

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



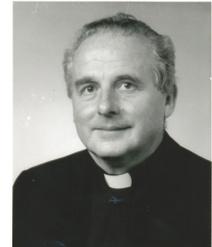
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

2nd March 2008

Fourth Sunday of Lent

No. 954

FR. TOM WRITES



God's Word

Readings for Sunday
9th March

First Reading
Ezek 37:12-14

Ps 129

Second Reading
Rom 8:8-11

Gospel
Jn 11:1-45

A GIFT OF GOD

It is common enough to confuse leadership and power. Sometimes people in power are called leaders. The two may be combined in the one person but often it is a misnomer to link them. People in power control resources, decisions and, even people's behaviour. On the other hand, leaders inspire vision, keep hope alive, encourage creative initiatives, point a people towards true greatness and serve their communities with integrity. Such leaders are a real gift to their people.

It is such a gift that God gives the Jewish people in this weekend's first reading where David is called to be king - leader would be a better name in our time. He seemed to be an unlikely candidate by the worldly criteria of his time. But it was God's call. He knew what was in David's heart.

Many are called to genuine leadership in family, in neighbourhood, in clubs, in the public arena, among one's peers. It is a sacred call that must be answered, respected and treasured.

In our time of rapid cultural change, it is a particularly challenging call for our young adults. Media barons and market forces are immensely powerful. It calls for great leaders to keep alive the hope in the goodness of the human heart. Such leaders need wisdom and courage, generosity and a spirit of service. Communities need to nurture the seedlings of leadership that spring up among them.

Every situation has potential leadership opportunities. Pray the Lord that our young will respond and lead their peers to true fulfilment.

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Please take a copy
of the Bulletin
home or give it to
a friend or neighbour



Cork Fairtrade Event will take place on Friday 7th March in Cork School of Music, Union Quay, from 11.00 to 12.30pm. The Reception will have presentations by Fairtrade producers from Ghana and Tanzania, and music by the School's students.

There will also be samples of Fairtrade products.

On Tuesday 4th March, at 7.00pm, Room 1.01, Brookfield Health Science Building, UCC, a talk on "Climate Change: Voices from the Developing World" organised by Trócaire.

A special thank you to the pupils of St. Catherine's School and their teacher Ms. McCarthy, who did such great work on the Fairtrade display in our church.

Happy the pure of heart: they shall see God.

Email: holyspiritparish@eircom.net

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Notices

First Friday

Next Friday 7th March is the First Friday of the month.
Calls to sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday 7th from 10.30 to 7.30pm followed by Mass.

St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 6th in the Parish Centre at 3.00pm.

Irish Bishops' Commissions

The annual collection will take place next Sunday 9th March. This collection helps fund the work of the Irish Bishops' Conference and its agencies and commissions. These include emigrants, justice and peace, communications, CURA, etc.

Ministers of the Eucharist

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

Alzheimer's Public Awareness and Information Evening

On Wednesday 12th March at 7.00pm in The Imperial Hotel.



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 2008 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.

BIBLE CORNER



TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE

There was a strong view among the Jews at the time of Jesus (and, perhaps, sometimes prevalent among his followers today) that God rewarded people during their life for their good deeds and/or punished them for their evil doings. They saw illness or physical disability as particularly obvious forms of punishment. Hence, their question in this weekend's gospel about the sins of the man born blind, or of his parents. Jesus instantly corrected their false assumption about God's goodness and mercy. He then used the occasion to introduce another way of seeing reality, viewing it with the eyes of faith.

To see things with a faith perspective is an even greater gift than eyesight itself.

Nourish this gift within and among us, Lord.

Fr. Tom

CONGRATULATIONS!



Members of our church choir making a presentation to **Patrick Killeen** to mark his thirty years as organist and choirmaster here in our church at Dennehy's Cross.

Thank you, Paddy.

A Tribute to all Mothers

At his mother's request, Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. Mary had observed the embarrassment of the newly wed couple when the wine ran short.

What is special about mothers? The great Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty wrote: "The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honour of having built Notre Dame Cathedral; she need not, she has built something more magnificent than any cathedral - a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body... The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle - to bring new saints to heaven.

Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the creator than any other creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation - what on God's good earth is more glorious than this - to be a mother."

Happy Mother's Day.

Arthur O'Callaghan