

14th March 2004



Ballineaspais Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent



No. 794

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNHY'S CROSS, COBK.



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**
Fr. Declan writes



Saint
Patrick's
Day



Paddy the Irishman, Paddy the Englishman.....

The feast of Patrick, our National Apostle, is approaching. To the young, it is a day off school, to many workers, it is a bank holiday, to Catholics it is a Holyday of Obligation, to the city, it is parade time..... many things to many people. In the great Irish-American cities of Boston and New York etc, it is still at least a time of pride of ancestry, a remembrance of times of emigration, of Catholic identity, of the right to freely practise one's faith, - the reason the parades originally began. In Ireland, commercialism has mainly taken over from the religious side of the feast, with industrial parades, bands and marching. Very few people really know the Patrick of the feast-day.

Forget the snakes, forget the shamrock stories, forget the green-mitred green-vested caricature. Picture instead a youth of sixteen carried off in a raid from his family in Britain. Picture his loneliness, with no-one but God as his companion, such that he spent whole nights talking to God in prayer. Picture his trust in God, a dream-like guidance, which helped him to escape, to come safely through storms and shipwreck. Picture his vision of the voice of the Irish urging him to return with the faith of Christ.

A late vocation, losing out on his teenage years because of his captivity, he was forever apologetic for his bad education. He was obviously criticised a lot by his peers who had sent him to Ireland as bishop. His Latin is basic, but his knowledge of the Word of God is awesome. In the days when there was no printing, no books as such, no standard texts of the Bible, he quotes in his writings from 54 of its 73 books. The Word of God was his lifeline.

We have two writings believed to be genuinely written by Patrick - a short autobiography - the *Confession*, and a short *Letter to the Followers of Caroticus*, who had carried off some of the Irish Christians as captives. In these, we see the real Patrick, spectacularly successful, but simple, grateful to God, full of love for his people, a model of Christian leadership.

'I am very much in debt to God, who gave me so much grace that through me many people should be born again in God and afterwards confirmed, and that clergy should be ordained for them everywhere' (Par. 38)

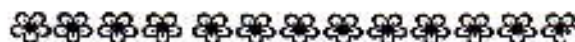
'The Lord has power to allow me ultimately to spend myself in the interest of your souls' (Par. 53)

'My success was the gift of God' (Par.62)



Rest in Peace

Joe O'Brien, Highfield Lawn, died in Limerick on Friday 20th February. Joe had been in failing health really since the death of his dear wife Patricia. In his working life he was a wireless operator on board ships. Somehow the lure of the sea stayed with him, and he loved to spend much of his free time down in Myrtleville. When his health began to deteriorate seriously, his daughter Deirdre took him to Limerick where he lived out the end of his time in contented retirement. Joe was a gentle man, and very popular with his neighbours in Highfield. We extend the sympathy of the community to his daughter Deirdre, his sons Tom and Vincent, his sister Lucille, his grandchildren, in-laws, relatives and friends.



BAPTISM

We welcome into our Christian community the following children who were baptised this year:

Kelvin Richard Devine
David Michael Tobin
Ava Day
Karen Kicly
Troy Michael Sean O'Connor
Eric Michael Delany
Max Kendall Dillon
Fiona May O'Donovan
Christopher Lewis Moran
Peter Joseph Layton

Elizabeth (Bessie) Dunne, Laburnum Lawn, died at Cork University Hospital on 20th February. Bessie was probably the greatest living authority on the history of this parish. Her sharp mind and accurate memory could recall all the events that led to the building of our church and parish. Her uncle, Michael Hurley owned and lived in what is now the Parochial House. After the death of his wife, his niece (Bessie) came to take care of him. He left the house, and the ground on which our church is built to the parish. In her retirement, Bessie kept up with all events in her own extended family and her neighbourhood, though never prying into other people's affairs, even G.A.A. matches on TV, and if Cork were involved, visitors had better keep quiet. Her realism and acceptance of her failing health were exemplary and won the respect and affection of us all. We extend our very sincere sympathy to her nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and indeed her kind neighbours to whom she was special. May the Lord take care of her and reward her goodness.



Tempting Rest

The road to success is lined with many tempting parking spaces.



