



11th April 2004

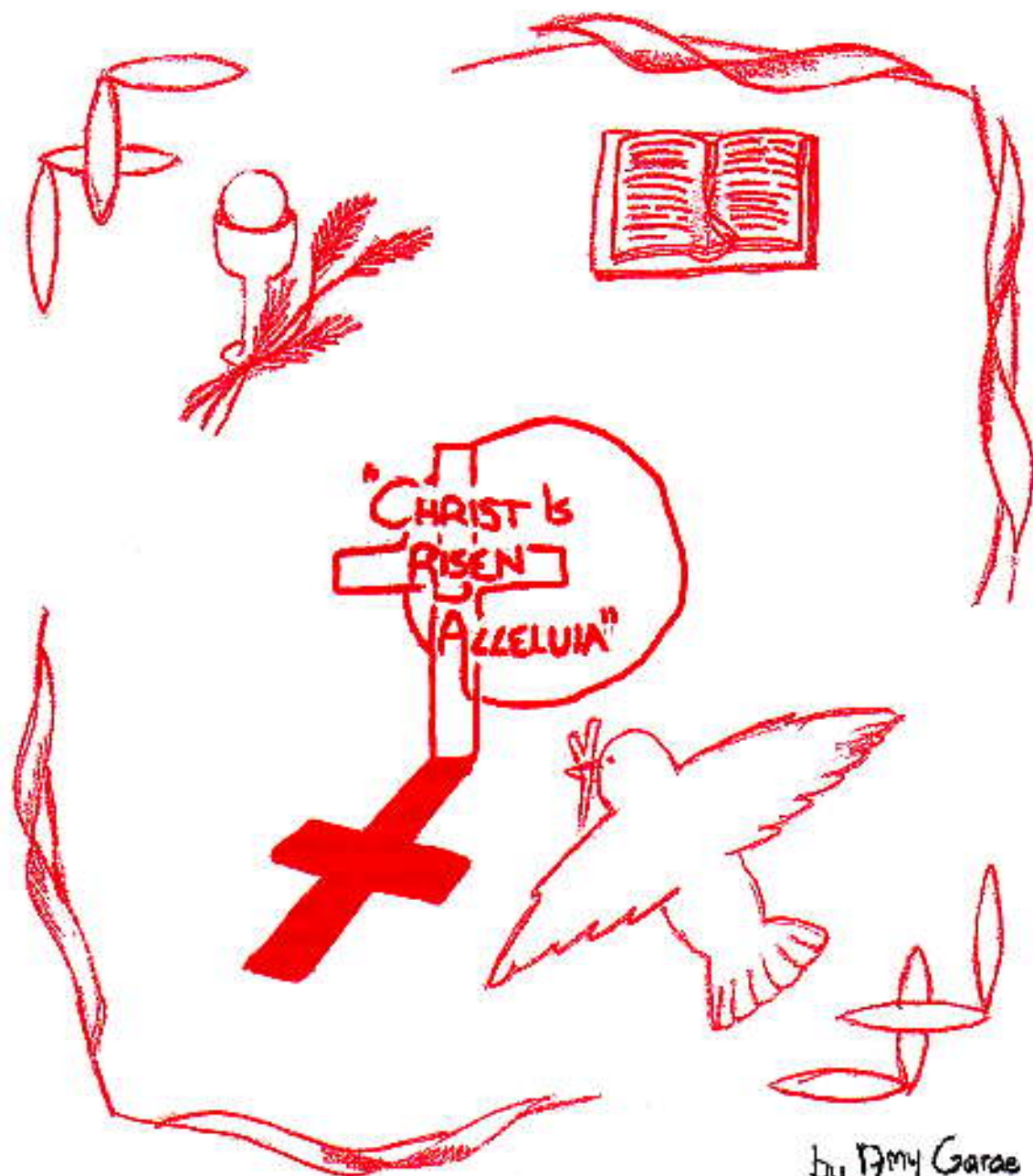
Ballineaspais Bulletin

Easter Sunday

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



by Amy Garae

THE POWER OF THE EASTER SPIRIT

Basic attitudes decide how we live most of our lives. The cute person's attitude to life is to avoid getting caught for any contribution, financial or personal, that can be avoided. He or she rarely takes a risk to benefit others. The cute person can never experience really loving others or being truly loved.

There is another attitude to life. It is one that is always on the look out for opportunities to enrich the lives of others, to make a positive difference in the life of the family, the neighbourhood, the work place or the wider community. It knows fulfilment in giving as well as in receiving. It is always prepared to take the risk of forgiving, of carrying more than one's share of common burdens, of being misunderstood or exploited.

Easter is the climax of the story of one who risked all even life itself to make a difference in the real love life of our world. By his life, death and resurrection, Jesus releases a spirit among us that enables us to grow into the likeness of our loving God.

The Spirit of the Risen Jesus can roll away the stone that keeps us locked in our false security built on self protection.

It can shatter the shell of timidity and fear that inhibits us from reaching out to others in caring service.

It can empower us to accompany the young on their life journey and to share faith in lived hope.

It can fill us with joy in who we truly are, brothers and sisters of the Risen Lord.

It changed the disciples utterly.

Will we accept the gift of this spirit?

It will change our lives.

May you and yours share this Easter Joy.
Alleluia, - Fr. Tom Clancy, P.P.

OUR PARISH WE NEED YOUR VIEWS

The Pastoral Council works with our priests to assist them in the running of the parish, to provide a vital link between them and the parishioners, and, by working together, to develop our parish as a faith community.

Many, many more are actively involved in supporting the parish: the Liturgy Group, Faith in Action Group, Bulletin contributors and distributors, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Finance Committee, musicians and choir, contact persons, dues collectors, mothers and toddlers, altar servers, altar ladies, teachers from our local schools, etc.

In September last, representatives of all these groups met to discuss the focus for the year's work. There was a strong consensus that we need to address two issues in particular: the youth of the parish, and the development of a sense of community. Work on these areas has started, and will continue. Many of you have been consulted during the year, and all were given a further invitation to air your views at the recent Diocesan Strategy meeting. Several ideas have already been put into action: the family vigil Mass on Christmas Eve, meetings with Transition Year students, with residents from Rossbrook, and many resultant suggestions are under active consideration.

Is there some way, however small, that you can make a contribution? If you have any suggestions as to how we can nurture and develop our parish as a vibrant faith community, please don't be shy about coming forward. You can talk to your local PC representative, any of the priests, or simply drop a note into the Parish Centre. All ideas and suggestions will be warmly welcomed and fully considered.

Clare McCutcheon
Chairperson, Pastoral Council