

# Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

24th February 2008

Third Sunday of Lent

No. 953

## God's Word

Readings for Sunday  
Sunday 2nd March

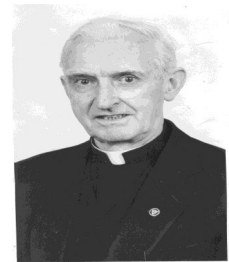
First Reading  
1 Sam 16:1, 6,-7, 10-13

Psalms 22

Second Reading  
Eph 5:8-14

Gospel Jn 9:1-41

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



This Sunday's Gospel not only teaches us a deep and important lesson, but it inspires and challenges us to reach for higher things. We know how pathetic it is when people come to depend on others for material handouts. It somehow erodes their confidence and self-respect. They may need a hand-out to carry them over a bad patch, but they need a hand-up even more so. Their reaction to their position may take the form of resentment and aggression.

People can become spiritually dependent also, and that too is pathetic. Those of us of a more mature age had excellent teachers and spiritual guides in our formative years, and this was great. But it would have been even better had they led us to find the strength of the Lord within ourselves, and the courage and inspiration to launch out into the deep waters of life, and grow in so doing. Give a man a fish and it will fill his hunger for the day - teach him how to fish and it will fill his hunger for life.

This is what Jesus did for the woman he met by the well. Instead of preaching from a height, he humbly asked her for a drink of water. In the course of conversation it transpired that the lady had been looking for love, happiness and fulfilment (she was married five times). All worthy aspirations, but she was looking in the wrong places. Just like ourselves - the 'must have' craving for latest fashions, bigger cars, exotic holiday destinations, and an insatiable appetite for praise and popularity. St. Augustine had the same problem as a young man - and then he found the Lord was patiently waiting for him in his own heart.

The Lord alone could fill the awful void the lady by the well experienced within herself and he did. What he has done for others - he will do for you.

Ireland's First  
Fairtrade Parish



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## Rest in Peace

**Maureen Sheehan** (nee O'Connor) Liam Lynch Park, slipped quietly home to God in her own home surrounded by her caring family on 13th February. Such a leaving was very appropriate for a gentle quiet kind lady whose home and family were the cornerstone of her life. Her beloved son Gerald died similarly only last June. Maureen, a native of Waterfall, did not move too far when she came to the Park with her late husband, Thomas, to set up home. Here she was a much respected neighbour. A woman of great faith especially in the Eucharist, she included so many in her prayers. She will be greatly missed. To her son John, her daughters Mary and Rosarie, her grandchildren Leanne, Martin, Christopher, Aisling, Emma and Sarah, her daughter-in-law, sisters-in-law, brother-in-law and the wider circle of family and friends we offer our sincere sympathies. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sí í gconúí.

### *Friends*

*Bless O Lord, the good people who have come into my life and have refreshed me with their warmth and love.*

## NOTICE BOARD

### Ministers of the Eucharist

All ministers of the Eucharist, especially new ministers, are invited to a meeting in the crypt on Tuesday 4th March at 8.00pm.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Monthly collection will take place next Sunday at all Masses.

### Explore the Wonder and Mystery Of God's Love in your Life

A series of Saturdays for single adults. Venue: Holy Trinity, Fr. Matthew Quay, (gathering in Third Order Chapel) on 1st March, 5th April and 10th May, 10.45am to 2.00pm. For further information please contact Sr. Bridget at 087-4167126.

### Street Leagues

For boys aged 6 to 12 are recommencing on Saturday 1st March at the Barrs Club in Togher at 10am. Boys will be able to go hurling or football and playing gear and helmets will be provided. The session will be on in the new all-weather pitch so runners should be worn. Ronan Curran will be in attendance and there will be an open draw for all present for some helmets and sliotars. All welcome!

### Gala Concert

A unique opportunity can be had to hear the renowned Cork soprano, Mary Hegarty, in concert in her home parish of Ballinlough. Mary is performing with the Wilcollane Singers and other guests on Thursday 6th March at 8pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Ballinlough. The concert is in aid of the Ursuline Kenyan Programme. Tickets cost €25 and are available in the Ursuline Secondary School, Blackrock, Our Lady of Lourdes N.S., Ballinlough Church and in Pro Musica, Oliver Plunkett Street. Please support a worthy cause!

## BIBLE CORNER



### LIFE OF FRIENDSHIP

When the supply is endangered, water becomes a priority even in Irish lives as happened in Galway last summer. In ancient and arid Palestine, drinking water supply is always near the surface of Jewish consciousness. In that country, water comes from springs and wells and by collecting rainwater in cisterns the traveller always had to take into account where one could get water on a journey. Jesus was no exception. But he rode his luck in presuming that a Samaritan woman would let him use her bucket to draw water. Sectarian bitterness ran very deep between Jews and Samaritans. Certainly, the thought of helping a Jew on his way to or from worshipping in Jerusalem would have been anathema to any Samaritan worth his salt. But Jesus was not deflected. Having satisfied his thirst, he reached across the divide to use water as a symbol of God's love that nurtures our relationship with him, a relationship we call eternal life.

The teaching device in this weekend's gospel is that a statement of Jesus is misunderstood by a Samaritan woman, which gives Jesus the opportunity to explain the faith more fully. It is an opportunity from which we can all benefit.

Fr. Tom



## 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 is 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."

### In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to :

**Séan Scriven**, Kenley Drive, on the death of his brother Seamus in Ballygeary.

**Jean O'Driscoll**, The Belfrey, Model Farm Road, on the recent death of her mother, Kathleen O'Mahony of Drisheen, Skibbereen.

Happy are those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.