

Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

18th March 2007

Fourth Sunday of Lent

No.915

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES

EASTER HOMECOMING



Air travellers coming home for Easter have booked their tickets long since, as early booking ensures cheaper fares. Easter is one of the busiest times of the year to be coming to Ireland. Like Christmas, Easter is a hugely significant time for family reunions especially among family members who have been away from home for some time. Such reunions bring great joy to the elders who realise from experience how precious it is that family values and traditions are celebrated and shared. Such celebrations put a spring in many a step. They often play a key role in healing hurts and renewing loving relationships. They build up Easter joy.

Another family reunion that is part of Easter is the homecoming to the family of worshipping believers, of those who no longer share regularly in the weekly Eucharist for whatever reasons. For them Easter is a focused opportunity to touch base again with the Lord Jesus who suffered, died and rose again for each one of us. It is a time to link into the sacraments that make present again for us the healing, nurturing, enabling love of the Lord, especially in Reconciliation and Eucharist.

There is no special offer for early bookings, but as this is the final bulletin to the homes before Easter, we want to invite you, especially if you have been away/abroad from us for a while to join us for Easter.

Reconciliation Service is on Sunday 1st April at 5.00pm.

Eucharist on Holy Thursday (5th April) at 7.30pm

Stations on Good Friday (6th April) at 11 and 12 noon, with the reading of the **Passion and Holy Communion** at 3.00pm.

Easter Vigil is at 9.00pm. on Holy Saturday (7th April)

Will you plan to join us? Your presence will enrich the celebrations and put a lift in all our steps.

Life teaches us that homecoming should never be postponed.

The risk of missing out altogether is too great.

Put the dates in your diary or, even, attach them to the kitchen curtains. Come for Holy Week and bring a friend.

Easter joy to you and yours.

Fr. Tom Clancy



Parishioners viewing and purchasing Fairtrade products displayed in the Crypt recently.

MOTHERS' DAY

We wish every blessing on all the mothers in our parish. Enjoy the occasion.

CONFIRMATION DAY

Thursday 22nd March
10.30 am

All Welcome

(No 10.00am Mass that morning)

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

Excerpts from the prayer often called St. Patrick's Breastplate"

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.



Bible Corner



Good Stories do not need explanation. They do need to be well presented. Then personal reflection and application will enrich the listeners. Sunday's gospel is one such great story. Known to the older generation as the story of the prodigal son, the younger generation term it the loving father, while many good living well settled folk may well be tempted to identify self righteously with the elder brother. Each of these three characters highlights aspects of the human heart and of life experience. The younger son typifies a common occurrence of one taking his chance and brashly taking on the world only to come crashing down with a painful bump. In failure, some return home. Hopefully, in most families, there is a welcome home. But such a welcome is sometimes resented by those who have never kicked the traces but who have meticulously served as dependable family members.

For Jesus, the story was multi-purposed. Above all, he wanted to highlight that God the Father's mercy is always awaiting us no matter what the failure and that making mistakes is part of the tapestry of human living.

Failure repented of and forgiven has the potential to help us grow in maturity and love. It is in our weakness that God's glory is revealed.

Fr. Tom Clancy

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The implementation of the proposed work in the porches is delayed due to Cork City Council's notice of proposal to add the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit to their record of protected structures.

The parish website is undergoing development and among other changes, a section dealing with Fair Trade will be included.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to **Denis Hickey**, Rossbrook, on the death of his father, Stephen Hickey, Ballydehob.

LOCAL SCHOOLS

In February seven **Mount Mercy** transition year students and two teachers visited Calcutta with the Hope Foundation to experience at first hand the poverty, deprivation and neglect that the street children have to live through. They have raised €40,000 for Hope since September which went to funding educational projects.. The girls danced, laughed and cried with the street children and came home with renewed enthusiasm to continue their fund raising efforts.

Congratulations to all preparing for First Holy Communion in **St. Catherine's School**. On Saturday, Fr. Tom, pupils, teachers and parents came together for a most moving celebration of First Confession. It was wonderful to see such a great family gathering, and the girls made the ceremony so special with their beautiful art work, singing, readings and prayerful presence.

We also wish all our 6th class girls well as they prepare for Confirmation on Thursday next.

Reminder: Most classes are now full for the 2007-2008 year. Open Day for those enrolled for next year takes place on 3rd May. Enquiries to 4546868 or stcathns:iol.ie

NOTICE BOARD

Easter Dues

Envelopes will be distributed to the homes over the coming weeks.

The Eucharist - A Living Challenge

Lenten talk By Fr. Michael O'Regan, OSA, at Brú Columbanus on Thursday 22nd at 8pm. Admission free. Tea and biscuits served.

The Reasonableness of Belief

Talk by Professor William Reville, U.C.C. on Friday 23rd March in the Meeting Room at the Church of the Real Presence, Curraheen, 8.00pm. All welcome, Admission free.

Baile'n Easpag Gramophone Circle

Our monthly recital will take place on Wednesday next 21st at 3.00pm in the crypt of our church at Dennehy's Cross, when Paddy Murphy will give the recital. Everybody is welcome to attend.

LENTEN CORNER



Sacred Space

Fasting and Abstinence (Sacrifice in Love)

For our grandparents, Lent was a time of sacrifice, a time of fasting and abstaining from the pleasures of the world. Often, it was a world of "dry black bread and the sugarless tea".

The Ireland of 2007 still respects the tradition of Lent, seeing it as a time of change, an opportunity "to do without" the pleasures of the world.

Lent can make a difference. Sacrificial love is the spirit of self-forgetfulness and the willingness to suffer. Pleasure, power or possessions are not all that matter. Lent is a reminder that denying ourselves pleasures and sacrificing in love is a new beginning.

Contact Details

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God's Word

Readings for Sunday 25th March
First Reading: Is.43:16-21
Psalm 125
Second Reading: Phil 3:8-14
Gospel: John 8:1-11