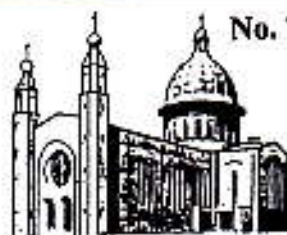




4<sup>th</sup> April 2004

# Ballineaspais Bulletin

No. 797



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

Sixth Sunday of Lent



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Fr. Declan writes*

## Everything Except the Popcorn

Every ten years, all the inhabitants of the town of Oberammergau in Bavaria take part in a famous Passion Play. Non-professionals, they act out the passion of Christ in the streets, in memory of the deliverance of the town from a serious plague over three hundred years ago.

If our parish were putting on a Passion Play, what part would you like to play? Would it be Christ the hero who gets killed, Judas, the baddie who comes to a bad end, Peter the liar, Pilate the coward, Herod the weakling, the unbelieving bad thief, the believing good thief.....? Even if you want to stay in the background and be one of the crowd, you can shout out your lines – 'Hosanna!' or 'Crucify him!'

Are you Palm Sunday crowd or Good Friday crowd, or both??

There's a bit of each of those characters in all of us. We don't even have to be actors. This is real life.

Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* is bringing in the crowds in the cinemas at the moment. But we have the real thing on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Saturday. The Easter Ceremonies are faith events, bringing us into the drama of Jesus more than any film ever made. Come! Join in! Take part.

Meet the forgiving Jesus on Palm Sunday afternoon, at our Parish Penitential Service. Follow Jesus from the Last Supper to the tomb on Thursday. Follow Jesus through the Stations on Friday Light a candle and sing 'Alleluia' on Holy Saturday. Something greater than Mel Gibson is here. You'll find everything except the popcorn!



### Good Friday: Prayer around the Cross

On Good Friday night, 8.30 - 9.30 p.m., some young people of the parish will present reflections from some of the chief characters in the Passion of Christ: Pilate, Peter, Veronica, a Roman soldier, and Mary will speak their feelings. A darkened church, quiet music, action and prayer. Be there.

#### RECONCILIATION SERVICES

TODAY SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 5 P.M.  
HERE AT DENNEHY'S CROSS

TOMORROW MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>  
SACRED HEART CHURCH 7.30 P.M.

## EASTER

By participating in the ceremonies of the church during Holy Week, we come closer to Christ and our lives are blessed and inspired by his saving work.

Holy Week has three important moments:

- Celebration of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, when we commemorate the First Mass.
- Our solemn journey with Christ on Good Friday when, in spirit, we walk with him to Calvary.
- Our waiting on Holy Saturday for the news that "He is risen", and our rejoicing that night and Easter Sunday in the life of the Risen Christ.

Each of the ceremonies has its own spirit and each makes better sense when experienced with the others. Make these days special this year by participating with us in these 'saving mysteries'.

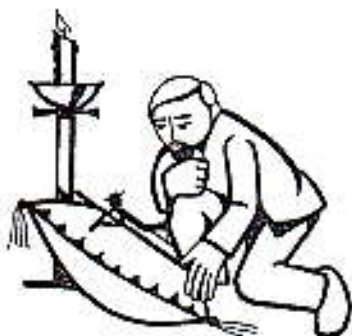


**Holy Thursday** Mass will include the Washing of the Feet. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples as a call to them to serve others as he had served them.

Bring your Trócaire box to Mass that night as part of our practical self-giving to others.

There is no Mass anywhere in the world on **Good Friday**. Good Friday's ceremonies revolve around the commemoration of Jesus' suffering and death. The special ceremony marking his death will include a shared reading of the gospel account of his death, followed by an opportunity for each

of us to prayerfully kiss the large wooden cross. Holy Communion will also be distributed at this ceremony. Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence.



**Holy Saturday**. There is no Mass until the Easter vigil that night.

The principal elements of the ceremony revolve around story, light, water and meal.

As parish, we recount the story of God's dealings with humankind which reach their highpoint in Jesus. In him a 'new light has dawned', and we light our Easter fire and Candles. (We will supply you with a candle). That new life comes to us in our Baptism, which we recall that night in special ways. We then gather around the table of the Risen Lord to be nourished by the Eucharist.

It's a night for lively alleluias. You will be especially welcome to join in the singing and prayers. Easter is a time for 'lifting up our hearts' in a special way. This mood continues for 40 days in the church's calendar – the season of Easter.





