

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

10th June 2007

The Body and Blood of Christ

No.927

The Dean Writes.



FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

I attended a birthday party in Dunmanway last Friday night. In case you might think I was a special guest at a cosy family get-together, I might as well tell you there were 174 other guests present. I was honoured to be invited as a friend.

“Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life for which the first was made.”

(Robert Browning)

Our host was celebrating his 90th birthday – his wife too was celebrating – but a mere 80th. It was a night to remember, with great joie de vivre, and celebration. Our host welcomed us all, making special mention of his older sister, who hopped on the train at Dunmanway 80 years before, and settled in Dublin thereafter. She arrived almost as sprightly after her trip from Dublin on Friday night.

As you know, the Yanks are great for surveys of all kinds. Dr. Heather Lacey from the University of Michigan did a survey of different age groups to determine their attitudes to ageing. Apparently how we react to growing older is a combination of health and perspective. A positive outlook is even more important than declining health – people are remarkable in their ability to adapt to circumstances.

The survey further shows that spiritual beliefs (especially Church going) are good for you. They positively affect physical and mental health, with beneficial effects ranging from prevention of cardiovascular disease and depression to increasing longevity. (Think of that !!)

Of course there is no point in trying to fool ourselves that life at 80 is as trouble free as at 30. “For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven. A time to weep, and a time to laugh – a time to mourn, and a time to dance.”

But one thing for sure I’ve learned from my birthday friend – in older years we should give ourselves time for good memories, less time for nostalgia – pretending that the past was any better than the present.

Thank God for the good we have done - and not worry about what we haven’t done. And never, ever, cut ourselves off from family and friends, and neighbours. “And the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds.”

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 17th June

First Reading
2 Sam 12:7-10,13

Psalm 31

Second Reading
Gal 2:16,19-21

Gospel
Luke 7:36-8:3

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or give it to a friend or neighbour

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! CORRECTION !

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION
Today Sunday 10th June

Please note that the parish group will meet at Proby's Quay at **3.45pm.** and walk over South Gate Bridge to Daunt Square. All are invited to participate.

Pentecost Inter-Church Service

The annual Service was held in the crypt on Wednesday 30th May. Those present included Rev. Helen Steel and Dean Nigel Dunne, Church of Ireland; Rev. John Faris, Presbyterian Church; Fr. Tom Clancy, P.P. and Fr. Christy Fitzgerald.

Guest preacher, Rev. Laurence Graham, Methodist Minister, outlined the life and times of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church. John Wesley, he stated, dedicated his life-long ministry in bringing God's love and mercy to all. Travelling mostly on horseback, he journeyed throughout Britain and Ireland in the 18th century preaching an estimated thirty thousand sermons.

The service was enhanced by the hymn singing of those present with piano accompaniment provided by Elaine Gordon.

Rosalie Moloney, Chairperson of the Pastoral Council thanked all present for their participation in what was a joyful, prayerful and inspirational evening. The Service ended with a joint blessing from the assembled clergy, followed by refreshments served by our hardworking ladies' committee.

"It is a beauteous evening"

- William Wordsworth

Gougane Barra, Sunday 27th May, Feast of the Holy Spirit, was such an evening – a beauteous evening – maybe a tad cold! Our Parish Pilgrimage was wonderful. Thank you. Mary Frances O'Neill.

My God in My Neighbour

A Parishioner's Thoughts



"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

There is an inseparable connection between love of God and love of neighbour. If I love God, it follows that I must love my neighbour; if I do not love my neighbour, how can I claim to love God, in whose image and likeness my neighbour was formed?

Who is my neighbour? In answer to the question "who is my neighbour?" Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, who, finding a fellow human being in need, without any hesitation tended to his wounds, took him to a safe place and ensured that he was given all the care he needed. This eloquent parable provides us with a clear answer. Regardless of nationality, social status or religious belief, anyone who needs me and whom I can help is my neighbour.



Bible Corner

In preparation for the Leaving Cert this week, students are advised again and again to read the examination question carefully and thus ensure that they answer the question asked. The lurking danger is that spotting a particular phrase, they assume that they know what the examiner is asking. Alas, not always so!

Something similar could happen with this weekend's first reading. Knowing that this is the feast of Corpus Christi, then hearing that Melchizedek brought bread and wine, we could assume that he was getting ready to offer sacrifice. Not so. He was bringing food and drink to a battle weary Abraham and his troops, in keeping with the noble Hebrew tradition of hospitality to those in need.

Similarly in this weekend's gospel, Jesus may be preparing the people for the late gift of the Eucharist, but at this stage, he is firstly feeding the hungry who need to be fed before nightfall.

Both Melchizedek and Jesus are giving thanks in blessing to God for all his gifts and his care of us. Both stories remind us of our traditions of being generous to the poor and of caring for the weary from the battles of life. The Eucharist strengthens us to answer these calls whether in Darfur or in Cork.

Fr. Tom Clancy

In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to **Mary Murphy**, Wilton Gardens, on the death of her brother, Sam Tanner.

NOTICE BOARD

Bulletins to the Homes

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

Pastoral Council

June meeting on Monday 11th at 8.15pm in the Parish Centre.

Alzheimer Society

Carers support meeting on Wednesday 13th June in our Day Care Centre in Bessboro, Blackrock, from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tel. 4972504.

Crypt Bridge Club

We would like to thank all our members for a very pleasant year's Bridge. We will be running Open Bridge on Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm sharp from 3rd June to 4th September. All welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits served. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Still Haven't Found What You're Looking For?

Summer Youth Festival at Knock Shrine, Co Mayo, 26-29 July, 16-35 years, is an opportunity for young people to take time out to reflect on their lives and what God is offering. Cost on donation basis with accommodation and food provided, just bring a sleeping bag, free buses from certain locations. Information from Sheena at 01-6753690 or 086-3672131 and www.youth2000.ie or www.geocities.com/knock-shrine