

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

25th June 2006

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 888

LETTER TO FR. DECLAN

Dear Declan,

Since you broke the news that you're moving on from Dennehy's Cross Parish to take up the post of Administrator of the Cathedral, I've been reflecting on your short time here with us in Ballineaspaig Parish. By a happy coincidence, you arrived shortly after the election of the last Parish Pastoral Council, so you were here for our full term of office from 2003 to 2006. While we always had serious business to discuss at the PC meetings, there was a tremendous spirit of mutual respect, support and encouragement, and there was lots of laughter and fun too!

It was obvious right from day one that yourself, Fr. Tom and the Dean made a great team – that same mutual respect and liking were very much in evidence. With their encouragement and support, you worked with the many parish groups and Ministries to introduce several new ideas and initiatives and to develop existing ones. Just some examples that come readily to mind include:

- ◆ Your Chaplaincy of Mount Mercy College, and your establishment of a
- ◆ Youth Ministry – one of the visible results of this has been the active involvement of a number of young Ministers of the Word.
- ◆ Your work as a member of the parish Liturgy Committee, to enhance the celebration of our Sunday Eucharist and the Sacraments.
- ◆ Your membership of the Parish Adult Education Group - together you organised some very stimulating talks on topics such as Marriage and Family, Prayer, the Islamic faith.
- ◆ The annual family Mass on Christmas Eve, which has fostered family and community involvement in our parish (I can still remember the look of consternation on your face at the first of these, in 2003, when you invited the children to assemble at the end of the Church and process to the crib, carrying lighted candles, then saw just how many very small volunteers came forward and realised the potential for disaster.....!)
- ◆ "Help my Unbelief" – a discussion forum for those experiencing doubts or whose faith had been hurt or damaged.
- ◆ Parish Scriptural Prayer Groups (Lectio Divina)
- ◆ The annual open air Mass in Rossbrook (I remember the first one in September 2004 – after weeks of very uncertain weather, the day of the Mass dawned brightly, and the sun shone brilliantly until well into the evening – to this day many of the residents are convinced that you have a direct weather line to God!)
- ◆ Your involvement in the celebration of the Mission Alive Mass in October 2004 – your wonderful singing talent did our parish proud!

You approached all of these initiatives with an infectious enthusiasm which has been inspirational to all who worked with you. We will miss that enthusiasm. We will miss your genuine interest and concern for all, your friendship, your sincerity, your spirituality.

We greatly regret that you are leaving us, Declan. Thank you for all you have achieved for us and with us during the past 3 years.

We wish you God's blessing in your new Ministry.

Yours Sincerely,

Clare McCutcheon, Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council 2003–2006

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

The Dean joins me in thanking Fr. Declan very sincerely. We second everything Clare has said and we could add as much again. We are losing not only a great colleague and team member, but an inspiring friend. We wish him God's every blessing in his new posting.

We welcome Fr. Christopher Fitzgerald who comes to us from Douglas parish. He will live in Fr. Declan's house. He has been appointed Director of Liturgy for the diocese, but will be an assistant priest in this parish in so far as his other commitments allow. We hope that he will have a fulfilling and rewarding ministry among us.

Fr. Tom Clancy

THANKS BISHOP

It was a privilege to welcome Bishop Paddy Lynch, Auxiliary Bishop in Southwark, to celebrate our 10.30 a.m. Mass last Sunday. He went on to preach the afternoon homily in Daunt's Square at the Corpus Christi procession. His welcome in Polish to the fine Polish contingent present was received enthusiastically. His former parish and his present area of responsibility have large ethnic communities from many different countries so he has wide experience with immigrants.

In the course of his inspiring homily, he highlighted that the two basic hungers in the human person, the hunger for God and the hunger of acceptance in love, are both satisfied in the Eucharist where Jesus gives himself as food and accepts in love just as we are. His encouraging message was to rekindle our devotion to the Eucharist and so be nourished in faith, hope and love. God bless you, Bishop Paddy, in your role as pastor and thanks again.

Fr. Tom Clancy

Lest We Forget

There is a great depth of mystery and awe to witness the death of somebody we know well. There is an added sadness to see a mother sit by the bedside of her daughter and see her life ebb away. It's a total reversal of the natural order of things. This was the case at the recent death of Marguerite O'Keeffe, Leesdale, Model Farm Road, who was much too young to die. Marguerite had been battling her illness for about eighteen months, but finally the Lord called to say he had a place ready for her in his Father's house in heaven. She knew in her heart she was fighting a losing battle, but maintained a wonderful spirit of optimism throughout. Her husband Bernard and family cared for her at home almost to the end, and maintained a wonderful aura of care and normality in the house in spite of many pressures. We extend very sincere sympathy to Bernard, her sons Mark and Darren, her daughter Laura, her dear mother, brothers and sister, and her many many friends.

We extend our sympathy also to Mary Murphy, Bishopstown Avenue, on the recent death of her aunt Bridie Lyons at the age of 97. Bridie spent seventy years in the U.S.A. She retired home about six years ago, and was cared for since by her niece Mary in her home at Bishopstown Avenue. Her funeral took place in her native Kerry.

Notice Board

St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly collection next weekend.

Bishopstown Meals on Wheels

Drivers and cooks **urgently** needed. Please contact Pat Harrington at 4544790 between 3.00-5.00 any afternoon.

Bishopstown Community Association

The A.G.M. will take place at Wilton Park House on Tuesday 27th June at 8.00 p.m. New members welcome.

Kenley/Mount Eden

Grasscutting annual meeting on Monday 26th June in the Crypt at 8 p.m. All residents welcome.

God's Word

Readings for 2 July
First Reading:
Wis. 1:13-15,2:23-24
Psalm 29
Second Reading:
Cor. 8:7,9,13-15
Gospel:
Mk. 5:21-43

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

Bible Corner



Miracle workers usually evoke a lively response. People either dismiss them completely or else totally accept them and all that they stand for. The miracle worker is seen to have access to power beyond normal human capabilities and to be able to produce the extraordinary on demand. In that scenario, the miracle worker is given acclaim, deference and reward. Jesus had trouble in escaping that fate when he was instrumental in calming the storm, in healing the sick, and even in raising the dead to life. But in all such situations, Jesus went to great lengths to point out that the power came not from himself alone but from the Father who had sent him and that the purpose of the miracle was not to win admiration but to help the neighbour and to nurture faith in God.

In this weekend's gospel, the storm-frightened disciples expected Jesus to care for them because it was to enable him to escape the crowds that they had set out to cross the lake in the first place. In their eyes, he owed them a favour. For varied reasons, we sometimes feel we should be spared some of the trouble of life. But that is not Jesus' way. Rather, he is with us as a fellow traveller on the journey through the storms of life, calming our frenzied anxieties and enabling us to have faith-filled trust in a caring father. Such is his gift to us if we are open to cry out for it and to accept it.

Fr. Tom Clancy