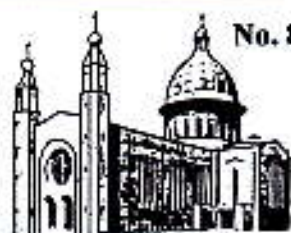


31st October 2004



Ballineaspais Bulletin

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time



No. 816

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, DORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

Halloween – The Feast of All Saints – and All Souls

The feast of All Saints is celebrated next Monday 1st November. Halloween is just a shortened version of Eve of All Saints (holy people).

But did you know this feast was celebrated on 31st May in the early years of the Church? It was moved to 1st November in the eighth century to counteract pagan customs and superstitions held on that date. Some of these persist down to our own day – all those old tales of witches who ride on broomsticks, and all sorts of “pisóges” about spirits, good and bad, who roamed abroad on this night. In the old pagan Celtic folklore people used to light bonfires to help the sun which is fast losing its strength at this time of year. Children’s games trying to catch the apple, etc. only came in about a century ago.

But the main thrust of our celebrations is to remember with gratitude the good people whom we have known and loved, and have gone before us to Heaven. The people who reared me were saints, as

well as countless others to whom I have been privileged to minister to over the years. I’m quite certain you could say the same. So this beautiful feast is a celebration for those who are above, and a challenge to us who are below – a challenge to practise the great Christian virtues spoken by the Lord himself in the Gospel for the feast of All Saints. These are poverty of spirit, gentleness, mercy, peacemaking, purity of life, etc.

So let us respond by making a special effort to practise what we know the Lord asks of us now, and attend Mass every day during the Novena for the Holy Souls, and indeed for the whole month of November. Why not?

Denis O'Leary.

MASS TIMES THIS WEEKEND

Sat. 30th Oct: Vigil Mass 6.15 p.m.

Sun. 31st Oct: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.
Vigil Mass 6.15 p.m.

Mon 1st Nov. (Feast of All Saints):
9.00, 10.30 (no 12.15 Mass), Evening
Mass at 7.30 p.m.



Rest in Peace

Son of

Patrick O'Sullivan, Wilton Gardens – or "Pa" as he was affectionately known to his friends – died at his home on Tuesday 19th October. He had been in failing health for about a year and a half prior to his death, and was in and out of hospital a lot during that time. In fact, he was due to return to the Bon Secours later on the afternoon he died, but the Lord gave him his wish to die in the comfort of his own home surrounded with love from his wife Helen and family. In his younger years Patrick was actively involved in lots of games. He won a Harty medal with the North Mon, later he was involved with Highfield Rugby Club, and he was a keen golfer. He spent most of his working life with the Irish Refining Co. where he was highly respected. We offer the sympathy of our community to his dear wife Helen, his family, Michael, John and Catherine, his sister Clare and extended family.

Brid Hogan, Carriganarra and Laburnum Drive, died on 25th October. Brid and her husband Eddie lived happily and reared their family at Laburnum Drive. In recent years Brid's movements became somewhat restricted, so they moved to a bungalow at Carriganarra. Brid was a native of the Lough Parish, and maintained very close bonds with her sisters' families – Lynchs and Duggans. Her elder sister, Maura Duggan, whom she referred to as her second little mother lived just a few

yards away in Laburnum. Both Brid and Eddie had a great love of music, which for them was a source of unity and relaxation. Brid died at home, at her own special wish, in the care and love of her husband and devoted family. We extend heartfelt sympathy at this time to Eddie and family – Mary, John, Rosarie, Eamonn and Pascal. May Brid's dear soul rest in peace.



Congratulations to parishioners who were married in recent months.

CATHERINE BUCKLEY, 13 Shear's Park, who married Kieran Canty, Maryborough Hill.

JOHN HALL, Smallacre, Bishopstown Avenue, who married Danielle Simone Grossman, London.

CATHERINE HEFFERNAN, Cill Mhuire, Farranlea Park, who married Jacob Andrew Dunningham, Oxford.

ELAINE DALY, 11 The Grove, Model Farm Road, who married William Finbarr Madden, Courtnacsherry.

LEIGHANN BYRNE, Merton Lodge, Model Farm Road, who married Darren Thomas Kearney, Montcnotte.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Bishopstown Minor Hurlers who won the Cork County Championship last weekend.



