

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

26th March 2006

Fourth Sunday of Lent

No. 875

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
2nd April

First Reading:
Jer 31:31-34

Psalm 50

Second Reading:
Heb 5:7-9

Gospel:
Jn. 12:20-30

THE DEAN WRITES



Happiness - Happiness - that ephemeral quality of life that everybody seeks and few enough seem to acquire. It has fascinated the thoughts of great minds ever since the time of Aristotle. The trouble is that everybody knows - thinks they know - what happiness is, yet it seems to elude the grasp of those who seek it. This is the nub of the problem - if we look for it and pursue it for itself it eludes us. In reality it's a kind of by-product of fulfilling our full potential in accordance with the standards God has given us. (Now that's a mouthful to be pondered over.)

Unfortunately, too many people seek happiness where it cannot be found - drink, drugs, money, sex - all good things given by God but to be used as he intended. You might question my inclusion of drugs, but think of the wonderful things our medical experts can achieve by their therapeutic use in hospital.

Now what sent me off on this line? Somebody gave me a copy of the Sunday Times last weekend. Their columnist Brenda Power took her children on a skiing holiday during the mid-term school break. Admittedly she would never have even dreamt of such a treat in her own school days, but her children took it all for granted. Furthermore, they don't want to know about leaner times in their parents' youth.

The big question arises here again - what would make anybody happy? The short answer is love. Everybody wants to be loved. But St. Francis got it right: "Lord, grant that I may seek **to love rather than be loved**. For it is in giving that we receive." St. Francis was never bored, neither was Mother Teresa, nor indeed the boys and girls in SHARE. All this calls for discipline in life - not everybody can grasp that - but the results are guaranteed.

An American journalist was interviewing a survivor of a Nazi concentration camp. Did any in those camps remain human, she asked. No! he said, but added "There was one group of people who did remain human. They were the religious people. They seemed to care in their hearts for others."

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

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AN APPRECIATION

Fr. Declan's Lenten Course on early Celtic Spirituality has been quite a revelation to most of us. Going right through from early centuries after Christ he gave us so much information on the monasteries at the time, with their rules and regulations, some of them rather extraordinary, especially the penitential rites!

We learned about the writings and the saints of the time, Patrick, Columbanus, Colmcille, Brigid, etc. What he had to tell us could have filled another four weeks.

Thank you, Fr. Declan, for sharing with us your wide knowledge and deep insights into those early days in our Christian history.

Rest in Peace

Jack O'Sullivan, 35 Liam Lynch Park (formerly of Togher) died peacefully on St. Patrick's Day at Marymount Hospice. Jack was a quiet man and a keen gardener who spent many happy hours tending to his flowers and plants. He was also a great follower of road-bowling through which he made very good and loyal friends as was evident at the large attendance at his removal and funeral. He is survived by his sisters Kitty, Celia and Ita, his nephew, nieces, grandniece and grandnephews, and friends and their children who all loved him very much.

A great sense of loss was experienced recently in Wilton Avenue at the news of the sudden death of Cyril Foley. Cyril was loved and appreciated by his neighbours as a gentleman, a kind and willing man who would help out in any emergency, big or small. His son Vincent described him at the Funeral Mass as a 'Mr. Fixit', for family relatives and friends. Cyril lived his seventy two years to the full: he spent many years with the E.S.B, still did some teaching with Fás, and had a lifelong association with the F.C.A. To his devoted wife, Elma, to his sons Con and Vincent, to his daughter Bernadette, in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends, we extend the deepest sympathy of our Parish community. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis

In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to Sr. Mairead and the Community at St. Joseph's Convent, Model Farm Road, on the recent death of Sr. Canice O'Connell.

EASTER EGG UPDATE

The following Fairtrade Easter eggs are available at the Oxfam Fairtrade shop in French Church Street:

- Dubble Easter egg and bar
- Traidcraft chocolate mini-eggs
- Divine milk chocolate mini-eggs



Bible Corner



ANTHEM HYMN

Just as *The Fields of Athenry* has become the rallying cry of Irish sports followers especially when abroad, so *By The Rivers of Babylon* was the anthem hymn of the Hebrew people during their oppressive exile.

This weekend, this lament is the psalm linking the first reading and the gospel.

The reading tells how God allowed the chosen people to be punished by exile for their infidelity but it ends on a note of hope that returning home is on the horizon.

God never forsakes the one He has chosen. The gospel takes that message of God's faithfulness further. Not only does he welcome us home from the exile of sin but he has sent his Son to ensure that we are able for the return and arrive safely.

The only question is do we want to return or are we content to remain exiled in the selfishness of Babylon.

Fr. Tom Clancy



CONGRATULATIONS

Sincere congratulations to our choir and its Conductor Paddy Killeen on their recent success in the Limerick Church Music Festival. They brought home the cup for 1st Place in the Plainchant Competition, and also gained great praise on coming joint third in the competition for church Choirs.

NOTICES

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

Dues Envelopes

Through the continued help of our faithful distributors, Spring dues envelopes are being delivered to the homes this week.

Thinking of Becoming a Priest?

Talking, listening, discussing praying and reflecting will help you explore whether you want to fan the flame... It is still your decision. Information Day on Saturday 8th April at Ennismore Retreat Centre, 11.00 to 5.00 p.m. lunch provided. Entrance free. Should you attend? What if you can't that day? Want to find out more? In confidence telephone Fr. Aidan O'Driscoll at 4303015 or Fr. Bertie O'Mahony at 4393815, or email to priest-hood@corkandross.org

The Beginning Experience

A weekend programme to help those who have lost a spouse through death, separation or divorce. Residential weekend programme will take place in St. Dominic's Retreat Centre, Ennismore, from 21-23rd April. If interested please contact Kathleen at Family Ministry, 34 Paul Street, tel. 4275136.

Car Boot Sale

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