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Ballineaspais Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
GENEHY'S CROSS, CORK.



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

The Dean writes

LENT – THE SPRINGTIME OF OUR LIVES

The first Sunday of Lent is a great opportunity to take an honest look at ourselves – as we stand before God. The gospel is all about the temptations of Jesus. Jesus was tempted, but without sin. We are tempted, but we have sinned. Sometimes the darkness of our own past may appal us. But the wonderful fact is that Jesus is at hand to lift this pall from our lives. He knows first hand what temptation and weakness is all about. He has the love and the strength to restore us to peace with God and with ourselves.

The first temptation of the Lord is one we all experience from an early age – “Go away – that’s my computer game” or “my train set” – progressing to “I must have the best and most expensive car – or house – and the most wonderful partner in life, etc. etc.” If needs be, use your clout or backhander to get what you want. The mirage is that all this will bring happiness.

The second temptation is to resort to power to get what you want – power rather than love. It’s easier to control people than to love them – to dominate people than to become their servant. Yet Jesus said that he came not to be served, but to serve. We know what we must do if we are to follow the Leader. The devil says – play the game, even if it’s a dirty game, don’t rock the boat, and you’ll go a long way.

The third temptation is the lure of sensationalism – work the magic, work the crowd – I’m the greatest – the shallow magic that fades away like the morning dew. Somebody said that what frightens the devil most is not God’s power, but the powerlessness he embraced in accepting the human condition.

Make no mistake about it, there is no path to the joy and glory of Easter Sunday other than accepting our own cross, our own weakness, and following in the footsteps of the Master. In that way we shall never walk alone – nor lose our way in life.

Denis O’Connor.

Faith in Action Lent 2004:

Fairtrade Coffee Morning

After each of the Masses next weekend, March 6/7th, you are invited to the Crypt for refreshments. Fairtrade tea, coffee and biscuits will be served. The aim is to encourage community, and also to promote the use of Fairtrade products, which guarantee certain rights to the producers, who are very often vulnerable in third world situations of exploitation, and unstable markets and prices.

Fairtrade Talk and Discussion

Peter Noonan of Oxfam will give a talk on Fairtrade Products and the Third World in the Crypt, on Wednesday March 3rd, at 1.10p.m. Samples of Fairtrade products will be shown, details of availability etc.



Women's World Day of Prayer

This year the Service will be held in the Crypt of our church at 11.00 a.m. on Friday 5th March and all men and women are very welcome. The Service will take approximately one hour and refreshments will be served afterwards.

It is wonderful to think that on the first Friday in March Christian women in over 180 countries and islands around the globe are praying with and for each other. The day begins at the international dateline in the Pacific when the first service is held at dawn in Queen Salote's School in Tonga. Then as the earth rotates a great "Mexican wave" of prayer rises through Asia, Africa, through the Middle East, Europe and over the Atlantic to the Caribbean, South and Central America to the U.S.A. and Canada, until the last service of the day is held on an island off the coast of Alaska.

This year the Service is compiled by the women of Panama and the chosen theme is "In Faith, Women Shape the Future". Speaker will be Sr. Consilia Denchey, Cork.



The Parish Table Quiz on Shrove Tuesday night exceeded expectations. There was a great turn-out; the Crypt was full; the questions devised by Brian McCarthy were very varied: some easier, some very testing. There was a lot of fun, prizes for the winners and runners-up, great raffle prizes, including a bulging hamper, dinner for two, lunch for two..., as well as a multiplicity of spot prizes, all donated. Add to that, hot pancakes for supper!

The night raised €855.00 for **Cois Tine**, the support centre for immigrants. Sr. Mairead from Cois Tine presented the prizes, and thanked the organisers, the Faith in Action Group, and all those who took part.

A Lenten Prayer:

(Far East, Jan/Feb)

Disturb us, O Lord,
When we are too well pleased with
ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because
we dreamed too little;
When we have arrived in safety because
we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord,
When with the abundance of things we
possess
We have lost our thirst for the water of life;
When, having fallen in love with time,
We have ceased to dream of eternity;
And in our efforts to build a new earth
have allowed our vision of a
New Heaven to grow dim.

Stir us, O Lord,
To dare more boldly,
To venture seas where storms shall show thy
mastery,
Where losing sight of land
We shall find the stars.

In the name of Him
Who pushed back the horizons of our hopes,
And invited us to follow Him.
Amen.



