

25th April 2004



Ballineaspais Bulletin

Third Sunday of Easter



No. 800

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



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

Song of the Blackbird

It happened in the middle of the Parish Pastoral Council meeting last Monday night! Fifteen of us were gathered in the CP Centre for the monthly meeting. The first item on the agenda had been discussed. Then we paused for prayer. As we fell silent, a blackbird on a tree outside began his glorious evening song of praise. We listened in wonder. One of the members had prepared a prayer, but human words seemed almost inadequate by comparison.

Nature is awakening all around us. The New Song of Creation is being sung everywhere. Mary sang a great song of joy at the beginning of the New Creation: 'My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour'.

The birds are able to glorify the Lord with the voices God has given them. Why can't we do the same? As Catholics, we're poor on singing in Church – but maybe we haven't learned the God-given gift of praise. 'Alleluia' is our great song of Easter. It means 'Praise God'. The prayer of praise is one of the highest forms of prayer. Many of us poor mortals are constantly stuck in the groove of the prayer of petition – asking all the time for our needs, and when we feel guilty about this, occasionally thanking God.

Maybe we need to be 'for the birds', or 'with the birds', occasionally. Listen to their song of praise in these Easter Spring days. We too have a song to sing – of God's love shown in Jesus. Let the blackbird teach us!

(By the way, all my Easter Saturday lettuce seeds have sprouted. Praise God!)

Glory be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pierced – fold, fallow and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.



All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise Him. (*Gerard Manley Hopkins – Pied Beauty*)



Rest in Peace

John Malone, of Model Farm Rd., passed away suddenly, while in town, on March 18th, at the age of sixty six. A native of Kiskeam in North Cork, John had been a publican in Gurranebraher for many years, until he retired some years ago. Since then, John had developed a keen interest in gardening, and had spent many happy hours in his back garden. John's family had already suffered a severe blow due to the death of their daughter Celia only a few years previously. We extend our sincere sympathies as a parish community to his wife, Maureen, his sons Denis and John, and to his daughter, Bridget. Suaimhneas síoraí dá anam.

Margaret (May) Cronin, Sheare's Park, died peacefully on 1st April after some months of illness patiently borne with faith. Indeed, faith was a cornerstone of May's life. Her daily pattern of life was the 10.15 a.m. bus to town to visit St. Francis Church and St. Augustine's, especially for the Holy Souls Mass. May was a very special person, kind and generous, who had a capacity to lift the heart of everybody she met. She will be greatly missed by her sister Kitty, her brothers Donal and Denis, to whom we extend our sincerest sympathies, together with her sister-in-law, nephew, nieces, relatives and friends. May she rest in peace.

POSTCARD SUNDAY

Keep Our Word

Each year Trócaire highlights a serious world injustice and organises a postcard campaign that targets the political leaders who have the power to rectify the situation.

This year the focus is on the crippling debts that crush the poorer developing countries. In the euphoria of the millennium this country, like many others, made promises to alleviate the plight of these poorer countries. We have failed in our promises. The postcard letter reminds the Taoiseach of our duty. You are invited to sign a card this weekend after Mass. No stamp needed. We will collect the cards and forward them on your behalf. Thank you.

TROCAIRE





PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The monthly meeting was held last Monday night. The report on the recent pastoral strategy meeting stimulated a full and lively debate. Some members were of the opinion that the agenda for that meeting was too confined, and did not address certain issues within the diocese. The four members who are delegated to attend the next pastoral strategy meeting will meet and consider the points raised.

Kevin O'Mahony reported that the proposed website was not ready for use. Among its features will be the weekly parish bulletin as well as all other activities relating to Ballineaspig Parish. Kevin paid tribute to the students of Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh for their invaluable assistance. More details soon.

Fr. Clancy announced that RTE would be broadcasting Mass from the church on 29th May and 6th June.

Next meeting 17th May.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 2nd May

First Reading:

Acts 13:14,43-52.

Psalms : 99

Second Reading:

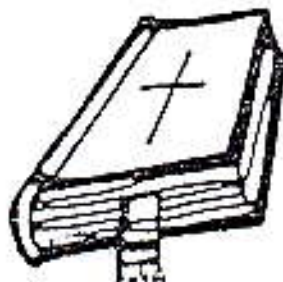
Apoc.7:9,14-17.

Gospel:

Jn.10:27-30

Parish e-mail address:
holyspiritparish@eircom.net

Bible Corner



LATE EXTRA

When John's gospel was first put together, it ended with chapter twenty, which formed last Sunday's gospel. Later an appendix was added on. This appendix forms this weekend's gospel. It highlights the special relationship of Peter with the Risen Jesus and more especially the Lord's call to Peter to be the leader of the community of believers in the Resurrection. In turn, these believers were commissioned to bring this good news to others and win them to the faith.

As happened earlier in Jesus' life, fishing was used as an image to carry the Lord's commission to them. The disciples were told to cast out into the deep on the starboard side. They were to be missionaries in the wider world and not just confine themselves to winning converts among their own Jewish peers. Just as the fishermen-disciples were rewarded with a great catch, so are all that respond to the invitation of the Risen Jesus, "Come follow me."

Help thy brother's boat across, and lol
thine own has reached the shore.

Old Hindu proverb



NOTICE BOARD

Confirmation Day

The girls of St. Catherine's will be confirmed on Wednesday 5th May at 10.30 a.m. Mass. You are invited to remember them in prayer in these days before the ceremony, and to attend the ceremony itself.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Monthly collection next weekend.

Choral Festival Concert

At the Lough Church on Saturday 1st May at 8.00 p.m. Taking part are The City of Cork Male Voice Choir, Bridgend (Wales) Male Voice Choir and Soloists. Adm. €10 at the door on the night. Proceeds in aid of Church restoration.

Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima

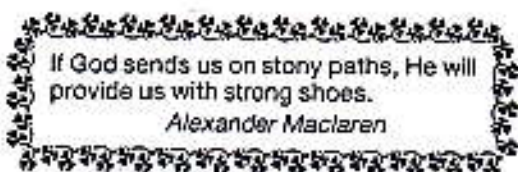
Mass and Holy Hour at St. Maries of the Isle on Monday 26th April at 7.30 p.m. Priest: Fr. Vincent Hodnett, P.P. Blackpool.

Can You Help?

Would you like to improve the quality of life of older people? Would you be willing to take part in a study in UCC? Are you over 60? If so, contact Mike Murphy, CHSU, @ 4902084 or 087-6438798.

Found

Slimline pocket glasses found in church on Sunday morning.



EASTER THANKS

Fr. Tom, Fr. Declan and Dean O'Connor join together in thanking each and everyone who has sent in the dues. Your generous support is much appreciated as is your every kindness and gesture of support. A special word of thanks goes to our distributors/collectors who facilitate the collection.

MOUNT MERCY NEWS:

Congratulations to Jennifer O'Flynn, Stacey Doocey, Michelle Haughney, Alex Mitten and Lia Barry who won 1st prize in the Junior Section in "Discover Cork, Schools History Project 2004", with their project on Blarney Castle.

Congratulations also to parishioner Fiona Shanahan who won 2nd prize in the Senior Section with her project on the Famous Cork Hurler "Christy Ring".

BROADCAST MASS

RTE RADIO ONE has invited us to broadcast Mass at 10.00 a.m. (please note change of time) on Pentecost Sunday (May 30th) and Trinity Sunday (June 6th). We have accepted the invitation and will be looking forward to full parish support. More details later.

