



20th<sup>th</sup> February, 2005

No. 829

# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lent A*



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CO. CK



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Fr. Declan writes*

How open are we to the unexpected? Leaving my house in a hurry last week, I drove quickly towards my destination. Stuck in a huge volume of slow-moving traffic on the Wilton Rd., I fumed and cursed silently. At the broken lights at the Sarsfield's Rd. Roundabout, my curses were not quite so silent. But when I discovered I had left behind in my house the object to be exchanged, and had to proceed to the Kinsale Rd to double back....!! There at my house, however, was someone I had not met for a long time, who had come to visit me. Thirty seconds more, or less, and I would have missed a valuable hour with a friend. My rush was forgotten. I thanked God and prayed! Coincidence or Providence? God knows. I didn't. Now I do.

Visited a hospital recently. Called to visit two parishioners. Both gone home! Seemed a waste of time, after looking for a parking space, putting up a disc.... (Just barely remember to thank God that both seem to be o.k.!) On the way out, visited the Chapel. Thought I recognised someone over in the corner, weeping. She had been in for a week. Quiet and shy, very few knew she was there.

Lonely, afraid and unwell. But a smile of peace and calmness as I left, after a prayer and a blessing. Chance? Coincidence? Accident? Ask that woman if she believes in God's love.

Two small examples from my recent life. You, the reader, can write the rest of this front page. How often have things like this happened to you? If you believe in God, they make perfect sense. If you don't, it's all only coincidence and chance and superstitious rubbish. To the Believer, there is no such thing as luck, or chance - all is Providence, if we are open to it. Lord, open us to the unexpected! Surprise us each day, especially when our plans go wrong!

Help us to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, and to know that You can make it all right!

Give us that Faith.

"Your hand is ever laid upon me. Too wonderful for me this knowledge, too high, beyond my reach!! (Psalm 138)

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## **Postcard Campaign -**

### **Justice for Asylum Seekers**

Please show your support by signing one of the postcards available at all Masses this weekend.

**FINANCIAL REPORT 2004**  
**Presented by the Parish Finance Committee**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>€</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>€</b>
Sunday & Holyday collections		127,819	Wages & PRSI		39,688
Shrines		14,099	Heating & Lighting		12,018
Bank Interest		472	8% Levy to Diocesan Office		9,911
Folds, Pamphlets, etc.		1,906	Insurance		6,281
Rents from Groups		5,340	Parish Council		848
Miscellaneous income		250	Bulletins, Missalettes, Booklets		11,180
Donations		9,711	Eucharistic Procession Fund		500
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>		<b>€159,597</b>	Folds, Pamphlets		1,025
<hr/>			Church requisites		8,645
<b>SUMMARY</b>		<b>€</b>	Repairs and maintenance		28,328
Balance 11/1/04 (credit)		19,080	6% Retirement Levy		7,145
Income 2004		159,597	Telephones		1,472
Expenditure 2004	134,277		Bank Charges		518
Transfer -			Miscellaneous expenses		5,583
Maintenance reserve	<u>30,000</u>	(164,277)	Crypt		1,135
Working Balance 1/1/05 (credit)		14,400	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE:</b>		<b>€134,277</b>

**Special Church Collections 2004**

C.M.C.C.	€440	Peter's Pence	€1,180
Holy Places	€600	Trócaire	€9,075
Episcopal Commission	€710	Mission Sunday	€2,070
Peru (incl. church boxes)	€2,950	Lourdes Invalid Fund	€1,150
Education of Priests	€1,146	Sudan	€7,010



## PARISH ACCOUNTS 2004

The parish accounts printed here show your continued generosity over the past year. Many thanks.

We have been able to put €30,000 into the maintenance reserve fund. Up to now, we have been lucky to have manageable maintenance costs, but the heating system is reaching the end of its life and its replacement is being actively investigated. As soon as the viable options are clear, we will bring you the details. It will be expensive, hence the need for the reserve fund.