Scriptural Prayer for Lent:

Two new Scriptural Prayer groups will form for the five weeks of Lent, in addition to the two that already take place each week. Come along for **one hour** each week to share a little prayer time based on the Gospel for each of the Sundays of Lent. It is very gentle. We read the Gospel slowly, then after some silence, repeat some phrases from it, then we apply it to our lives and ask: what is the Gospel telling me to do? How does it tune in with my life? Then we finish up with some prayers based on what is shared. Very gentle! Feel free to join any of the following in the coming week:

New groups:

Monday night, Parish Centre, 8 p.m.

Wednesday morning, Parish Centre, after 10 Mass

Other groups:

Monday after 10 Mass, Parish Centre

Tuesday night, St. Catherine's, 8 p.m.

LENTEN RESOLUTIONS FOR MASS GOERS

5. Welcome those who share your seat, even if they come late and disturb your comfort. (We never know what difficulties delayed the other person).
6. Ask God's blessing on the readers and on the preacher.
7. Share the sign of peace with sincerity. Smile please.
8. Take a Bulletin home or to a neighbour.

Thank you

Other suggestions welcome for next week.

Bible Corner



OVERVIEW

The weekend gospels for Lent this year are about important incidents in the life of Jesus and key teachings from his life. The first Sunday highlights his struggle as a human person to remain faithful to his calling, and the second Sunday gives a glimpse of him as Son of God. The third Sunday emphasises the importance of using our opportunities to do good with the reassurance of God's patience with our tardiness. The remaining two Sundays before Passion Sunday recount the greatest parable of reconciliation and an encouraging example of his sensitive mercy. Overall, these gospels have the power to be key staging posts on our journey through Lent and, indeed, through life.

1st Sunday: The Temptation of Jesus
Luke 4:1-13

2nd Sunday: The Transfiguration
Luke 9:28-36

3rd Sunday: The Barren Fig Tree
Luke 13:1-9

4th Sunday: The Prodigal Son
Luke 15:1-32

5th Sunday: The Woman taken in Adultery
John 8:1-11

6th Sunday: The Passion
Luke 22:14-23:56

The smile that you send out returns to you.

Indian Wisdom



For Your Diary:

Wednesday March 3rd: Crypt, 1.10p.m.,
Talk and discussion: **Fairtrade Products
and the Third World.**

Weekend March 6th/7th, Fairtrade
Tea/Coffee and biscuits in Crypt after all
Masses.

Wednesday March 10th, Crypt, Talk and
discussion: **Cois Tine Centre for
Immigrants**

Trocaire Boxes

Trocaire Lenten Campaign Boxes are
being given out at all Masses this
weekend. Please keep them beside the table
as you eat, or beside the door as you come
in, or beside the bed, to collect the coins
(notes too of course!) as we move through
Lent.

This year's special focus is the country of
Rwanda, ten years after the massacres and
genocide which claimed over a million
deaths.

First Friday

Next Friday, 5th March, is the First Friday of
the month. Calls to the sick and
housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Will take place next Friday from 10.30 to
7.30 p.m. followed by Mass.

Evening Mass

During Lent, there will be an extra daily
Mass, Monday to Friday, at 7.30 p.m.

Presentation Convent Crosshaven

The 50th anniversary of the Past Pupils
Union will be celebrated on Sunday 25th
April, with Mass at 11.00 in the Parish
Church, followed by light refreshments in
the Convent, where there will be exhibitions
of photographs, etc. Celebratory lunch in
Carrigaline Court Hotel at 2.00 p.m.
(booking essential by 9th April). Further
details from Secretary, Lily O'Driscoll, c/o,
Convent, Crosshaven.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Monthly collection next weekend.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 4th at 8.00
p.m. in Parish Centre.



Lourdes

Cork & Ross Pilgrimage will take place
from 11 to 16 June. Booking forms
available from Joe Walsh Tours, 117 Patrick
Street, tel. 4277959. Enquiries for special
invalid section to Pilgrimage Director,
Mons. Kevin O'Callaghan, Parochial House,
Bandon, tel. 023-43794.

Mass for Peace & Reconciliation

Annual Mass will take place on Sunday 7th
March in St. Augustine's Church at 3.30
p.m. Fr. Kevin Mullen, Omagh, will preach
the sermon.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 7th March

First Reading:

Gen.15:5-12, 17-18.

Psalm : 26

Second Reading:

Phil.3:17-4:1.

Gospel:

Lk.9:28-36.

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EMERGENCY NUMBER

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