been a member of a Lectio Divina group, Bible Study group, Scripture Prayer group; anyone who participated in the recent Michel de Verteuil sessions; anyone interested in knowing and praying the Word of God is invited to a short meeting on next Wednesday 29th October at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre. It is hoped to organise from this, three nights of Scriptural prayer for Advent.

Irish Blood Transfusion Service

Blood donor clinic at S.M.A. Community Centre, Wilton on Thursday 30th October from 6.00-9.00 p.m.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 2nd November

First Reading:

Is.25:6-9. Isaiah uses the image of a banquet to highlight God's care for his people.

Psalm 26:1.4.7-9.13-14.

Second Reading:

Romans 5:5-11. Hope in our resurrection is based on Christ's death and resurrection, undergone out of love for us.

Gospel:

Mk.15:33-39,16:1-6. Eye witness report from Calvary at the death of Jesus.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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