

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

19th February

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 870

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
26th February

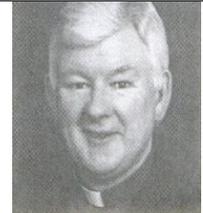
First Reading:
Joel 2:12-18

Psalm 50

Second Reading:
2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Gospel:
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.

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



Last Sunday, I watched a daddy help his young son dip his hand into the Holy Water Font in the porch of the Church and make the Sign of the Cross clumsily on his forehead. Then the child said "You Daddy!", and he tried to do the same on his father's forehead. The other people in the porch were impatiently trying to get past them into Mass, most of them totally unaware of the little drama that was going on - one of the child's first Catechism lessons, one of the oldest and simplest family liturgies that could take place, the faith being handed on, a wonderful preparation for the coming together of God's family at the Mass.

Our countryside is full of Holy Wells, most dedicated to local saints. One of the nearest to us was the Well of the King of Sunday, on the slope up from Wellington Bridge; a plaque marks its location. Many of these were places of pre-Christian druidic worship, then they became places of Baptism, later the site of chapels and hermitages; later still, places of pilgrimages and 'patterns'. Many of them still have the reputation for healing. They were places of 'A Liturgy of the People', where people prayed without need of church or priest. Water, one of the great secret ingredients of all that lives, was a focus for prayer. One of the traditions was to bless your senses, - eyes, ears, nose, mouth, limbs with the water from the well.

Why not bring a little plastic bottle with you some day and fill it from the tank of Holy Water at the Sacristy side of the Church? It's so easy before going to bed at night to sprinkle the children, present or absent, asking God to look after them, or to get the young people themselves to bless their senses, mind and heart, and to link this with their schoolwork (memory), sports (limbs), etc. Better still, get **them** to bless **you** - your eyes as you watch over them, your ears as you try to listen to them, your heart as you worry about them..... Blessings were never intended to be reserved exclusively to the clergy. Any Baptised person ministering in the service of the Lord - parents, friends, single, married - can ask for, and transfer God's blessing. Married couples do it all the time in a special way through their Sacrament.

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

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Pastoral Council Meeting.

At the monthly meeting a review of the work for the last three years was discussed. Notable achievements were the parish website, welcoming ministry, youth ministry and the work of the *Faith in Action* group, in particular their effort in supporting all who suffer injustice in the third world. The Council congratulated this group on their work.

Collectors are urgently required at the 6.15 Vigil and 12.15 Sunday Masses. Please contact our sacristan Gertrude or any of the priests if you are willing to help.

The provision of toilet facilities located in the former mortuary will be available shortly.

Next meeting: Monday 13th March at 8.10 p.m.

Notice Board

A Day of Reflection and Prayer

Bishopstown Lay Dominican Chapter invite you to join them on Saturday 25th February at St. Dominic's Retreat House, Ennismore, registration 10.00 a.m. Mass at 5.15 p.m. Offering (incl. lunch and coffee breaks) €28. Contact Rose Ó Luasa 4874545.

Cork & Ross Pilgrimage to Lourdes

11-16 June, 5 nights, full board accommodation. Enquiries: Joe Walsh Tours, 117 Patrick Street, tel. 4277959. Enquiries for special invalid section to Mons. Kevin O'Callaghan, tel. 023-43794.

Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle

Our monthly recital will take place on Wednesday next 22nd February at 3.00 p.m. in the Crypt of our church at Dennehy's Cross, when Michael Cotter will present a delightful programme. Why not come and join us. Everybody is welcome.

Coping with Bullying

Coláiste an Spioraid Naímh Parents' Association presents Dr. Brendan Byrne to address parents and friends on Monday 27th February at 8pm in the school. Tickets €10 at the door, or available from school office this week.



Christine Lingwood, Highfield Lawn, died at Norwood Grange Nursing Home on Saturday 4th February. She had been in failing health for about six years – really since the death of her husband Paddy. Christine was a quiet reserved lady. She was happy to care for her home, her husband and her family, so moving out from her old home in Highfield Lawn involved a difficult transition. Nonetheless she adjusted well to the homely atmosphere at Norwood Grange. The esteem in which she was held by her old neighbours in Highfield Lawn was very much in evidence by their attendance at her removal and Requiem Mass at the Church of the Holy Spirit. We extend sincere sympathy to her sons Noel and Gerard, her sisters, brothers, her daughter-in-law Marion, and her cherished grandchildren Mark and Rachel. May her dear soul rest in peace.



Bible Corner

CORINTHIAN HUB

In today's world of long distance air travel, places like Amsterdam, Atlanta, Chicago and Singapore have assumed new importance as key airline hubs. They have become focal points from which a variety of routes radiate and where nationalities on the move interact.

In St. Paul's time, Corinth was a similar hub for seafarers in the confined European and Near Eastern world of those days. It was there that traders met, goods transhipped, news exchanged, new religious ideas analysed. In that turbulent seaport, Paul saw a key opportunity to spread the gospel by building up a vibrant community of committed believers in the Risen Jesus. He wrote to them to encourage and challenge them. He constantly reminded them that the spirit of God lived within them, bringing all his gifts of faith, hope, love, courage, wisdom, perseverance and joy in the Lord. The God they believed in was always faithful to his promises and expected his followers to live accordingly.

Each weekend at present, we have a short extract from the letters as our second reading. There is a personal message for us each week. Do not let the brevity of the reading obscure the radical urgency of the message.

Fr. Tom Clancy

In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to JANICE O'DONOVAN, Farranlea Park, on the death of her mother, Wendy Fleming.

An Introduction to Early Irish (Celtic) Spirituality Wednesday Nights:

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd.

The Crypt. 8 – 9.30 p.m.

Presenter: Fr. Declan

**Spirituality of the Desert,
Irish Monasticism ,**

**The Writings of Patrick,
Early Irish Saints, Exile,**

**The Beginnings of Confession,
The Early Mass, Art & Spirituality, - Book of
Kells, High Crosses etc..**

**Booking is not essential, but if interested in
attending please phone the Parish Office at
4344452 in order to facilitate arrangements.**