

Ballineaspai Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

29th January, 2006

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

867

God's Word

Readings for Sunday

5th February

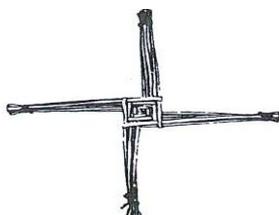
First Reading:
Job 7:1-4,6-7

Psalm 146

Second Reading:
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel:
Mark 1:29-39

F R . D E C L A N W R I T E S



Lá le Bríde – the Approach of Spring

February 1st is only around the corner. First day of Spring in the secular calendar. In the Irish tradition, it was the Feast of Bridget. There is no doubt that the cult of a Saint called Bríd replaced the ancient pre-Christian celebration of the fertility season of Imbolc, and many of the old superstitions and doubtful practices continued on even into the present day. Many older readers will remember the 'Brat Bríde', a handkerchief or piece of cloth left on the doorstep to be blessed by Bridget as she passed by on her Eve, and then taken to the birth of the animals, the sowing of crops, or other spring events. Fresh rushes were often left on the doorstep that night, or milk, or eggs. The warding off of evil; the blessing of God. Two sides of the same coin. One sounds negative; the other positive. One sounds like superstition; the other sounds Christian. Is it any different from the wearing of the Miraculous Medal or a Crucifix around one's neck? All time belongs to God, and all ages..... as we say in the blessing of the Easter Candle. All blessings come from Him.

One of the nicest practices of the Feast of Bridget is the making of the St. Bridget's Crosses, beautiful symbols of Irish culture and spirituality. Every Irish home should have one. Even in these modern, 'more enlightened' times, when few homes display a Christian symbol of any kind, the St. Bridget's Cross can be a contemporary and real symbol of our faith. Many schools still make them; I've been promised one this week. Encourage this practice.

Bríd was quickly christened 'Muire na nGael' in the Irish tradition. Mary, mother of the Lord had to be claimed with some Irish connection, reincarnated in the stories of Bridget and her miracles. Bridget is a mass of legend mixed with fact; but who cares about historical authenticity when it comes to pride in our heritage? God is in the springtime, God is in the fields, God is in our homes, God is in the Cross, God is in the Resurrection of Nature. **Moladh go deo le Dia!**

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of
the Bulletin home
or give it to a friend
or neighbour

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Notice Board

First Friday

Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday 3rd February from 10.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. followed by Mass.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 2nd February in the Parish Centre at 8.00 p.m.

A Day on Scripture

By Fr. Seamus O'Connell (Scripture Professor from Maynooth) at the Sacred Heart Hall on Saturday 18th February, 10.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Come and Listen

Catechesis for adults and youth. Is your marriage on the rocks? Worried about your children? Looking for happiness? Is your life a routine? Come to the Sacred Heart Church. Sundays and Thursdays at 8.00 p.m. starting Sunday 5th February.

S.M.A. DVD

To mark the 150th Jubilee celebration of the founding of the SMA, a DVD about the history, development and importance of the SMA to the Irish missionary church is being produced. It will be launched at the Wilton Parish Centre on Tuesday 7th February at 7.30 p.m. All welcome.

Addiction

Help for families affected by addiction. Ten week family support course beginning 6th February at Mardyke House. Contact 087-1308555 / 087- 7548959.

Gala Concert

In Curraheen Church on Sunday 12th February at 8.00 p.m. featuring Cork City Male Voice Choir and local soprano Deirdre Moynihan. Ticket €20 available from Credit Union, Post Office and Wilton Shopping Centre information desk. All proceeds to Aras Leon houses for the elderly. Presented by Bishopstown & District Lions Club.

St. Blaise – Bishop and Martyr Feast Day 3rd February

People with sore throats turn to St. Blaise for healing because of a tradition that he was a healer as well as a bishop. His reputation for healing throats dates from the incident when a mother asked him to cure her son who had a fishbone stuck in his throat. Blaise saved the boy by saying a prayer and blessing the child.

Blaise's feast day falls in the time of the year when many people suffer from colds and flu, so it's a good time to get throats blessed. But Blaise also suffered for his faith: he was even forced to live in a cave by the local leaders. While banished, it's said that even wild animals would come to him for his blessing. It seems all of creation (except some humans!) saw Blaise as a heaven-sent healer.

Fr. Bernard Cotter

Scandalous Saints & Spirited Sinners

Bible Corner

CAPERNAUM TO CORK



It is a long way from the South Terrace in Cork to Capernaum in Palestine and much has changed in the two thousand years since Jesus established his base of operations in that lakeside town in Galilee. But the role of the synagogue in both places, then and now, is essentially the same. The synagogue is a meeting house where the Jews gather on their Sabbath Day to profess their faith, to pray to God together, to listen to the Scriptures being proclaimed and explained followed by the singing of psalms.

A traditional aspect of the synagogue gathering was that when a visiting rabbi (or a wandering preacher) joined the local congregation on a particular Saturday he was invited to preach. He would be expected to give an insight on a particular passage of scripture. This is what happened to Jesus as we read in this weekend's gospel. First impressions were important if Jesus were to win followers here. He made the most of his opportunity. His hearers would have experienced waffle, superficiality and repetition but they recognised the genuine article when He came. He spoke as one who not only knew the Scriptures, the writings about God, He knew God the Father. That made the difference. The congregation listened attentively to Jesus. So should we.

Fr. Tom Clancy

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Congratulations to Transition Year students Rachel Cusack, Margaret Creedon, Kate Mc Cutcheon, Christine Evans and Laura O'Connor who have been invited to attend UCC Enrichment classes in Mathematics having distinguished themselves in their Junior Cert Maths exam 2005. The primary purpose of these classes is to identify and prepare a team of 6 members to represent Ireland at the International Maths Olympiad which will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia in July 2006.

Well done to Mount Mercy Young Scientists who performed so well at the Esat BT Young Scientist Exhibition this year: Rachel Cusack with her project 'A snapshot of the teenage mindset', Jill O'Sullivan, Kate Mc Cutcheon and Rachel Cusack with 'The Benefits of Landfill gas-to-energy plants'. Special congratulations to Gillian Beatty and Maria Spillane who were awarded a Good Performance and a Special Recommendation for their project on 'The Effectiveness of Soaps in removing bacteria from hands'.

BE ON YOUR GUARD

Should you receive a phone call from someone stating they are from the "Security and Fraud Dept at VISA" and saying they want to verify something in connection with your card, be aware that this is a scam.

After a series of questions they can extract your pin number from you! So be advised, hang up