Fairtrade Events

On Wednesday March 3rd, a group of about sixty people gathered in the Crypt at lunchtime for a talk given by Paul Nunan, a third year student of U.C.C. who works in a voluntary capacity for Oxfam. Paul took us on a whirlwind tour of Oxfam, the Common Agricultural Policy, sugar blockades of the Third World producers, and then encouraged us to support Fairtrade products. Buying these will guarantee better production and working conditions for the producers. Samples of the products were on display, as well as information on their availability.

Last weekend, after all Masses, parishioners were invited to a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee and a Fairtrade biscuit in the crypt. The Lord Mayor attended for a cuppa after the 6.15 and 10.30 Masses. Sincere thanks to the catering committee for their work.

THREE RESIDENT LORD MAYORS

It was a pleasure to see our Lord Mayor, the Hon. Colm Burke, at 10.30 Sunday Mass and, of course, he was most welcome. It reminded me that reference was previously made to his being resident in the neighbourhood.

I can recall that Mr. Sean McCarthy, when he was Lord Mayor resided in The Orchard only a few doors from where I am still living. Recently, I acquired a book which contains a photograph of the then Lord Mayor performing the ceremony of 'Throwing the Dart' on 21st July 1914. He was Alderman Henry O'Shea whom many will remember as a Cork businessman. Happily, however, a grandson of his, Fr. Michael O'Shea, a Franciscan missionary priest, has recently come on an extended visit to the parish, and he is most friendly and well-liked by everybody.

Joe Crean.

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The monthly meeting of the Pastoral Council was held on Monday last. A wide-ranging discussion arising from a survey by council members took place. Parishioners' views were sought regarding their interest in attending talks on topics of their choice. A sub-committee will consider the topics in relation to the religious and educational needs of the parish.

Fr. Clancy outlined proposals by Bishop John Buckley regarding the formation of a Joint Diocesan Pastoral Strategy.

Clare McCutcheon reported on a meeting of the Rossbrook residents, including those who distribute the Bulletin and act as Contact Persons. The opinions of those present were very positive and future plans include the celebration of an open air Mass during the coming months.

The next meeting of the Council was arranged for April 19th.



25 The Four Gospels of the Incarnation



Bulletins to the Homes

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

Pastoral Council

Monthly meeting takes place this Monday 15th, at 8.10 p.m. in the Crypt.

Stress Release: A Spiritual Approach
Day retreat, 10.00-5.00 including lunch, on Sunday 21st March at St. Dominic's Ennismore. Facilitator, Martina Lehane.

Fashion Show

On Friday 19th March at 8.00 p.m. in Bishopstown G.A.A. Club. A great night guaranteed for all! All welcome. Tickets available from 10.30 to 12.30 Saturday mornings at club pavilion.

Please Note.

Items for next week's Bulletin (21st March) must be submitted by Monday, 15th March, due to St. Patrick's Day falling on the Wednesday. Thank you.

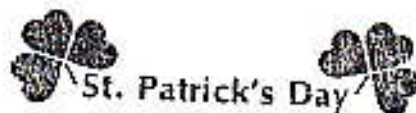
Visiting the Sick

The priests of the parish ask you to let us know about anyone who is ill at home or in hospital, or staying with you during recovery. We will do our best to visit, and to bring Holy Communion on the First Friday of the month.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

Parish e-mail address:
holyspiritparish@eircom.net



God's Word

Readings for Sunday 21st March

First Reading:

Josh.5:9-12. The story of God providing manna in the desert, but only there, may tell us something about how God provides for us in our every need.

Psalm : 33

Second Reading:

2 Cor.5:17-21. St. Paul gives a strong message today: We, each one of us, are ambassadors for Christ. That is something.

Gospel:

Lk.15:1-3,11-32. The story of the Prodigal Son is so familiar that we could miss the meaning. As we listen today, let us focus on the Father's incredible love for his errant son. This is the God presented to us by Jesus in the gospel story.

MASSES FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Vigil Mass: Tuesday 7.30 p.m.
Masses on Wednesday:
9, 10.30 and 12.15 p.m.
No Evening Mass on Wednesday.
The 10.30 Mass on Wednesday will be as gaeilge.

"Let your voice be heard"

An open

PARISH MEETING

To reflect on the draft document
produced by the
*Diocesan Pastoral Strategy
Group.*

Our Parish Meeting will take place on 22nd March, 2004 at 8 p.m. in the crypt.