



6th February, 2005

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 827



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

LENT 2005

Wednesday next is Ash Wednesday – the first day of Lent. The word Lent of course is another name for Spring. And Spring is a time for new life, fresh starts, cheerful optimism and brighter days ahead.

Lent is a good time to ask ourselves a simple but fundamental question: "What is life for?" Some of you will remember the name Dag Hammarskjöld – one time dedicated and deeply Christian Secretary General of the United Nations. He said the longest journey is the journey inward to the centre of your being.

It is difficult to find time to answer the simple question – "What is life for?" The truth is it is easier to fret and worry about so many things, like Martha in the Gospel, than face the answers this question might demand.

The Lord said, "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full." Happiness and fulfilment are worthy objectives for everybody. In the words of the late lamented Michael Waldron, "Happiness is an inside job" – a

policeman's way of saying that my own attitudes will largely decide whether my life is fulfilling, glad and peaceful, or sad and sorrowful. If I believe this – and further if I am convinced I can change – then I can walk bravely down the road of life. Furthermore, I must take responsibility for myself and what I do, and stop blaming other people.

A deep personal peace is the promise and legacy of Jesus to us. Remember he lives in us. Lent might be a good time to get in closer touch with him through personal prayer – perhaps weekday Mass – visit to the church – rosary. And for my parting shot today I will quote what a saucy youngster said to me many years ago – "If you feel alright would you please notify your face." Have a cheerful Lent.

A Few Places left! **Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

June 11th-16th 2005
Hotel Tara

Cost €585

Joe Walsh Tours
Tel: 4277959

Parish Booking Reference: 20744
Immediate booking recommended

Further Information:
Fr. Declan @ 4346818

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Mount Mercy News

**ESAT BT YOUNG SCIENTIST
TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2005**

Well done to the following young scientists from Mount Mercy College who performed so well at the exhibition this year:

Margaret Perry and Nina Fitzpatrick - 1st place Junior Group Social and Behavioural Sciences Category for their project "Teenager Perceptions of Blood Donation".

Elaine Collins, Evelyn Spillane, Deirdre Plant - who received the Comhar Special Award for "The Health Benefits of a Leisure Centre to the Community".

Tara Coplestone and Sarah O'Herlihy - Highly Commended for their project "Label Conscious"

Emily Murray and Katie Hickey - Highly Commended for their project "Are Our Classrooms Affecting Our Health".



INVITATION

"Just Lent"

A series of lunchtime talks, under the general theme of Justice, will be held on the first five Wednesdays of Lent:

dates for your diary:
**9th, 16th, & 23rd February, & 2
& 9 March**

The first speaker on Ash Wednesday will be **Very Rev. Canon Donal Linehan, PP**, who is involved in the Alliance for Justice and Social Care.

The subject of his talk will be **"The Spirituality of Social Care"**, and it will be followed by a discussion.

**Ash Wednesday, 9th Feb.
1.05 - 2pm
in the
Crypt**

All Are Welcome



**Final Reminder:
'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, 24rd, March 3rd for those who wish

You may wish to recommend this to a friend, or bring one along

CELEBRATE
The Life of God

CARE
About One Another in Christ

CULTIVATE
Personal Growth in Christ

COMMUNICATE
Christ to Our World

Bible Corner



YOUR LIGHT WILL SHINE

With Lent on the horizon, Isaiah's advice this weekend is particularly apt. The Tsunami disaster evoked extraordinary generosity towards a devastated people. Much of the money went to immediate survival help, but more went into development projects that will enhance life for so many people in the years ahead. With the disaster, their lives are changed forever.

What about our lives? Has the disaster changed our lives in any way? Have we realised how much our extravagant lifestyles impoverish the people of the Third World? It was the poor were hardest hit in the disaster. They are our own brothers and sisters, our own kin and Isaiah challenges us not to turn away from them.

Rather, the challenge is to do away with the yoke of crippling debt, the clenched fist of protective tariffs, the wicked word of self-righteous racism. Isaiah reminds us that the light of goodness will be a star of hope to the oppressed.

His call is to live more simply so that our kin may simply live.

*O Lord,
how majestic
is your name
in all the
earth.*



Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Friday 11th February

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

The Rosary will be recited before each of the Masses - at 8.40 a.m., 9.40 a.m. and 7.10 p.m.

All invited.

Season of Lent

Next Wednesday 9th is Ash Wednesday and a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be distributed after Masses at 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

Daily Mass (Monday to Friday) for Lent will be at 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

Trócaire Boxes will be available in the church.

Lourdes Invalid Fund

The annual collection will now take place on the weekend of February 12th and 13th.

Thinking of Taking the Pledge for Lent?

Non-pioneers are invited to take the short-term Pledge for the duration of Lent. Conditions for enrolment are as follows:

- to abstain from all intoxicating drink
- to recite the prayer daily
- to wear the emblem publicly

For further information please contact 4345281.

Senior Citizens' Party

On Friday 18th February in the SMA Hall, Wilton at 8.00 p.m. organised by the Bishopstown Lions Club. Music, dancing, refreshments provided. Everyone welcome, no charge.

Pioneers

The monthly Mass for the intentions of the Pioneers will be held in The Way of the Cross Church, Togher, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 4th February. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Parish House. There will also be an opportunity for people to enrol as members of the Pioneers after the Mass.

Male and Female Volunteers Wanted

ISPCC are currently recruiting volunteers for our activity based mentoring programme. Activities include anything from guitar lessons to soccer training. This is a fun, flexible opportunity to support young people in Cork and share your interests. Training provided. For further information please contact 021 4962949.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 13th February

First Reading:

Gen.2:7-9, 3:1-7. The first reading from the Book of Genesis tells of the fall of Adam and Eve.

Psalm : 50

Second Reading:

Rom. 5:12-19. St. Paul explains how Jesus has overcome the power of sin in our world.

Gospel:

Mt. 4:1-11. Today's gospel shows how Jesus was tempted three times in the wilderness.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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