

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

11th February 2007

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 910

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
18th February

First Reading
1 Sam 26:2,7-9,12-
13,22-23.

Psalms 102

Second Reading
1 Cor 15:45-49

Gospel
Lk 6:27-38

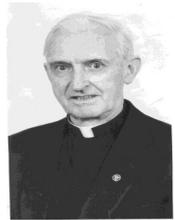
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THE DEAN WRITES

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES - 11TH FEBRUARY



In 1966 there was a World Fair held in Brussels. The Vatican had a stand there. The stand took the form of a small church. In this church was a statue of Our Lady, as one might expect at that time anyhow. The position of the statue was most unusual – right inside the main door, so visitors had to walk around it and naturally look up as they entered. The hands of Our Lady were pointed towards the tabernacle at the top of the church. The symbolism told everything about the place of Our Lady in the Catholic Church – and dismissed many false ideas especially among non-Catholics. Her role in the Church is to lead us to her Son, Jesus Christ.

Many of you who read this Bulletin have been to Lourdes. But even if you were never there you will know it's a place of special devotion of Our Lady. It's a place where the sick come in their thousands every year, and in Lourdes they are very special indeed.

This Sunday, the 11th February, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is World Day for the sick. On Thursday 11th February 1858 Our Lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous – an innocent country child of Lourdes - while out picking sticks for the fire at home. Mary gave the child a number of messages – the importance of penance for everybody – to drink and wash in the water that came from the rock at the Grotto – to get the Parish Priest to build a church there (the most daunting instruction of all for the child, but it was done).

Shortly afterwards some extraordinary cures and miracles took place at Lourdes. But Our Lady told Bernadette her life would not be a bed of roses. In fact she suffered intensely from her illness a few years later, but she was never cured, though many others were. Every year thousands of people come to Lourdes suffering from all kinds of illnesses. Only a small number are cured of their physical disabilities. Millions are cured of illness of the spirit and have their confidence and happiness restored, and go home with a song in their hearts.

Our Lady is still fulfilling her role in Lourdes and here at home – trying to lead us to her Son – and caring for the sick.



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

Email: holyspiritparish@eircom.net

Website: www.dennehyscrossparish.ie

Rest In Peace

Sheila Hannon, Laburnum Lawn, died peacefully at Cork University Hospital on Saturday 3rd February. Sheila had been in failing health for some months, but typical of the person she was, she accepted her illness without resentment or complaint. Sheila was a gentle lady with the refinement and sense of decency of her generation. We extend the sympathy of our community to her husband Leo, her son Henry, her brother John O'Connell, her sister Ena Cahill, daughter-in-law Jill, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, and her loyal friends from her school days. May her dear soul rest in peace.

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

On 21st January, seventy-eight Transition year students and teachers travelled to Lavarone high in the Italian Dolomites. There followed snow filled days where rapid progress was made from the nursery slopes to the dizzy heights of the red slopes. Night activities included ice-skating, bowling, tobogganing and tubing. The students also enjoyed a day trip to Verona where they visited the famous sights.

Notice Board

Pastoral Council

Meeting this Monday 12th in the Parish Centre at 8.15pm.

Alzheimer Society

Carers' support meeting on Wednesday 14th February from 2.00 to 4.00pm and thereafter every second Wednesday of the month, at Bessboro Day Care Centre, Blackrock. All are welcome. Further information from Bessboro at 4972504, email address: southernregion@alzheimer.ie

Looking for inspiration for Lent this year?

Living Lent - An Evening of Reflection and Inspiration at Frankfield/Grange Parish Church, 8.00-9.00 p.m., Wednesday 14th February. Liturgy, music and reading. Resources will be available free of charge after the liturgy.

Blood Donor Clinic

At St. Finbarr's Hurling & Football Club, Neenan Park, Togher, on Thursday 15th February from 6.00 to 9.00 p.m.

Return to Irish Classes for Adults

At Brú Columbanus, Wilton, Mondays 7-9pm. Everyone welcome. Donation €10 towards Brú Columbanus. Contact Anne 4343492.

Bible Corner

DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES

The word disciple means pupil and it is clear from the gospels that Jesus had very many disciples with varying levels of commitment and loyalty. The word apostle means the one who is sent. From among his many disciples, Jesus chose twelve apostles after a full night in prayer.

This weekend's gospel records Jesus returning with his twelve to teach them and the wider gathering of the disciples. The chosen twelve were to be authorised to act in the name of Jesus, to represent him and what he stands for to the world.

The twelve did not come from among the powerful and influential. They were people who would have to work through their own prayer to grapple with the Lord's teaching. "Blessed are the poor." "Blessed are the hungry."

Like the apostle and the disciples we must strive to listen to this gospel message this weekend and allow the spirit of God to guide us in our exploration of what the kingdom of God can mean to our lives.



St. Gobnait – 11th February

Gobnait was a sixth century Irish saint, a native of Clare, who settled first on the Aran Islands. Many traditions concerning her life have come down to us. Among them is the story of her choosing Ballyvourney. She was told by an angel that the place of her resurrection would not be in the west, and that she should travel until she found nine white deer grazing. She travelled southwards through Kerry and Cork and eventually found the nine white deer in Ballyvourney on the Cork-Kerry border. There she established a religious centre and house of healing. Devotion to her continues to this day, particularly in West Cork. Cures have been attributed to her during her life and since then. Each year pilgrimages take place in her honour at the shrine in Ballyvourney. A notable stained glass image of St. Gobnait is to be found in the chapel at Gougane Barra.

- Intercom

When I ask you to listen...

When I ask you to listen to me and you start giving advice, you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me, and you begin to tell me that I shouldn't feel that way, you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me, and you feel that you have something to solve my problem, then you have failed me, strange as that may seem.

Listen! All I ask is that you listen, not talk, or do; just hear me.

Advice is cheap, and I can do things for myself. I'm not helpless. You contribute to my fear and weakness.

But when you accept as a simple fact that I do feel what I feel, no matter how irrational, then I can stop trying to convince you, and get on with the business of understanding what's behind my feelings.

Perhaps that's why prayer works, sometimes, for some people, because God is quiet, and He doesn't give advice or try to fix things. He just listens and lets you work it out for yourself.

So please listen and just hear me.

And if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn, and I'll listen to you.