

Ballineaspai Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

19th March, 2006

Third Sunday of Lent

No.874

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
26th March

First Reading:
2 Chron. 36:14-16,
19-23.

Psalms 136

Second Reading:
Eph 2:4-10

Gospel:
Jn. 3:14-21

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES

THE REAL PATRICK



St. Patrick's Day - A great day for the Irish - more honoured abroad than at home. Now that the flags are rolled up for another year and the green hats put back in their boxes, it is a good time to take a look at the real Saint, his work and his time.

Forget the myths and legends - the shamrock, the snakes, and Croagh Patrick. The real Patrick is far more exciting. No doubt many of you have read the Confession of St. Patrick before now. Take it up again. Fr. Declan opened our eyes anew to its treasures during his inspiring talk on Wednesday of last week. Incidentally the best scholars now agree the writing is the genuine article from the pen of the Saint himself written about 480 A.D.

He tells about his wayward youth in simple and humble terms before he was taken slave - so true to life for many young people. He recalls the hardships of slavery - and how he came to a new and close relationship with the Lord at this time - and the power of prayer in changing his life. Reminds me of a true story I heard recently. A man collected his daughter from the school bus. As soon as she got into the car she began to text her school pal whom she had just left. Her father protested - "you have just been talking to her". "Yes", she said, "and friendship thrives on communication." The father began to think, and suddenly it struck him that his friendship with God is dependant on going to Mass once a year on Christmas Day. He changed his ways for the better.

Patrick tells us "I would say as many as a hundred prayers in a single day, and almost as many in the night - more and more my love of God began to increase. Even in times of snow or frost or rain I would rise before dawn to pray, and I never felt the worse for it."

St. Patrick was a deeply spiritual man, filled with love and compassion, and above all a man of deep humility. Little did he think that there would be more churches dedicated to him throughout the world than any other saint that ever lived.

"This document has been written in Ireland by Patrick - an uneducated sinner. Let your conclusion be the real truth - that my success was the gift of God. This is my confession before I die." Patrick.

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

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NOTICE BOARD

Lent

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



Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle

Our monthly recital will take place on next Wednesday, 22nd March at 3.00 p.m. in the Crypt of our Church at Dennehy's Cross, when Pat Lemasney will present a programme of glorious music and everybody is welcome.

Senior Citizens Party

On Saturday 25th March in the SMA Hall, Wilton at 8.00 p.m. organised by Bishopstown Lions Club. Music, dancing, refreshments provided. Everyone welcome – no charge.

Car Boot Sale

In aid of Marymount Hospice on Sunday 2nd April at Penrose Wharf Car Park at 9.00 a.m.

Blood Transfusion Clinic

At St. Finbarr's Hurling & Football Club, Togher, on Sunday 19th March, 11.00-2.00 p.m.

Continuing.....

An Introduction to Early Irish (Celtic) Spirituality

Crypt. 800 - 9.30 p.m.

Wednesday March 22nd

Spirituality in stone, metal, prayers

Presenter: Fr. Declan

St. Catherine's News

On Saturday 4th March the girls from our two Second Classes received the Sacrament of First Penance. The theme of the readings and hymns was The Lost Sheep. Fr. Tom recalled how one of the girls had summed up the message of Jesus earlier in the week: "God always loves us, but he sometimes doesn't love the things that we do".

Our "Valentine's Céili" was a huge success, for young and old! Ceoltóirí Chaitríona provided the music for some of the dancing and the older girls were excellent at helping the little ones keep in step!

The second-hand book sale organised by our Parents' Association to coincide with World Book Day was also a huge success. The funds raised, combined with our brown coin collection will be used to provide brand new computers in four classrooms.

Active Schools Week has been a huge success, and everybody believes we should keep up our playground activities on a regular basis!

We are very proud of Catherine Buttimer, Tara Banon, Claire Shinkwin and Eadaoin McDonagh who represented us so well in the County Final of the Credit Union Quiz, Under 11, at very short notice.

In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to MARGARET FOLEY, 49 Leesdale, Model Farm Road, on the death of her brother, Tony Byrne, Bandon.

To EILEEN COUGHLAN, Bishopstown Avenue West, on the death of her sister, Kathleen Dunphy, in Arizona.

BIBLE CORNER



FOCUS ON GOD'S PRESENCE

One would have to have sympathy for the dealers at the Temple and for the religious leaders who allowed them operate there. They were doing what good religious people had done before them and would continue to do at other venues. They were making it easier for pilgrims by allowing them buy their sacrificial animals on the spot and allowing them to change their money into local currency as well. They were probably making a quick shekel on the transactions but they saw themselves as providing a service. Indeed, they were so conditioned by their family traditions that they could not see anything wrong with what they were doing.

Jesus was upset that they were desecrating the focus of God's presence but more importantly, he had a key message for the Jewish people. He himself was to be the new focus of God's presence. He himself was the new Temple and His body was to be the new sanctuary or holy place where God lives. The Romans would shortly utterly destroy the Temple and put him to death. But he would rise from the dead, the new Temple.

Fr. Tom Clancy

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The election of the new Pastoral Council was the principal item at this month's meeting. Nomination forms for the election will be delivered with the Bulletin to all areas within the parish shortly. The election will take place at a general meeting for all parishioners on Monday 24th April in the Crypt.

Parish Website: Kevin O'Mahony gave a progress report on the website outlining future plans including parish activities. Clare McCutcheon, Chairperson of the Council thanked Kevin and his fellow workers for their valuable work on the website.

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock: This year we will journey to Knock on Saturday 27th May with our neighbours the S.M.A. parish, who celebrate the 150th anniversary of their foundation. Further details later.

A reminder to all parishioners that toilet facilities are now available within the old mortuary.

Next meeting will be held on 10th April at 8.10 p.m.

Rest in Peace

Elizabeth (Betty) Beechinor, Bishopstown Road, died at Cork University Hospital on Tuesday 7th March. She had been in failing health for a considerable time, and was pre-deceased by her husband Eddie. She was a gentle and caring lady who devoted her life to the care of her husband and family. She was happy in her home and with her own people. The large congregation who attended her removal and funeral was testimony to the high esteem in which she was held. May her dear soul rest in peace. We extend the sympathy of our community to her family – Marion, Hilda, Mary, Frank, Catherine, Patricia, Ann, Imelda and Celine, and to her many relatives and friends.