

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

5th March 2006

First Sunday of Lent

No. 872

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
12th March

First Reading:
Gen. 22:1-2, 9-13, 15
-18

Psalms 115

Second Reading:
Rom. 8:31-34

Gospel:
Mk 9:2-10

CONTACT DETAILS

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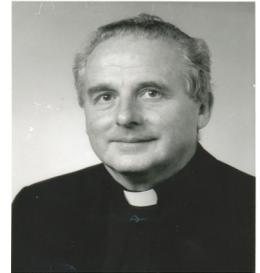
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Emergency Number:
087-251 9940

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or give it to a
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bour

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES

NEVER A BETTER TIME



Easter is the Rolls Royce celebration of the love of God made present in the death and resurrection of Jesus. It must be the high point of our religious year. Lent is about ensuring that Easter does not just pass us by. It is a step by step growing in awareness of God's choice of us and of our continual growth in friendship with him.

A common danger is to see our relationship with God as static, established in childhood, requiring maintenance rather than creative innovation as our life changes. Yet, our God offers new insights daily, new invitations to be absorbed more deeply in a relationship of love. As in all friendship and love, the common temptation is to settle for the routine, tried and tested and perhaps, no longer life-giving.

An essential aspect of Lent is like ploughing a new furrow to allow the seed of God's love take root in our lives in an enriching way. It is only a negligent or lazy gardener that would let a springtime pass without clearing the way for new growth. Last year's neglect needs to be remedied. New seedlings of faith and service need to be protected and nurtured. A fruitful way to begin is to take each Sunday gospel for Lent and allow it to inspire and challenge your lifestyle. Take a leaflet home with you and pray it during the week. If you have not been to Sunday Mass regularly of late, Lent is a good time to rejoin the community. In fact, there never was a better time to do it. The Lord himself will welcome you.

Continuing.....

An Introduction to
Early Irish (Celtic) Spirituality

Wednesday Nights

The Crypt. 8.00 – 9.30 p.m.

Presenter: Fr. Declan

Week 2, March 8th: Writings of St. Patrick, Columba, Columbanus, etc.

Week 3, March 15th: Early Eucharist and Penance

Week 4, March 15th: Spirituality in stone, metal, hymns, prayers

Email: holyspiritparish@eircom.net

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Notices

Bulletin to Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to the homes next weekend, one week earlier than usual, due to St. Patrick's Day falling on Friday.

Lent

Daily Mass (Monday to Friday) for Lent will be at 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

Walk With Me

The *Lenten Journey of Prayer* booklet is available in the church bookrack.

Trócaire

This Lent Trócaire is focusing on the plight of child labourers working in appalling conditions on the plantations of Nicaragua, often working long hours in terrible conditions and who do not get the opportunity to go to school. Sometimes work is a vital source of income for their families. Throughout the world over 180 million children work in hazardous conditions.

Parents Coffee Morning

At Mount Mercy on Wednesday 8th March at 11.00 a.m. in aid of slum schools in Nairobi, Kenya, where a past pupil Ciara McNally is working. Tea, coffee, cakes, etc. will be served. All donations go to the charity. Your help is greatly needed.

Cork Post Polio Support Social

On Wednesday 8th March at Vienna Woods Hotel. So why not come along and get to meet some old and new friends, and make it an enjoyable evening. You are welcome to bring friends and family. Further information from Evelyn 4847313/086 8829267.

St. Aloysius' School

Entrance Assessment will be held on Saturday, March 11th at 9.00 a.m. Late application forms available from school secretary at 4316017.

Lady's Gold Watch

Lost in the Laburnum Lawn area recently. If found please contact 4342119.

BIBLE CORNER



The evangelist Mark usually says things very directly. This weekend's gospel is no exception. He tells us that "The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness". He could have written "Inspired by the Spirit, Jesus went into the wilderness." But Mark wanted to emphasise that the Spirit awakened such an inner response in Jesus that he just had to undertake the forty days preparation for his life's work which was to culminate in Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The same spirit inspires us to change our hearts this Lent in preparation for Easter 2006. Will it awaken a driven response in us to leave behind selfishness and sin so that we will proclaim in word and action the good news of God's love? Or will we just ignore the inspiration to goodness and drift on through Easter?

Fr. Tom Clancy

WALKING BY FAITH

St. Paul tells us that "Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 1-1).

An elderly man I knew, Dan O'Sullivan was afflicted with poor sight for years. Yet very early each morning he would leave his home to attend Mass. When Dan's sight diminished totally he memorized the exact number of paces of each street and hill to be negotiated on his journey to the church – a distance of over one mile.

Although now totally blind Dan continued this practice for years, despite pleas from his family who naturally were concerned for his safety. Dan would explain that any risk involved was nothing compared to "the joy and privilege of receiving the Eucharist each morning." Always very cheerful and good humoured, Dan's faith was rooted in prayer and a courageous trust in God. In the fullness of time he was called to his eternal reward.

"Though I walk in the valley of darkness,
no evil will I fear." (Psalm 22)

Arthur O'Callaghan

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Congratulations to Mount Mercy fifth year student Aisling O'Meara who came 1st in the U17 All Ireland Irish dancing Championships held recently in Killarney. Aisling danced a jig and a slip jig and was recalled to dance a set. She was presented with a cup, crystal and a gold medal. This is Aisling's 8th All-Ireland title. Well done.