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Ballineaspig Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Easter



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHYS CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Declan writes

Grumbling...with Gratitude!

The rain is pouring down almost every day. Dark weather, cloudy and chilly, affects our spirits. It's hard to put up with it! Yet in spite of it, the grass is growing, the cherries are in bloom. A programme on the television the other night showed people on the borders of the Sahara, where it never rains, trying to survive. It's hard to say it, but 'Thank God for the Irish rain!'

Two mothers gave birth recently. One had to stay in bed for most of the pregnancy, another contracted a serious illness during pregnancy. Both are improving, but finding it difficult to cope. Even in exasperation, both are able to say 'But thank God for a healthy child. It was worth it all!'

A woman whose husband has died suddenly, leaving her with two children of twelve and ten, says to me 'Thank God for the neighbours. I don't know how I'd manage without them.' We're able to agree that thank God, there is something positive somewhere in it all.

However bad things are, the person of

faith will always try to put a positive slant on them. God is to be seen in the positive in the midst of the negative. What is it in our nature that makes us moaners? Moaning is normal and natural, and thank you God, for those who put up with us and listen to us when we moan. But help us to see the positives. Help us to be more grateful. Thank you God for your love, for the wonder of life, for the gift of people. How do you put up with us, I often wonder? Thanks!!!

Breaking News:

Just as I finish writing the above, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger has just been elected Pope. The grumblers have started - finding his faults. But the voice of the Spirit whispers positively... 'Thank God!'





We offer our sincere sympathy to **BILLY O'NEILL**, Merlyn Lawn, on the recent death of his sister, Áine.

We offer our sincere sympathy to **PETER O'SULLIVAN**, on the death of his sister Mary (formerly of Laburnum Park).

BOOK REVIEW

Do you want to be well again? Thoughts and Prayers at Times of Sickness - Johnny Doherty CSsR (Veritas)

Sickness with its accompaniment of medication and physical distress can make it very difficult to pray. Fr. Doherty brings to such a situation a wealth of personal experience and a gift for simply and briefly expressed prayers and reflections. His slim volume contains 26 gentle reflections on vivid gospel passages and psalms that each conclude with a short prayer. Each brief reflection is designed to address a particular illness or need from the suicidal to the Alzheimer sufferer, from a sick child to coping with growing old. For use of the sick person or their family or carer this simple format should bring a great measure of comfort and inspiration during the dark or difficult moments of ill health or disease.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Catherine of Siena
(1347 - 1380)

Feast Day: 29 April



Catherine was a humble Dominican tertiary, one of a family of 23, who was proclaimed Doctor of the Church in 1970 and Patroness of Europe in 2000. Even as a young woman she had a reputation for being wise. Church and State leaders came to her for guidance. She brought peace to her native Siena, to Italy and to 14th century Europe. She spent all her energies on the Church and was instrumental in returning the Papacy from Avignon to Rome. She also worked for the reform of religious life. She died at the age of 33 in Rome.

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Congratulations to Aisling O'Meara, 4th Year, who was crowned World Irish Dancing Champion for the 3rd time in the under-16 world championships held recently in Ennis. Aisling has already won 8 Munster titles, 7 All Irelands, 5 Americans as well as her three world titles. Congratulations, Aisling.



TAKING A BREAK IN KERRY?

Before you go, consult the Diocese of Kerry website, which has recently been revamped. In addition to information about many aspects of diocesan life, including communications, education, liturgy, organisations and heritage, there is a very useful parish index. There you will find the names, addresses and phone numbers for parish personnel along with the Mass times for each parish in the diocese. It also has an interesting section on Sceilig Mhichil. The address is www.dioceseofkerry.ie

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK



Q. What is the meaning of "Alleluia" and why were there no Alleluias during Lent?

A. Alleluia is a joyful shout in Hebrew, meaning 'Praise God'. When Clare hurlers triumphed in 1995 the country was introduced to the 'Clare Shout', a wild release of celebration. It reminded me of the origins of Alleluia, an uninhibited cry of God's praise. Allelu-Yah (short form of Yahweh, Hebrew name for God). In the subdued atmosphere of Lent the use of Alleluia is not appropriate. Its absence for six weeks makes us appreciate its return at Easter all the more.

- Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap

Bible Corner



The Cardinals have appointed a Pope, Benedict XVI. Much of the talk will be about the nationality of the man, his experience, his age and his track record. Before appointing Peter, Christ asked him, "Who do you think I am?" When he answered, "You are the Christ the Son of the Living God", he immediately received the guarantee that Christ would be always with him in leading the Church.

Our Pope must be a confident leader with a confidence based on a personal faith that Jesus Christ has come among us and is among us as Son of God. He must lead us in the same faith to live as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and of one another. Peter's background for the job was suspect. By the standard of today's discussion, he was from the wrong country, he was too young, lacked expertise and, worst of all, he had blotted his copybook more than once. But once he was chosen by Christ under the guidance of the Spirit, he was the right man for the job. So today, Benedict chosen under the Spirit is Christ's choice as successor to Peter. Christ has guaranteed to be always with him and with the church. This is the foundation of our confidence and our hope. Without this foundation, our loyalty would be misplaced. With it, we can go forward together in building up the local communities of faith and love that are the Church of Jesus Christ.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

The monthly collection will take place next weekend.

Diploma Course at C.L.T.

A 2-year Higher Certificate course in Humanities in Community Education and Development will commence in September 2005 At CIT. For further details please contact Anne Deasy at 4921171. Closing date for completed applications Friday 29th April.

Cork Telephone Reunion

Past and present employees of P & T, Telecom Eireann and Eircom, at Clarion Hotel on Friday 29th April, 7.30 p.m. Rekindle your old friendships. Everybody welcome.



HELP NEEDED

Volunteers wanted to join the Altar Ladies who tend to the flowers in the church? If you think you could help in any way, please contact our Sacristan, Gertrude.

Choral Treat

Our choir will be singing Schubert's 'Deutsche Messe' D872 (German Mass) at 10.30am on Sunday May 1st. This is being sung to coincide with the Cork International Choral Festival.

Don't miss it!

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 1st May

First Reading:

Acts. 8:5-8, 14-17. Describes the continuing successes in the early Church, and the giving of the Spirit to new believers.

Psalm : 65

Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:15-18. Peter writes that Christians should be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them.

Gospel:

John 14:15-21. Jesus repeats his commandment of love, and promises the gift of the Spirit.

Parish e-mail address:

holyspiritparish@eircom.net

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940