



27thth February, 2005

No. 830

Ballinaspaig Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON LENT 2005

When I sat down to write these few lines for this Sunday's Bulletin (27th February) it suddenly struck me – February is nearly over (thank God) and Lent is nearly half over. Then I asked myself the simple question: "What have I done this Lent to bring me closer to the Lord?" I'm half ashamed to state in public my honest response to this question. However, I do recall what the prophet Micah wrote in the Old Testament: "This is what the Lord asks of you, only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God."

When I was younger we used to fast for Lent – not anymore – except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. But talking about food made me think of something I read on this topic recently – and quite honestly I thought it more in tune with the great celebration and preparation for Easter.

Here goes, and some of you might walk with me on this.

Instead of fasting we might be less finicky about our food and not ignore, or take for granted those who prepared it.

We might thank them and thank God that we have plenty of food on the table at all. We might make a point to arrive on time for our meals – be considerate for others in our manners – and cheerfully help with the wash-up (I said cheerfully).

A final point – how much money do we waste on food? We might save a little to pass on to Trócaire, Concern, GOAL or other worthy charities. As well as sparing a little money, why not save a little time and money by not surfing the Internet – viewing TV – DVDs, etc. A little spiritual reading could be a worthwhile long-term investment. Think on it – and have a lovely second half of Lent.

Some Places Still Available **Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Fr. Declan**

June 11th-16th 2005

Hotel Tara

Cost €585

Parish Booking Reference: 20744
Immediate booking recommended

Further Information:
Joe Walsh Tours @ 4277959

Please take a copy of the
Bulletin home
or give it to a friend or neighbour



Stella Harty, Farranlea Park, died unexpectedly at home on the 4th February, 2005, in her ninety-ninth year. A native of Glasheen, she had lived in Farranlea Park for over seventy years, being one of the first residents when she came to set up home there with her young husband so many years ago. The almost century of her life saw extraordinary changes and Stella retained an alert interest in all that went on around her. Her primary focus was her family, of course, and she enjoyed news of romance, marriages, births and baptisms in her circle of friends and acquaintances. Her pertinent comments were enjoyed by many. She will be sadly missed by family, friends and neighbours who visited her so faithfully. To her son Kevin and his family, we offer our sincerest sympathy. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sí.



We offer our sincere sympathy to **MERCEDES CUNNINGHAM**, Bishopstown Avenue West, on the death of her aunt, Sr. Mary Ryan.

Cork Theology Forum – Holy Ground
The Spring gathering will take place on Saturday 5th March at the Vienna Woods Hotel, 10.00 to 1.30 p.m. Speaker will be Professor Sean Freyne. Talk: *Jesus and the Ecology of Galilee: the nature parables and the importance of environment for Jesus' understanding of his mission.*

Discussion. All welcome. Cost €15.
Details and booking: John Scanlan 4316812, Derek Johnston 4533865

Unauthorised Collectors

The issue of unauthorised collections in the church grounds was discussed at our recent Pastoral Council meeting in response to concerns raised by several parishioners.

It is Diocesan and Parish policy that the only collection permitted within the church grounds is the monthly collections for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. All other collectors are asked to position themselves outside the gates, and this request has been very well respected by all the authorised charity collectors. This policy exists so that our Mass goers are not intimidated by too many collectors – or indeed collections!!

Recently, a number of unauthorised collectors have been present at the church doors at each of the weekend Masses. These collectors have been repeatedly asked not to collect within the grounds, but have chosen to ignore these requests. In the interests of fairness to all who respect our parish policy, we are urging parishioners not to contribute to any unauthorised collectors within the church grounds.

Parish Pastoral Council

“JUST LENT” 4

The next speaker in the lunchtime series, will be Mike Fitzgibbon, Centre for Sustainable Livelihoods, UCC:

“Seven Reasons to Keep our Promise: Why our 0.7% in Development Aid Matters?”

In 2000, Taoiseach Mr. Ahern announced, on our behalf, to the UN General Assembly that Ireland would reach the UN Aid target for the poor of the world by 2007.....

