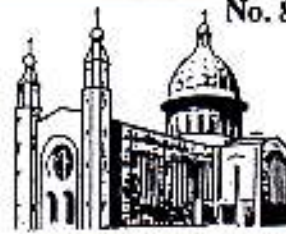


16th January 2005**B**allineaspais
Bulletin

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORKFROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM***The Dean writes***A REFLECTION ON THE
ASIAN DISASTER**

Last weekend the question was posed in the "Irish Catholic" – how could a loving God allow the disaster that struck so many communities in South East Asia? An honest question – I wish the answer could be as simple. The question has haunted good people from the time of Job in 400 B.C. For us believers we have to wrestle with the problem to reconcile the existence of suffering with an all-loving God.

In all honesty, I do not have all the answers, nor do I know anybody who has. However, there are some helpful insights to assist us in forming a healthy Christian attitude. But let it be said that when we use our finite intelligence to understand an infinite God, we are headed for mystery – "God's ways are not our ways." Suffering asks me to live with the mystery of a God whom I cannot fully understand – but pleads with me to trust him. In his human existence Jesus never met suffering or distress but he immediately intervened to relieve it. And when people blamed natural disasters, (e.g. the collapse of the tower of Siloam) on the secret sinfulness of the victims, Jesus quickly

intervened to say: "They were not I tell you."

The power of God is awesome and he is master of this magnificent world. The mind of God brought into existence the wonder and beauty of our universe – as it is. In the presence of such awesome power and intelligence we should bow our heads, tread softly, and beware of our own arrogance. At the end of the day we are certain that God loves each one of us ("every hair of your head has been numbered") – He loves every victim of the recent tsunami. He can and does bring good out of disaster – witness the worldwide response to the relief of the Asian victims – and none better than ourselves. So help me God – I trust in your love – and you trod the path of suffering before me.



We offer our sincere sympathy to DENIS HEALY, Kenley Crescent, and to TONY HEALY, Kenley Close, on the death of their mother, Nora.
To ROWENA O'SULLIVAN, Little Orchard, Farranlea, on the death of her brother, Tom.
To BETTY O'HALLORAN, Cherry Grove, on the death of her brother, Pat Ryan, Limerick.
To ESTHER WALSH, The Ridgeway, on the death of her brother, Ned Nagle.

Rest in Peace

Mona Burke, Laburnum Lawn. For many years Mona and her sister Joan lived happily in their home at Laburnum Lawn. Mona had retired as Principal at St. Patrick's Infant School, Gardiner's Hill - later Joan from her business in the city centre. Joan was really the person on whom Mona depended. When Joan had to go to hospital, Mona retired to Rosenalee Nursing Home in Ballincollig, and when Joan died Mona followed her to heaven in less than two weeks. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her brother Michéal, her nephews, nieces, and indeed to all who miss her. Mona and Joan were very much part of our community here at this Church of the Holy Spirit - gentle and faithful, and friends to us all. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

ORDINARY TIME

We are liturgically in 'Ordinary Time'. All the dressings of Christmas have been removed. The 'hype' of Advent and Christmas liturgy is over. So, we have the Sundays in Ordinary Time from now until Lent.

What does 'Ordinary Time' mean? It is not a contrasting or comparable term to 'unusual' or 'extraordinary'. It is just a system taken from the ordinal numbers as - first, second, third and so on, as the weeks go on, but, as throughout the more specific season, the 'extraordinary' does happen at each 'ordinary' Sunday's liturgy - Jesus presents himself to us in his Word and in the Eucharist as we come together in worship. His presence gives us peace, strength and love, and purpose and hope in our every day.

Liturgy Group member

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

(as part of Cork and Ross Pilgrimage)
Leader: Fr. Declan Mansfield C.C.

June 11th-16th 2005

Hotel Tara

Cost €585

(incl. taxes and Insurance)

(Deposit €130)

Bookings to: Joe Walsh Tours
117, Patrick St.

(Tel: 4277959/4277120)

Parish Booking Reference: 20744

(Please quote when booking)

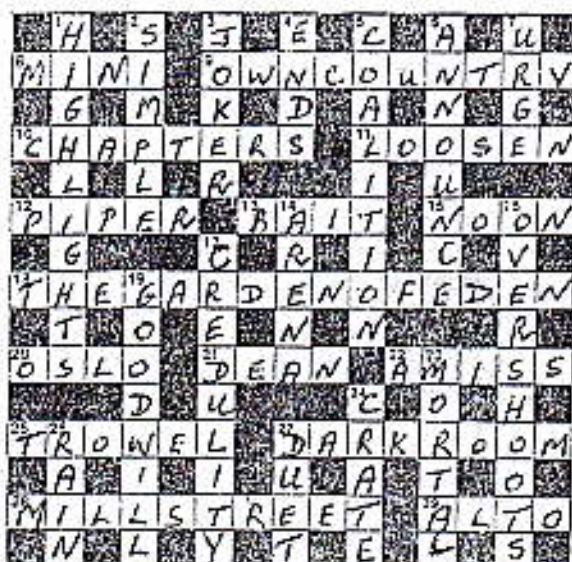
Limited places available
Immediate booking recommended

Further Information:

Anne @ 4344452

Fr. Declan @ 4346818

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas Crossword.

