

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

8th January 2006

The Baptism of the Lord

No. 864

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
15th January 2006

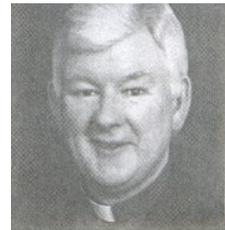
First Reading:
1 Sam 3:3-10,19

Psalm 39

Second Reading:
1 Cor 6:13-15,17-20

Gospel:
Jn 1:35-42

FATHER DECLAN WRITES



Sales....Bargains....Reductions!

This week, the streets are teeming with people searching for bargains in the post-Christmas Sales. There's nothing that attracts shoppers like signs saying "30% Reductions". I wonder is there any chance we could put something similar on the gates of our churches, to attract in the passers-by? I've given this some thought, and I really can't think of anything suitable. "Full Internal Makeovers - Confession only Half-Price!"? It really doesn't sound right. Neither does "Spring Weddings - Book Two: Save 25%!" Neither does "Free Blessings with Every Mass until February 1st"

No - I'm not being flippant or disrespectful. The love of God is given away for free. Grace is given freely. It costs nothing to go to Mass. (Voluntary contributions for maintenance and parish excepted.) There is no charge for a Sacrament. (Except maybe a contribution for the support of the clergy.) Prayer costs nothing. How does one convince a young couple that the Sacrament of Marriage, the Presence of Christ in their relationship, costs nothing? All that is necessary is the exchange of promises in the presence of a priest and two witnesses. The reception and trimmings may set them back €15,000!!

There is an old belief that things that come free are not respected. Maybe this is true of Grace and Salvation. The one who most paid the price and showed the real value of God's love for us was Jesus. It cost Him his life. There were no bargains or reductions when it came to the value of this gift. Maybe if it cost us more, we might be queueing up to buy it. Faith is the most important priority in our lives. We need to give it at least as much attention as our bargain hunting.

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Rest in Peace

Terry Golden, Wilton Road, died peacefully at St. Patrick's Hospital on 13th December. A native of Magazine Road, he had been a long-time resident of Wilton Road where he had come to set up home with his beloved Maureen shortly after their return from Wales where his first job as an Engineer had taken him after graduation. He was quickly involved in two community projects, the building of the church here and the development of Highfield Rugby Club. He was one of the original door-to-door collectors for the building of the church and remained a faithful collector at Sunday Masses here. His interest in Highfield was life-long as was shown by his many sporting friends present at his funeral, together with his friends from Bridge. A beautifully poignant feature of his funeral was the wheeling of the coffin from the church by his seven daughters. A true gentleman, his life was centred on family, faith and friends. He was thrilled with the arrival of his first great grandchild shortly before his death. To his daughters Mary, Philippa, Ann, Patricia, Therese, Bernadette and Rita, his sister Sr. Catherine, his brothers Frank and Finbarr, his sons-in-law, grandchildren and a wider circle of family and friends, we offer our sincere sympathy.

Bible Corner



In our time, the tussle for oil leads to one war after another. For the great world powers, the control of oil supplies is crucial. However, many observers now point out that in a relatively short time, it is the control of water supplies that will be decisive on the world stage. This is hard to visualise in our country which is blessed with such abundant supplies of this essential and wonderful resource. The water we take for granted the Hebrew people of the Bible deeply appreciated.

They lived with the constant struggle to source enough water for themselves, their animals and their crops. Without it, there was only death. For them, water was wealth and life, gifts of the good God for all his creatures.

So when their writers looked for images to illustrate God's goodness to us and his life of love that he shares with us, they used water as a symbol. Abundant water meant abundant life and happiness.

"With joy, you will draw water
From the wells of salvation."

With the coming of Jesus, baptising with water meant even more. It was the channel for the gift of the Holy Spirit. It makes God's beloved and his favour rests upon us.

Fr. Tom Clancy

Correction

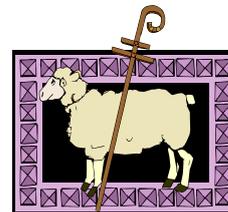


To correct a glitch in a recent Bulletin: The parish is NOT a Fairtrade Parish – NOT YET!

The intention is to apply for designation early in 2006. To achieve designation as a Fairtrade parish we must meet six criteria:

- A parish Fairtrade Steering Group;
- Local shops supplying Fairtrade products; and Fairtrade products available in local cafes, restaurants, hotels;
- Local businesses using Fairtrade products;
- Popular support and publicity for the Fairtrade campaign;
- Schools to become Fairtrade Schools;
- And the Pastoral Council to pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agreeing that Fairtrade products be used by parish groups and meetings.

Let's all keep it moving!



Called to Leadership

Fr. Paddy Lynch, S.S.C.C., a parishioner from Model Farm Road, has been appointed an Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark Diocese in the south east of England. His Episcopal ordination will take place on 14th February. We offer him our sincerest prayerful best wishes and we congratulate his mother Breda on her son's great calling.

NOTICE BOARD

Bulletins to the Homes

Next weekend Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish.

Pastoral Council

Meeting Monday 9th at 8.10 p.m. in Parish Centre.

Brú Columbanus

Church gate collection next Sunday 15th January in aid of the local hostel. Please give generously.

Bishopstown Social Services Annual Dinner

Takes place at C.I.T. Rossa Avenue, on Friday 20th January at 6.30 p.m. Please contact Nora Fitzpatrick at 4546358.