March 2nd, 1 – 2pm, in the Crypt

All are welcome



“JUST LENT” 2

The speaker, Mary Kealy, began with a brief overview of the problems of asylum and immigration in Europe in the 20th century. These problems have now become part of our experience in the 21st century, and have required new legislation to cope with a new situation. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform is responsible for immigration and citizenship policy. There is a significant difference between the rights accorded to asylum-seekers and those accorded to refugees – asylum-seekers do not have the right to work, despite the fact that Ireland needs 40,000 extra workers this year. Mary pointed out that, by international standards, Ireland spends a large amount of money on a small number of asylum-seekers and the system is considered expensive and wasteful.

Mary works as a volunteer legal adviser at the Immigration Support Centre in Cork, and is very aware of the legal difficulties faced by immigrants and asylum-seekers. Throughout this talk, she showed that she is also sensitive to the human dimension of their problems.

Pastoral Council Report

At the monthly meeting of the Council there was an update and discussion on current parish initiatives. During Lent on Wednesdays, 1.00 to 2.00 p.m., the theme for this year's talks is "Justice for the Poor".

Fr. Clancy announced that this year being The Year of the Eucharist, Holy Communion, under both species will be distributed at the 10.00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday of each week. This will

JOHN – EAGLE EYE

John the Evangelist has been traditionally represented as an eagle. (Look overhead at our dome). It was considered that the eagle alone could look straight into the sun without being dazzled. John has the most penetrating gaze into the mysteries of God made man. Reading John has been compared to climbing a spiral staircase. He leads from one level to the next while remaining on the same axis. On the way up, we see new aspects of the countryside at each turn.

John's story of the woman at the well is this weekend's gospel. The various dialogues that Jesus has with the woman or the Jews follow a set pattern.

1. Jesus makes a statement about a religious truth which is misunderstood. This permits the Lord (or sometimes John) to develop the true spiritual meaning of what he said.
2. The dialogues develops into a monologue of Christ (or John) in which the original there is developed more fully.

(A further explanatory sheet on this gospel is available on the altar rails.)

also apply on Holy Thursday, the Easter Vigil and the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The appointment of a management team for the parish website was announced.

The unauthorised parking in the church grounds was discussed. After a lengthy debate, a possible solution to ease the problem was agreed.

Next meeting on 14th March at 8.10 p.m.



First Friday

Next Friday, 4th March, is the first Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Monthly collection at all Masses next weekend.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting will take place in the Parish Centre next Thursday, 3rd March at 8.00 p.m.

Fun Table Quiz

St. Catherine's Parents' Association will hold a table quiz in aid of school funds on Friday 4th March in Highfield Rugby Club, at 8.00 p.m., €30 per table of four. Everybody welcome. If possible please reserve your table with payment at school office, or with any member of the parents' association.

Pioneer Association

The monthly Mass will take place on the First Friday, March 4th at 7.30 p.m. in the Way of the Cross Church, Togher. 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. We would also be happy to enrol those people who might like to make a short term commitment or take a temporary pledge to abstain from alcohol, for a limited period, in solidarity with those who suffer as a result of the abuse of alcohol.

Asylum Seekers - What's the True Story

Coffee morning at Ballinlough Pastoral Centre after 10.00 Mass on Wednesday 2nd March. Guest speaker: Ger Forde, Cois Tine. All welcome.

International Women's Day

The Hope Foundation, who work for the street children of Calcutta, has organised a day of celebration for International Women's Day and Mothers' Day, with prestigious speakers like Nell McCafferty, workshops ranging from beauty to self-defence, lunch, music, trade stands, children's literary competition, afternoon tea, at Silversprings Hotel on 5th March. Further information from Sinead at HOPE, 4292990.

Fair Trade

Talk in Shandon Court Hotel on Tuesday 1st March at 7.30 p.m. to mark Fair Trade week in conjunction with Cork's campaign to become a Fair Trade City. A farmer from a developing country will describe what Fair Trade has done for him and his family.

Readings for Sunday 6th March

First Reading:

1 Sam. 16:6-7. God does not judge by appearances. He looks to the heart. In this first reading we hear how the boy David is chosen by God for his future role as leader.

Psalm : 22

Second Reading:

Eph. 5:8-14. In the second reading we are given guidelines on discovering what the Lord wants of us.

Gospel:

Jn.9:1-41. The gospel tells the familiar story of the healing of the man born blind. In John's gospel this is more than a story. It is a sign of another kind of seeing - the kind of seeing that enables us to follow Jesus in faith.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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