Mary Goold, 7 Kenley Avenue
Eoin Healy, 27 Melbourn Court



'Help My Unbelief!'

(Mark 9: 23)

An Invitation for Lent

Has your faith been hurt or damaged in recent years?

Have you doubts about faith/Church/practice?

Do you sometimes long for the simple faith you once had?

Do you feel your doubts have never been listened to?

Do you feel the Church doesn't care?

If you would like the opportunity to voice/discuss/tease out these issues in a respectful small-group forum, come along to

The Crypt
Thursday Feb 10th
8 - 9.30p.m.

The listening process will continue on
Feb. 17th, 24th, March 3rd

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

At this month's meeting the distribution of the parish bulletin was discussed. Every effort will be made to ensure that all areas of the parish will be included. However, this will depend on the availability of volunteer distributors.

Final arrangements for the launch of the parish website are continuing. The proposed date for the launch is Easter.

The on-going problem of unauthorised parking in the church grounds was discussed. This is exacerbated when funerals and other church services are taking place.

Bible Corner



A CHALLENGING FAREWELL

Several times in recent weeks, the mysterious figure of John the Baptist has been part of the gospel story. Even though he lived a bohemian lifestyle and dressed like a hippie of his time, his challenging message to turn to God in a new way, struck a chord with many of his contemporaries. They heeded the sincerity and urgency of his message, that John's cousin, Jesus of Nazareth was really the promised One of God.

This weekend John is pointing out in a different way that Jesus is truly the Holy One. He calls him the Lamb of God, the One who will take away the sins of the world, a task only the Son of God could do.

The Baptist's mission is over. Some listened and were ready for his challenge. Each of us is challenged to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord in the Eucharist and in the circumstances of daily life.

Maybe, we find it hard to accept that God's message should come through the Nazarene and through the imperfect Church he left behind.

Further debate on this subject was deferred until the next meeting.

Fr. Mansfield announced that our parish will go on pilgrimage to Lourdes on June 11-16th this year. We will be part of the annual diocesan pilgrimage from Cork and Ross.

Next meeting of the council will take place on February 14th.



SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

At this time of year especially, the priests of the parish will be delighted to visit and bring Holy Communion to those confined at home. Please, alert us.

Fr. Tom Clancy - 4347616
Fr. Declan Mansfield - 4346818
Dean Denis O'Connor - 4542972



Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle
The monthly recitals will resume on Monday next 19th January at 3.00 p.m. in the crypt of our church at Dennehy's Cross, when Seamus Murphy will present an afternoon of wonderful music. Everyone is welcome.

Table Quiz

Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh's Parents' Association will hold a Table Quiz in Highfield Rugby Club at 8.00 p.m. on Friday 28th January in aid of the school's canteen fund. All welcome. Tables €40.

Cork Branch Diabetes Federation

Public information meeting will be held in the S.M.A. Hall, Wilton, on Sunday 30th January at 2.30 p.m. For further information please contact the Southern Regional Office at 32 Grand Parade, or 4274299, email sro@diabetes.ie. All are welcome.

Watch Found

On Christmas Day near the Lee Garage on Model Farm Road. Please call 4543360 or 087-1716348.

Crypt Bridge Club

We wish all our members a very happy new year. Bridge has resumed in the crypt at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Annual Party

Bishopstown Social Services will hold their annual party at C.I.T. on Sunday 23rd January at 6.00 p.m. Tickets €15 available from Norah Fitzpatrick 4546358 or Pat Harrington 4545790.

Bishopstown Meals-on-Wheels

Require cooks for Tuesdays and drivers for Mondays. If you can help, please contact Pat at 4545790.

Indian Ocean Disaster

Last Sunday's collection has reached €26,500 – a wonderful response to the crisis.

Thank you.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 23rd January

First Reading:

Is. 8:23-9:3. The prophet Isaiah foretells the ministry of Jesus.

Psalm : 26.

Second Reading:

1 Cor.1:10-13, 17. A call to all Christians to be united.

Gospel:

Mt. 4:12-23. Jesus goes about his mission of preaching the reign of God.

Parish e-mail address:
holyspiritparish@eircom.net

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940