

# Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

25th March 2007

Fifth Sunday of Lent

No. 916

## God's Word

Readings for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April

First Reading  
Is 50:4-7

Psalm 21

Second Reading  
Phil 2:6-11

Gospel  
Lk 22:14-23:56

## The Dean Writes

### Our Need of God



That well-known spiritual writer, Fr. Henri Houwen was at one time chaplain on a large liner on the Holland-America route. On one occasion, the huge liner was inching her way into Rotterdam Harbour in dense fog. The captain was on the bridge issuing instructions – and very tense. The priest was there too as an interested spectator. In his anxiety to see that everybody did the right thing, the Captain stumbled against the priest, and impatiently ordered him, “For God’s sake, Father, will you go down below and keep out of my way.” After a moment he added, “On second thoughts you better stick around, this might be the only time I really need you.”

I thought of this incident recently when I read an interview with a well-known personality in an Examiner supplement. She was asked: “Do you pray?” The response, “Not really.” But, like the captain she added, “I might if I were in a really critical situation.” When everything is going nicely for us we can be very independent of God. But when things go wrong, and a crisis arises we can be like the captain of the liner in a dense fog – you would never know when we might need the bit of religion.

The reality is that we are capable of far greater than that. After all, religion is meant to celebrate life, foster happiness, and human creativity – reflecting the creation of God Himself. I often think of all the lovely, talented young people I came to know in the Parish since I came here almost twenty-three years ago – altar servers and school children. Where are they now? No doubt, many have flown the nest and are working or married elsewhere. Rarely enough do I meet them in Church. There is no need for a dichotomy between talents and religion – quite the contrary, they are meant to complement each other.

We need you. You will need the Lord too. And, as Fr. Tom pointed out last Sunday, the Lord is waiting for each one to come home to a big welcome.

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or give it to a friend  
or neighbour

## CONFIRMED IN THE SPIRIT

Spring sunshine on Thursday morning created a wonderful context for our parish Confirmation ceremony when thirty-nine girls from St. Catharine’s committed themselves to being active members of the Church for life.

It was a joyful and happy occasion for the girls themselves, their families, teachers, priests. The chief celebrant was Mgr. Kevin O’Callaghan. Patrick Killeen coordinated the beautiful musical input of singing, organ and violins.

The party provided in the crypt afterwards by the Parents Committee was deeply appreciated by one and all, especially by younger brothers.

We wish the girls themselves every blessing.



## Notice Board

### St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly collection next Sunday at all Masses.

### Gala Concert

At St. Finbarr's South Church on Friday next 30<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm. with Cork Barrack Street Band, City of Cork Male Voice Choir, Chorus of Opera Cork, Tenor David Maguire, Soprano Suzanne Dunne, Baritone Owen C. Lynch. Tickets €15 available in the South Church sacristy after all Masses, Pro Musica or at the door on the night.

### The Future of the Irish Church

Talk by Rev. Jim Good on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in the meeting room at Curraheen Road Church at 8.00pm. All are welcome. Admission free.

### Beginning Experience

There is a special heartache for those who find themselves single again. Now there is help. For information contact us at Beginning Experience, 34 Paul Street, tel. 4275136. Weekend Date: 13-15<sup>th</sup> April at St. Dominic's Retreat Centre, Ennismore, Montenotte.

### Open Day at Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa

Over 40 full-time and part-time courses available. Talk to students, meet the tutors. Information meetings at 10.00-12 noon, 2.00-4.00pm. and 7.30pm. on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone welcome.

### Bishopstown Community Association Ltd.

Meeting at Wilton Park House, Wilton, on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 7.30pm to facilitate the formation of a Community Council. All interested bodies not previously notified are invited to attend.

### Lifelong Learning Festival

In Curraheen Family Centre, Gaelscoil Naomh Therese, at 10.00a.m. All welcome. Admission free.

Tues. 27 March: Craft Display & Demonstrations,

Wed. 28<sup>th</sup>: Flower Arranging Demonstration,

Fri. 30<sup>th</sup>: Silk Painting Workshop.

### Flower Demonstration – Embracing Africa

At the Silversprings Hotel, Tivoli on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm by Ann O'Hara. Admission €15 in aid of Londiani Kenya project.

### Monster Easter Egg Fair

At the Imperial Hotel today Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>, opening 1.00pm. Many other exciting gifts on sale at incredible prices. Organised by the Greater Chernobyl Cause, all funds will support the Street children of Ukraine.

### Lenten Corner

## Sacred Space



Christ's forgiveness of the woman caught in adultery not only changed her heart but the hearts of all those who condemned her. Isn't it only to be expected that God's compassionate, unconditional forgiving love of us should reach from our hearts to all who hurt us?

"Forgive as you are forgiven". It isn't always easy to forgive someone but it can begin with a silent decision, "I do forgive" and God will do the rest together with us.

Today I will put the name of someone who has hurt me in my 'Sacred Space' and pray, "I forgive....."

## Bible Corner

## COMPASSION



Divorce is more often in the headlines than marriage. Infidelity makes news more dramatically than fidelity. In our country, there is a pressing need to cope appropriately with the hardship caused by marriage breakdown. There is an equally urgent responsibility to do everything that will strengthen family bonds in ways that enrich the partners, nurture their love, heal their hurts and protect their commitment. It is sometimes hard to balance the demands of justice and of compassion when compassion towards one person seems to involve injustice towards the other.

There is no doubting Christ's compassion as we see in His forgiveness of the woman taken in adultery in tomorrow's gospel. Condemnation is not Christ's way. Rather, His forgiveness challenges her to live fidelity in the future. Contact with Christ restores her self-respect which enables her to make a fresh beginning. Contact with a genuine follower of Christ could do the same in many a despaired filled heart.

Fr. Tom Clancy

## Friends

During the Special Olympics some years ago, one of the competitors when only yards from the finishing line fell heavily. Instantly another runner stopped and gently helped the distraught runner to his feet. Then together they crossed the line. Afterwards dismissing any praise for his action, he declared, "I had to help him. He is my friend."

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, often we find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand.

The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate, not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.

"At the eve of our lives, we will be judged on our love." (St. John of the Cross)

- Arthur O'Callaghan

## Rest in Peace

**Sean Nevin**, from Lima Lawn, who died on the 9<sup>th</sup> March aged 82 years, was originally from Belfast. He left his beloved city in Easter of 1945 and made his way to Cork. He worked for forty years in Suttons and the last twenty-six for the H.S.E. His wife Peg predeceased him ten years ago. Sean had one sister who passed away seven years ago and one brother Frank who lives on the Magazine Road. Sean lived a full life and really enjoyed seeing his fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild whenever they came to visit. A big thank-you to all his great friends and neighbours in Lima Lawn, whose help was so much appreciated by the family. Sean is survived by his four sons, and one daughter, brother Frank and sisters-in-law, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

## In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to **Mrs. Alice Clarke**, Bishopstown Avenue, on the death of her brother, Mr. Billy O'Donovan, Bantry.