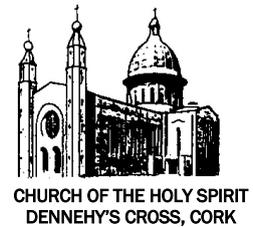


Ballineaspaig Bulletin



11th March 2007

Third Sunday of Lent

No.914

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
18th March

First Reading
Josh 5:9-12

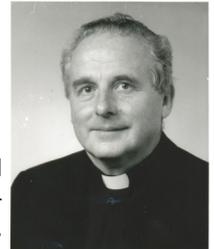
Psalms 33

Second Reading
2 Cor 5:17-21

Gospel
Luke 15:1-3,11-32

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES

OUT OF STEP



There is widespread agreement that alcohol abuse is a national crisis. It is destroying many family relationships and many individual lives. The popular advice is to drink sensibly and in moderation. Such moderation is impossible for some people and often great hurt is caused before they find out. For them, there is no middle ground between abstinence and addiction. The A.A. enables many such people to choose total abstinence often after much pain. Society must be deeply indebted to A.A. organisations.

But what about choosing voluntary total abstinence? It is out of fashion, of course, and marks one out as out of step. Yet, there are many valid reasons, practical and spiritual, for choosing the total abstinence route. Alcohol is a luxury. Giving up such a luxury even for Lent or on Fridays or for life could benefit many in our poverty stricken world.

Alcohol can quickly become a controlling destructive habit that calls for frequent satisfaction no matter what the inconvenience or hurt to others. Advertising and peer pressure to binge drink is causing harm among teenagers as it mars their development. Maybe they need some significant adults in their lives to be total abstainers. Maybe, society again needs adult abstainers to show that life can be lived without this drug. Maybe that is what the Lord is asking.

Few advocate such a radical route nowadays. Even the recent Bishops' pastoral letter did not go that far. Is it that we have become more mature about such things? Or is it that we have lost our nerve about the choice of a radical solution? Have we courage to keep child centred celebrations, at least like baptisms, first communion, confirmations alcohol free?

Such a choice will leave one out of step.

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



Fairtrade fortnight is over but keep buying the products....

The major supermarkets and shops are now carrying an ever-growing range of Fairtrade products, And don't forget, that if you don't see what you're looking for, be sure to ask.



St. Patrick's Weekend Masses

Friday: Vigil Mass at 7.30pm
Saturday: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15, 6.15pm
Sunday: 9.00, 10.30 and 12.15pm
Monday: 10.00am

Email: holyspiritparish@eircom.net

Website: www.dennehycrossparish.ie

Rest In Peace

Michael Sexton, Liam Lynch Park, died peacefully at the South Infirmary on February 13th. A native of Spur Hill, he worked in Fords in Cork and Dagenham and was a long-time resident of the Park. Here, with his wife Mary, he reared his family of four sons and one daughter. A man with a great sense of humorous fun, his storytelling will be missed, not only by his bowling friends but by many others as well. In keeping with a long family connection with the S.M.A. house, his funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr. Eoin McKenna, S.M.A. in Wilton with burial in Killingley, just over the hill from his native place. We offer our sincere sympathies to his wife Mary, his sons Michael, Maurice, Donal, Duane, his daughter Suzanne, his grandchildren, sisters, extended family and friends. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sé.

William Kenny, Liam Lynch Park died peacefully in Marymount on 15th February. Reared in Glanmire, Bill spent most of his working life in Ranks and most of his married life in Liam Lynch Park. A dedicated family man, he gave great kindly care in their illness to his wife Anne and his daughter Ann, both of whom predeceased him. In turn, he was well cared for over a long illness by his daughter Mary to whom we offer our deepest sympathies. A quiet, friendly, welcoming man he will be missed by his sisters, brother, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, relatives and friends. May he rest in peace.

Catherine Clinton, Mount Eden died very unexpectedly on February 18th. She was taken suddenly ill after Sunday dinner at home and died that night in the C.U.H. Even though she was a cancer patient for two years, she had battled on very courageously and on St. Stephen's Day had joyfully celebrated fifty years of married life with John. Indeed, home and family were the centre of her life, together with her faith in the Eucharist and devotion to Our Lady, especially through the Rosary. She will be greatly missed. We offer our sincere sympathy to her husband John, to her children Mary, Delia, Lynda, Noelle, Barry, John, Edward, Leonard and their spouses, as well as to her grandchildren, her sister and a wide circle of family and friends. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sí i gconnuí.

Books for Prisoners: The Outcome

So many books were generously donated that not only were the current needs of Cork Prison met, but books were also given to the Oxfam shop, and to the Lough Parish for one of their projects.

Grateful thanks to all contributors for a wonderful response
- Faith in Action Group.

LENTEN CORNER

Sacred Space

Fellow Travellers



The Way of the Cross depicts the final days of the passion and death of Jesus.

Reflecting and meditating on the Stations are a reminder to us of the ultimate sacrifice of love. This Lent we might travel that journey with Him and bring with us in prayer somebody we know who is terminally ill.

This week we will add a cross to our Sacred Space.

"We adore you O Christ, and we praise you,
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world."

Bible Corner

"WHAT IF"



A current successful radio series debates how the world might be different if certain key events in the past had not happened as they did, in fact, happen.

What if John F. Kennedy had not been shot?

What if John Paul II had not become pope?

What if Ireland had not joined the EU?

The list is endless. As we listen to this weekend's dramatic account of God's call of Moses, we might ponder what if Moses had ignored or refused God's call. Would the Hebrews ever have escaped from Egypt? So, would there ever have been a Passover feast in which Jesus gave us the Eucharist? The what if does not arise because Moses did respond to God's call reluctantly but with total commitment. He crosschecked the call with the Lord. He doubted his standing for the task ahead. But once reassured that God was with him, there was no procrastination.

Fortunately, many believers continue to follow the call of the Lord to bring God's people out of oppression, despair, poverty and guilt into a place of trust, security, hope and love.

Fr. Tom Clancy

NOTICE BOARD

Bulletins to the Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next weekend.

Pastoral Council

Meeting this Monday 12th in the parish centre at 8.15pm.

Emmaus - Christian Experience Then and Now

Lenten talk By Fr. John Newman at Brú Columbanus on Thursday 15th at 8pm. Admission free. Tea and biscuits served.

Cork Marriage Counselling Centre

For marriage and individual counselling call 4275678, Monday/Thursday 9.30-5pm, Friday 9.30-4.00pm.

Pre-marriage courses, call 4272277, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri, 10.00 to 4.00pm., Wed. 10.00 to 2.00pm. Courses should ideally be booked at least 18 months before the wedding to secure a suitable date. (Courses fully booked until September).

Alzheimer Society

Carers' support meeting on Wednesday 14th, 3-4.30pm and every 2nd Wednesday of the month, at Bessboro Day Care Centre, Blackrock, tel. 4972504 for further information. All welcome.

Women's Role in the Birth of the Irish State.

Talk by Johanna Twomey at Curraheen Family Centre on Wednesday 14th at 10am. €2 incl. tea or coffee.

Crusaders Toastmasters, Bishopstown

Next meeting Wednesday, 14th March at 8.00pm in the SMA Hall, Wilton, and every two weeks thereafter. All welcome - an opportunity to meet other people from all walks of life and to explore and develop your communication and public speaking skills.