

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

20th April 2008

Fifth Sunday of Easter

No.961

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 27th
April

First Reading
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

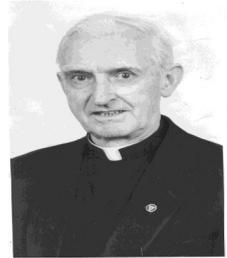
Psalm 65

Second Reading
1 Pet 3:15-18

Gospel
Jn 14:15-21

THE DEAN WRITES

THE GIFT OF LOVE



“Now Faith, Hope and Love remain - and the greatest of these is love.”

So wrote St. Paul many years ago to his converts in the Greek city of Corinth. Pope Benedict took many people by surprise when he dedicated his first Encyclical to the virtue of love. They should not have been surprised of course - he was writing about the core and foundation of our whole Christian Religion. In his final farewell to his closest friends Jesus said: “Love one another as I have loved you. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you, and your joy be complete.”

St. Paul, who normally didn't suffer fools gladly, wrote with feeling and gentleness on the qualities of love. “Love is always patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful - it is not arrogant or rude - love endures all things.”

Before we start measuring ourselves against these qualities of true love it may be worth stating bluntly - love is the most precious gift we can give or receive. It can produce emotions ranging from profound joy to deep sorrow. This is true for the smallest child as well as the strongest man.

St. Francis was always gentle in his writings and prayers. His words are worth recalling: “O Divine Master, grant that I may seek not so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive.”

So to get down to the realities of life. In our world time is always in short supply. So why not write down a list of people we should call upon in hospitals or retirement homes (and for their sake keep your visits short.) Also friends recently bereaved. Write or phone, or email absent friends and relatives. Offer a lift to a neighbour who may need your help to get to Mass or shopping or visit a friend. (Of course it takes time and patience.) Pray for all the people in your life who love you and whom you love, especially those who may be finding life difficult.

In that way human love mirrors God's endless, unconditional, compassionate love. God love us all.

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Rest in Peace

Ted O'Connell, Wilton Road, died peacefully on April 3rd at Marymount to which he had returned from home a few days previously. In his 85th year, Ted had lived a very full and active life up to a few weeks before his death. He was a gentle 'gentleman' in the full sense of the word. His working years as a company rep took him all over the country where he established very sincere relationships with those whom he met. Friendship was a key plank in his life. In family, he found his deepest friendships since he came to live on Wilton Road with his beloved Dorothy over fifty years ago. Always active in the community, in his later years he gave dedicated service to the St. Vincent de Paul and St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society in this parish. He served as a faithful apprentice at the Sacred Heart Church in his earlier years. A man of great faith, love, respect, humour and gentleness, he will be greatly missed. To his wife Dorothy, his sons, Harry, Philip, Ted, Joseph and daughter Mary, to their spouses, his grandchildren, the wider family and many friends, we extend our deepest sympathy. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sé.

Margaret O'Sullivan, Bishopstown Avenue West, died on Tuesday 8th April at St. Joseph's Hospital, Mount Desert, where she went to reside on leaving her home at Bishopstown Avenue over a year ago. Margaret was pre-deceased by her husband Jerry. Both of them came originally from Uibh Laoire, and both made a huge success of their business ventures in Cork City. It must be added to their eternal credit that they shared the rewards of their success very generously with many worthwhile charities. Just as an aside - Jerry and Margaret were for many years the proud owners of Clancys in Princes Street - once owned by our Fr. Tom's parents. Margaret's funeral Mass was celebrated by her cousin Fr. Jack Toomey, O.F.M. Cap. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family, Mairead, Mary, Dan, Anne and Bernadette, her sister Abbey, grandchildren, in-laws, and her many friends. Ar dheis Dé to raibh a h-anam dílis.



On Monday night last we were presented with a recital of Sacred Music given by our church choir under the direction of Patrick Killeen, in conjunction with St. Joseph's Choir from Rome, New York (dir. Scott Rutledge) who are currently on a holiday tour of Ireland. We also heard wonderful playing by two trumpeters, a harpist, flautist, pianist and our own handbell choir.

A most enjoyable evening's entertainment.

Bible Corner



YOUR CALL

The expansion of the early church took the disciples unawares. They had not really expected it but they adapted quickly. They realised that the good news was not only for their own people but for the wider world. They realised too that the preaching of the gospel and giving the experience of God's love to all people was beyond them on their own. They needed to enlist helpers and to empower them to share in the worshipping, teaching and caring tasks of this church of God.

In this weekend's first reading we find the first seven helpers begin their work. In our time, some aspects of the work have changed but the core tasks remain the same. To what area of the work is the spirit calling you today? Do not leave it to others. They may have left it to you.

Fr. Tom Clancy

New Envelope Collection System

It's not too late to join the new envelope system for the weekly offertory collections. If you're interested, please contact the Parish Office any weekday between 10.00 and 12.30 (tel. 021 4344452).

If you can't call to the office during the week to collect your box of envelopes, we can arrange to have it delivered to you.

NOTICE BOARD



Ballineaspig Gramophone Circle

Our monthly recital will take place on Wednesday next, 23rd April at 3.00pm in the crypt of our church of the Holy Spirit, when Tom Liston will give the recital. Everybody is welcome to attend.

Innishannon Flower Festival

From 25th to 27th April in Christ Church of Ireland, and St. Mary's Catholic Church. Entry to both churches incl. tea is €10, with proceeds going to both churches. Closing at 7.00pm on Sunday in Christ Church with Songs of Praise. Please come and enjoy this very special event.