Your contributions to the parish have been carefully managed and prudently spent.

Renewed thanks.

## JUST LENT" 1

**"Genuine worship of God requires social justice"**

(Amos 5:8; Micah 6:8)

"The Spirituality of Social Care" was the title of the lunchtime talk on Ash Wednesday given by Canon Donal Linehan, P.P. Ballinora. In this endeavour, he said, the immediate thing is being with the person or family in their need, like the Good Samaritan. How the need occurred does not matter, the important thing is to be there to help. We must engage with people first before we can discover ways of helping them. Christian and other caring organisations must do something NOW with a response that is REAL and ACTIVE. Over the last 20 years many of the voluntary organisations such as St. Vincent de Paul are devoting much more

time and energy looking to the reasons why problems occur - for example why 10% of young people are early school leavers.

CORI is analysing the social causes of poverty among Irish children. Fr. Donal posed the key question - "Where is God experienced?" He is naturally experienced in Prayer, the Sacraments and Pilgrimages. God expects us to do good, but how God is experienced in this work is not very clear. The whole ministry of Jesus is to bring the Good News to the poor, the marginalised and the broken hearted. The call to human fulfilment to transform the world follows from the great Commandment of Love.

Social justice and care must be seen as a civic entitlement beyond charity. The Church must co-operate with agencies of goodwill, as it is only one player in a society of humanistic and secular values and public controls.

## "JUST LENT" 3

The next speaker in the lunchtime series will be Neasa O'Riordan, a long time volunteer with Oxfam and Fairtrade:

***"Making Cork A Fair Trade City"***

She will explain how buying Fairtrade products can directly affect people living in poverty in developing countries, and outline the work to make Cork a Fairtrade City and what each of us can do to help.

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1 - 2 p.m., in the Crypt

All are welcome



**SACRISTAN**

Applications for the post are still invited. Job sharing arrangements will be considered.

Contact: Secretary, Parish Office.

*Some Places Still Available*  
**Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

**Further Information:**  
Joe Walsh Tours @ 4277959

**Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle**

Our monthly recital will be given by Sean Higgins on Wednesday next February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3.00 p.m. in the crypt of our church at Dennehy's Cross. An afternoon of delightful music is assured and everybody is welcome to attend.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

087 - 251 9940

**God's Word**

**Readings for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

**First Reading:**

Ex.17:3-7. Through the faith of Moses, God satisfied the thirst of a wandering people.

**Psalm : 94**

**Second Reading:**

Rom.5:1-2,5-8. Our hope in Jesus is not deceptive. St. Paul tells us why.

**Gospel:**

Jn.4:5-42. The gospel tells the story of the Samaritan woman who came to a well and found her life completely changed.

*We need your input*  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

A Mission Statement is being developed for our parish, which will endeavour to put words on the values and principles at the heart of our parish community.

To quote Fr. Tom in a recent Bulletin, a Mission Statement is "at once, both an inspiration and a guide. It is the touchstone by which particular actions and decisions must be judged. ...To be effective, it must be owned by us."

**This is where YOU come in:**

Please reflect on the draft Statement below, and on the set of Core Values, and during the week, give **your** views and suggestions for amendments, which will all be carefully considered.

Responses should be marked "Mission Statement" and either dropped in, or posted to the Parish Office, or sent by e-mail to [holyspiritparish@eircom.net](mailto:holyspiritparish@eircom.net), by Monday 28 February

**Draft Mission Statement:**

*The Parish of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross, is our local faith community of the Catholic Church, rooted in the Gospel teachings of Christ, drawing life from the Eucharist.*

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we aim to live and celebrate our Baptismal calling, nourishing and cherishing the gifts and talents of all our members, so as to build a truly Christian community.*

**Core Values:** Love; Mutual Respect and care; Inclusiveness; Service; Healing; Forgiveness