## RWANDA ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday next, 6<sup>th</sup> April is the tenth anniversary of the genocide. It is an opportunity to renew our prayers for the healing of this tragedy. You may like to join us at Mass on Tuesday, and perhaps light a candle in your home on the day as a symbol of hope, and pray as a family for healing forgiveness in our world. A mini fast with an extra contribution to your Trócaire box could be a sign of solidarity with the people of Rwanda.

### A Brief History of Rwanda

Before being colonised by Belgium, the Tutsi cattle lords governed over a feudal-like system with the Hutu farmers tending the land and growing food crops. First the Germans, then the Belgians ruled Rwanda indirectly. The Tutsis remained dominant. The Belgians strengthened the rivalry by educating the Tutsis and giving them positions of authority.

In 1959 the Hutus rebelled, took power and the Belgians withdrew. In 1963 violence broke out: 20,000 died and 160,000 Tutsis were expelled from the country. On April 6<sup>th</sup> 1994, the Rwandan President was assassinated. This sparked off a wave of massacres which had been planned by the President and his elite, and were carried out by Hutu death squads, aimed at anyone seen as a threat to the Hutu regime. In 100 days, 1 million Tutsis, and Hutu moderates who opposed the genocide, were massacred. Three quarters of the Tutsi population were killed. Many share responsibility for the genocide: those who planned the mass murder, those who took part and those who knew it would happen - Belgium, France, USA and the United Nations - suspected the genocide was being planned but did nothing to prevent it.

Trócaire has been working in Rwanda since 1994, initially involved in emergency relief, but now the focus is on supporting long-

term development projects run by local partners, providing funding, training and advice. The projects support five main types of work: promoting human rights, peace and reconciliation; a food security pro-gramme benefits 8436 families grouped in 326 farmers' associations; rural development programme projects; income generation projects promoting small businesses, mainly among women; support for Gacaca, the traditional justice system which investigates cases related to genocide.

Rwanda has a population of 8.4 million, the capital is Kigali, ethnic groups - Hutu 85%, Tutsi 14%, multi-religious, 164<sup>th</sup> poorest country in the world, life expectancy 41 years.



### *Anniversary Prayer*

Loving Father of all peoples, we turn to you on this anniversary of genocide in Rwanda. By his death and resurrection, your Son, Jesus Christ, has overcome the spirit of evil. Send the Spirit of the Risen Jesus, a spirit of healing, creative, forgiveness on all the peoples of Rwanda. Enable them to begin again to rebuild their homeland into communities of justice, peace and caring love.

We pray especially for the orphaned children of Rwanda that they may receive the care, the health care and education that they need in their formative years.

We pray for ourselves that through our increasing generosity to our brothers and sisters, we may overcome the fear-filled selfishness that undermines justice and peace everywhere.

We make all our prayers through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.



**HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES**

**TRIDUUM**

**Holy Thursday**

- 7.30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper  
*Please bring Trócaire Boxes*
- 9.00 - 10.00 p.m. Keeping Watch

---

**Good Friday**

- 11.00 a.m. Stations of the Cross by children for children
- 12.00 noon Stations of the Cross for all
- 3.00 p.m. Celebration of the Passion of the Lord  
Veneration of the Cross  
Holy Communion
- 8.30 - 9.30. Watch and Pray

---

**Holy Saturday**

- 9.00 p.m. The Easter Vigil  
N.B. No Vigil Mass at 6.15 p.m.

- 
- Easter Sunday Masses:** 9.00, 10.30 and 12.15 p.m.
- Easter Monday Mass:** 10.00 a.m.
- Weekday Masses:** 9.00 and 10.00 a.m.
- 

**RECONCILIATION**

- Good Friday:** After ceremonies and 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.
- Holy Saturday:** 12.00 - 1.00; 4.00 - 5.00; 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.
- 

**God's Word**

**Readings for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

**First Reading:**

Acts 10:34,37-43. Peter gives his version of the resurrection story.

**Psalm:** 117

**Second Reading:**

Col.3:1-4 or 1 Cor.5:6-9. Paul assures us that we, too, share in the glory of the risen Jesus.

**Gospel:**

Jn.20:1-9. According to John's gospel, Mary Magdalene is the first to converse with Jesus after the resurrection.

**Holy Places in the Holy Land**

The annual collection will take place on Good Friday.

**Blood Transfusion Board**

Donor clinic will be held at St. Finbarr's H & F Club, Togher, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 6.00-9.00 p.m.

**Parish e-mail address:**  
[holyspiritparish@eircom.net](mailto:holyspiritparish@eircom.net)

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**087 - 251 9940**