



18<sup>th</sup> April 2004

No. 799

# Ballineaspais Bulletin



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

~~Sixth Sunday of Lent~~ SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

## DOUBTING THOMAS

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the Apostle Thomas. Most of us have had some doubt about our Faith going through life - and really Thomas has done our doubting for us, and more importantly, got the affirmation and reassurance we need. The single most important article of our Faith is the resurrection of Our Lord from the dead. In the blunt words of St. Paul "If Christ is not risen from the dead, vain is your faith, and vain is our preaching." Thomas had no premonition or acceptance of the fact of Christ's resurrection. When told by the other apostles that Jesus had in fact risen, and called in person while Thomas was out, his response was quite dismissive: "Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe." When Jesus appeared to him eight days later and invited Thomas to do just that, his acceptance and faith were as honest as his doubt: "My Lord and my God".

The Lord's response was one of

encouragement for all, but especially for us who live so long afterwards: "You believe Thomas because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." That's you and me - thank God for his word of reassurance from the Lord Himself.



### WHAT IS DOUBT?

- Doubt is not the same as having no faith.
- Doubt is not the same as indifference.
- Doubt is not a disease.
- Doubt is not something to deny.
- Doubt is not something to be ashamed of.
- Doubt asks - how can this be?
- Doubt is a wrestling with questions.
- Doubt is the growing edge of faith.
- Doubt is the starting point of new understanding.
- Doubt is the disquiet that can draw us to action.
- Doubt is a thirst for a fuller vision.

### THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Parish Team and all who were involved in organising the Holy Week ceremonies, which were so inspiring and uplifting.

## Rest In Peace

Colm O'Hegarty, Wilton Avenue, died peacefully at Padre Pio Retirement Home, Rochestown, on 1<sup>st</sup> April. He had been in declining health for some years. Colm spent his working life in the teaching profession. After graduation he went to Africa for ten years as a volunteer teacher. Later he taught as Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh until his retirement. He was a deeply spiritual man, and gifted with a brilliant mind, but for all that he was profoundly humble. Naturally he is best remembered by us who knew him for this admirable quality, and the gentleness that grew from it. We extend the sympathy of the community to his wife Betty, his daughters Nessa and Lia, his brothers and sisters, and his many relatives and friends.

Nora Harrington of Wilton Gardens died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the great age of 92 years. When she and her late husband Patrick, retired from farming they came to live in Wilton Gardens. Following Patrick's death, Nora set up a bed and breakfast business. Many of her clients returned year after year, proof of her hospitality and kindness. When she could no longer live on her own, she moved to her brother, Owen's house in Ballygarvan and received great care from him and his wife. Even though Nora had been away from the area for some time, many of her neighbours came to her funeral Mass to pay their respects. We offer sincere sympathy to her brother and his wife, to her sisters Sheila, Ellen and Kathleen. May she rest in peace.

## GOD FORBID THAT I ...

*Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.*

*Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.*

*Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them gets sweeter as the years go by.*

*I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but let me endure them with patience. As my memory fails teach me to know that occasionally I may be mistaken.*

*Keep me reasonably sweet; not a saint – some of them are hard to live with – but a sour person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Let me see good things in unexpected places and talent in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.*

AMEN.

*(From a 17th century Nun's prayer)*

The first duty of love is to listen.

Paul Tillich



# LETTER

Loyola  
Laburnum Drive

A Look in the Mirror

Dear Editor,

A few years ago hundreds of young emigrants were gathered at airports after Christmas waiting for flights to England. Many were from the west of Ireland. Tears flowed and weather was ferocious. It was sad to watch it on the 9 p.m. News bulletin. Some priests spoke out about the loss of fine young boys and girls lost to towns and villages.

Suddenly the scene changed. The Irish economy is now the fastest growing in Europe. There's plenty for all. But sad to say the young teenagers have forgotten a few short years ago. It is all life in the fast lane now. Binge drinking, street fights, often fatal, every weekend. We need to look in the mirror and thank God for all the blessings bestowed on our country. Train drivers, bus drivers, postal workers, prison workers, lots more, are not satisfied anymore it seems. It's more and more they want. Who is next to strike?

We need to look in the mirror and thank God. Get our feet back on the ground and hold on to all that is good and decent in life. Visit any church for ten minutes and think about the mirror of life. It's all there. The real truth. Find real happiness.

John A Foley, P.C.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Amy Garde, Orchard Road, and first year student at Mount Mercy College, on designing the front page of our Easter Bulletin.

## HOW DID WE SURVIVE?

Those of us who were children in the 60s, 70s and early 80s probably shouldn't have survived because:

Our baby cots were covered in brightly coloured lead-based paint which we licked.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles or latches on cabinet doors – we just played with the pots and pans.

We would ride in cars with no seat belts or airbags and riding in the passenger seat was a treat.

We ate chips and bread and butter pudding but weren't overweight as we were always outside playing.

We could stay out playing as long as we got home before dark. No one was able to reach us and nobody minded.

We had no Play Stations, Video games, no computers and, incredibly, no mobile phones. We had friends, we went outside and found them.

We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones but there were no lawsuits.

We walked to friends' homes and we WALKED to school!

God promises a safe landing but not a calm passage.  
*Bulgarian proverb*



**NOTICE BOARD**

**Bishops' Commissions**

The annual collection to fund emigrants, prisoners, communications, Cura, justice and peace, child protection office, will take place next weekend.



**Ballineaspig Gramophone Circle**

Our April Recital will take place on Wednesday next, 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 p.m. in the Crypt of our church, when Seamus Murphy will present his choice of music. As always, everybody is welcome to attend.

**LOCAL SCHOOLS**

**MOUNT MERCY NEWS**

Congratulations to the students who collected a staggering €8,187.50 for Trócaire through their participation in the Lenten Fast.

Well done to the Senior A Hockey team who played in the Kate Russell All-Ireland Final held at St. Andrew's College, Booterstown Ave., Dublin, on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The girls played four matches over two days and even though they were not the overall winners they did Mount Mercy proud.

**Found**

Mountain bicycle, Wilton area. Phone 4541112.

**God's Word**

**Readings for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**First Reading:**

Acts 5:27-32,40-41. Peter and the apostles continue to preach Jesus, even though they are challenged by the High Priest.

**Psalm : 29**

**Second Reading:**

Apoc.5:11-14. The risen Jesus is portrayed as Lamb of God enthroned in heaven.

**Gospel:**

Jn.21:1-19. For two disciples, Calvary seemed like the end of their dreams. Now Jesus joins them and changes their sorrow to joy as they make their way out of Jerusalem.

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