Bible Corner



TOO SMALL TO COUNT

In time of crisis in any institution, a first reaction is to blame the leadership. Church leaders know this only too well. Of course, like the rest of us they, too, have their faults and make mistakes and must acknowledge this fact. But to lay the blame for all our ills at the feet of our leaders is destructive and dishonest. To destroy leadership in church or society is to impoverish communal living which always needs inspired and inspiring leadership to enable each person to contribute her or his talents to the tapestry of life around them. The truth is that every person has the responsibility to create cells of goodness and service wherever they find themselves. This is particularly true for the followers of Jesus who are linked together in faith through the spirit of God. Among believers, buck passing is often due to a crippling sense that one cannot see a way to make a worthwhile input to the life of God's church. Too many believe that they are too small to count.

In Christ's time, Zacchaeus was too small to see Jesus passing by. Aware that life's chances do not repeat themselves, Zacchaeus moved quickly to offset this limitation by climbing a tree. His encounter with Jesus changed his life.

We meet Jesus in and through service to one another. Far too often, responsibility for caring for people in need and for enriching God's Church has been left to our leaders. It is a responsibility that belongs to each of us. Like Zacchaeus, we must find ways of seizing today's opportunities now. Otherwise, we may never really encounter Jesus and we are never too small for such a meeting. God's Church needs our active commitment. Imitate Zacchaeus.

THE SIGN OF PEACE

Thirty five years or more since it was re-introduced into the Mass as one of the Vatican II reforms of the liturgy, people still debate the meaning and value of the handshake before the 'Lamb of God'. Many people say it is a meaningless gesture. It was commonly done in the early Church - the exchange of the 'Pax' (Peace). Gestures can remain empty if we don't understand them, or if we don't put meaning into them. Is there anything worse than meeting a person for the first time, and getting a limp cold handshake, with no eye contact? What does it convey? 'I'm really glad to meet you!', or 'Do I really have to?'

Shaking hands with a total stranger who happens to be sitting beside you at Mass doesn't automatically make you close friends; you may never meet or greet that person again. But it does give the opportunity to convey a smile, eye contact, a firm handshake that says 'I'm delighted to wish you the Peace of Christ in your heart. We share a lot in common. We are now going to receive Jesus. You and I, though we are strangers, are brothers and sisters in the Lord.' Through this symbolic act, we open ourselves up to the presence of Jesus in one another, we show our belief that we are members of Christ's Body, going up to receive Christ's Body. We show that we are not just individuals praying our own solitary prayers at Mass, but part of a community praying in common, sharing a common faith.

Many people are afraid that this practice may dirty their hands before receiving communion in the hand. This is understandable. But Jesus reached out and touched the lepers - and the Jewish washing laws were a lot stricter than ours! Hygiene is important, but so is reverence and respect for the stranger who is next to us at Mass, welcomed and respected by Jesus. Inner cleanliness is more important than outer, when it comes to receiving the Lord.



Novena for Holy Souls

Tuesday 2nd November is the commemoration of all the faithful departed. Each priest will start a Novena of Masses on that day for all the dead on our November list. Envelopes and prayer cards are available in the church. Please place your completed envelope in the box at the altar rails before November starts.

First Friday

Next Friday is the First Friday of the month. Calls to sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday 7th from 10.30 to 7.30 p.m. followed by Mass.

St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 4th in the Parish Centre at 8.00 p.m.

Feast of All Saints

This Monday 1st November, a holy day of obligation. Mass times are shown elsewhere in Bulletin.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Monthly collection will take place at Mass next weekend.

Found

In churchyard, CD wallet containing CDs. Please contact 087-2335426.

St. Oliver's Cemetery

Mass will be celebrated on 6th November at 2.00 p.m. All welcome.

St. Finbarr's Cemetery

Service on Sunday 14th November at 3.00 p.m. All welcome.

Parish e-mail address:
holvspiritparish@eircom.net

LOCAL SCHOOLS

COLÁISTE AN SPIORAID NAOIMH

Transition Year students are currently participating in a leadership training programme. This will enable them to run a fun club for 4th class pupils from Greenmount Primary School each Wednesday afternoon. Other T.Y. students have undertaken visits to the COPE Foundation in Glasheen.

The Grads

The Leaving Cert. group that performed so spectacularly well in the recent Leaving Certificate examination held their graduation dinner at the Rochestown Park Hotel. A great time was had by all the boys and their belles, and indeed by the teachers who attended. We had no idea they could scrub up so well (the students that is!!).

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 7th November

First Reading:

2 Macc. 7:1-2, 9-14. Having the courage to profess our faith is not easy. At times it asks for heroism.

Psalm : Ps. 16

Second Reading:

2 Thess. 2:16-3:5. St. Paul alerts us to where we find our strength in times of difficulty.

Gospel:

Lk. 20:27-38. Jesus gives us hints of what the future life will be.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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