

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

15th April 2007

Second Sunday of Easter

No. 919

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
22nd April

First Reading
Acts 5:27-32,40-41

Psalm 29

Second Reading
Apoc 5:11-14

Gospel
Jn 21:1-19

THE DEAN WRITES

ST. THOMAS - PATRON OF DOUBTERS



The early morning radio bulletins on Easter Monday had this disturbing item of news - a very high percentage of our young people between the ages of 16 and 24 have no idea what the feast of Easter is all about. I don't know where this survey was taken, but it cannot have been in our Parish where all our young people in that age group are highly intelligent and very well informed.

Now, they may have doubts about certain points in our religion - a different matter entirely. The great spiritual writer, Thomas Merton wrote, "The man of faith who has never experienced doubt is not a man of faith." The person who experiences doubt is likely to be a person of honesty and courage - just like you. Furthermore, did you know who your Patron Saint is? St. Thomas. Read about him in the Gospel of next Sunday's Mass.

Jesus appeared to his apostles and friends on Easter Sunday evening. Thomas had gone out for a walk at the time. When he returned they told him excitedly about their visitor. Thomas was not impressed "Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands, and can put my finger into the holes they made, I refuse to believe." The following Sunday Jesus appeared to them again. Thomas was present. Jesus said to Thomas: "Put your finger here, look, here are my hands." Thomas replied with words that millions of believers have since made their own: My Lord, and my God.

There is a tendency to hide our wounds in the mistaken belief that they display our weakness - especially our spiritual wounds. Jesus did not hide his, because they are a source of hope and consolation for us, as they were for Thomas. He reassures us all that he is the same Jesus who suffered and died on Good Friday. As he said himself: "I am not a ghost - a ghost does not have flesh and blood as you can see I have." "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

That's us, you and me.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

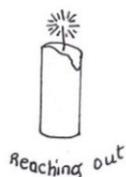
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PARISH PILGRIMAGE



COMING EVENT - PARISH PILGRIMAGE

A Parish Pilgrimage will take place on
Sunday 27th May to Gougane Barra

Easter Ceremonies

Great work was put into the preparation of the Easter ceremonies by our Priests and the many dedicated volunteers. Thank you to everybody involved for presenting us with such prayerful and uplifting experiences.

A special word of thanks to the children who performed so beautifully at the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Rest in Peace

Esme Boylan, (nee Pope), Model Farm Road, died on 4th April at Mount Desert in her 92nd year. After their early married life living in the Lough Parish, Esme and her husband George moved here where her family and her home were the centre of her life. She will be greatly missed by her family, especially Pat who cared for her. Good Friday can be a particularly lonely day for a funeral but the prayerful presence of family and a wide circle of supportive neighbours and friends made the occasion a thankful celebration of a long, fruitful life, taking reassurance from the gospel promise, "this day you will be with me in Paradise." To her daughter Pat, her sons Brendan and Alan, her grandchildren, Stephen, Richard and Eleanor, her great-grandchildren, her daughters-in-law Valerie and Alice, we offer our sincerest sympathies. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sí.

Sympathy

We offer our sincerely sympathy to **Virgilia O'Donoghue**, Farralea Park, on the death in the Philippines of her father, Anecito Tumanda.

THANKS AGAIN

Even though the Dues envelopes were late going out, many people have responded promptly and generously for which the Dean and myself are very grateful. A special word of thanks to our dedicated and courteous distributors/collectors. We will not impose on you again for another six months, please God.

Thanks again.

Fr. Tom Clancy

Notices

Mother of Good Counsel

The annual Novena will take place in St. Augustine's Church from Tuesday 17th to Thursday 26th April, at 11.00, 4.00 and 8.00 pm. Preacher: Fr. Michael Brennock, O.S.A.

Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle

Our monthly recital on Wednesday next 15th April in the crypt of our church at Dennehy's Cross, will be given by Seamus Murphy. Glorious music is assured. Bí ann gan teip.

Bible Corner



EXPLORING OUR ROOTS

St. Luke could well be described as the Charlie Bird of the early decades of our Church. Like Charlie, Luke was a thorough researcher travelling all over the place and speaking to anyone and everyone who had been part of the action. Starting locally, Luke first wrote a biography of Jesus. This gospel came to be named after Luke himself rather than after Jesus. On the back of its success, Luke put together a second book called the **Acts of the Apostles**, after the two main players in the story, Peter and Paul. The first half of this book dealt with the exploits of Peter in establishing the Church in Jerusalem and its environs mainly. When Paul set out to take the news of the Risen Jesus all over the Near East, Cyprus and Greece particularly, Luke was with him. He did not have a microphone and recorder but used his scroll and quills to give us the second part of the book. His reporting was vivid and accurate. It has stood the test of time. It is as significant today as it was two thousand years ago, and we will take our first Mass reading from it over these coming weeks. However, if we are to benefit from this exploration of our roots we need to read the whole of the *Acts of the Apostles* like you would read any biography or history. If we settle for the short paragraph from it every now and again we will never get the full picture.

It is the easiest book of the Bible to read and quite fascinating. Look out for the contrast between Peter's solid conservative preaching and Paul's more flamboyant style. Both were vital to the early Church. Paul seems to have been a difficult colleague to work with as John and Mark found out when he was sent home from one missionary journey when Paul thought that he did not have the bottle for the dangerous task ahead.

The diversity of different people's gifts alerts us to the variety of needs in the church. Today the church needs each of our gifts. Read the Acts and be inspired to see where you fit in.

Fr. Tom Clancy

Turkwell Irrigation Scheme Association (TISA)



Last May you contributed to the Special Church Door Turkwell Collection. With the money raised an irrigation scheme was developed, providing for the needs of 300 farming families in our sister parish, Turkwell, in Kenya. These families cultivate 250 hectares of crops, providing vital food and some security.

Recently the Turkwell Irrigation Scheme Association sent us a report on what was achieved, using our parish contribution. The report was signed by Francis Escibitar (Schemes Coordinator) and Fr. Oliver Noonan, PP. The money was used in Turkwell, to buy and transport the construction materials, and to pay for expertise from the Kenya Department of Agriculture; otherwise all the construction work and labour was provided at no cost by the Turkwell farmers themselves.

As a result they were able to sink three new shallow wells, rehabilitate three old wells, and install seven hand pumps, - and the system is now up and running. They even had some money left over, which they plan to put towards further irrigation for additional farming families.

