

# Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

1st June 2008

Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

No. 967

## God's Word

Readings for Sunday 8th  
June

First Reading  
Hos 6:3-6

Psalms 49

Second Reading  
Rom 4:18-25

Gospel  
Mt 9:9-13

## CONTACT DETAILS

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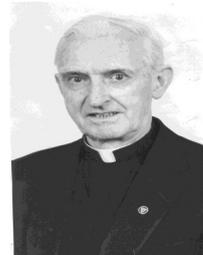
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THE DEAN WRITES

## AMAZING GRACE



Ever since those far off days which I spent as a student in Maynooth I am inclined to rise early every morning. I often turn on the radio for early morning news. There is a lady announcer who calls herself "Maxi". She tries to cheer us up with little tidbits from the morning papers and the great wide world beyond.

This morning she played a record by that well known singer, Neil Diamond. She said he is making millions from his latest album featuring that well known hymn "Amazing Grace". We hear it regularly here from our own Paddy Kileen and his choir - and as the little boy says in the advt. for A.A. - "It's free".

The story behind "Amazing Grace" is quite interesting. If you know it already, that's great. If not, here it is - and you can trust it to "Maxi" - and it's free! Its author John Newton was the son of an English sea captain. Shortly after the death of his mother he went to sea with his Dad at the age of eleven. At seventeen he was captured by a press gang and forced into service on a war ship. He tried to escape, was captured, publicly whipped and demoted. He escaped again, and in a short time was captain of his own ship. He was engaged in the shameful but lucrative slave trade between West Africa and the U.S.. He developed a terrible bitterness towards God and people - and led many astray into a life of drunkenness, carousing and general debauchery.

A near disaster at sea brought about a complete change of life for this young man. The Gospel story of the Prodigal Son touched him deeply. He gave up the slave trade, married his childhood sweetheart and became an outstanding preacher of God's love and mercy in the Protestant Church, (Methodist, I think). He composed hundreds of hymns - including "Amazing Grace" - "How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found".

## THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

It is the heart of the Church's mission to invite newcomers to "come and see". An increasing number of adults are approaching the Church wishing to become Catholics. This year eight adults have been received into the Church in Cork and Ross. It is envisaged that each parish will have a group of people ready to welcome new people and accompany them as they prepare for Baptism. These groups are now active in twelve parishes and in the University chaplaincy.

A preliminary meeting will be held in the Crypt of our church on Monday June 9th, 8.00 - 9.30pm to provide an introduction to RCIA and how it functions in the parish.

All are welcome, especially RCIA groups if formed, or those thinking of becoming involved in RCIA; priests, faith development groups and liturgy groups. It will be an opportunity to ask questions and hear from people who have been involved in RCIA.

(Please note that this meeting is not for newcomers themselves)

### First Friday

Next Friday 6th will be the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday from 10.30 to 7.30pm followed by Mass.

### St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 5th June in the Parish Centre at 3.00pm.

### BA Theology Degree

Three year part-time course at St. Patrick's College, Thurles, commencing 9th September 2008. Closing date for applications Friday 20th June. Further information from Dr. Salvador Ryan, tel. 0504-21201.

### Carers' Week

Monday 9th to Thursday 12th June at the Imperial Hotel, with a varied and informative programme of events, for those caring for a family member/neighbour/friend/ex-carer or employed in a caring capacity, For further information please contact the Carers' Association at 4806397, or 4302310.

### Community Education and Development Degree

C.I.T. invite applications for direct entry to the second, third and fourth year of its programmes in leading to the awards of BA/BA Honours in Community Education and Development, commencing September 2008. Applications are invited from candidates who have significant experience in community work and/or qualifications in cognate areas. Entry will be based on interviews to be on Friday 13th June, 2008. For further information and application form, please telephone Anne, Dept. of Education Development, on 4326 700.

### Crypt Bridge Club

Charity Bridge for June/July. Time: 2pm sharp on Tuesdays. Table money €5. Tea/coffee and biscuits provided. All welcome.

### Cork Cancer Research Centre

Would like to thank volunteers who helped in the Church Gate Collection 26/27th April. €427.33 was raised.

### Annual Novena in honour of St Anthony.

Wednesday 4th June to Friday 13th June at 7.30pm., Saturdays 6.30pm. at St Francis Church, Liberty Street.

### Farranlea District Residents' Association.

Open air Mass to be held in the Green in Farranlea Grove next Wednesday 4th June at 19.30 sharp. Fr. Tom will celebrate.

## Rest in Peace

**Carmel Hunter**, Laburnum Park, died at Cork University Hospital on Tuesday 20th May. She had been ill for quite some time, but typical of the gentle caring lady that she was she never resented her condition. Carmel was pre-deceased about twenty years ago by her husband David - whom she nurtured and cared for during his long illness. Now her mortal remains are laid beside him in their beloved Ardmore. We extend our sincere sympathy to her daughters Mary and Bríd, her son Edmond and all who miss her. May her dear soul rest in peace.

## Bible Corner

### Here I Come



From now until early September (apart from June 29th) our second reading at weekends will be from St. Paul's letter to Romans. Paul probably wrote this letter as he prepared for a quick visit to Jerusalem before heading for Rome. His plans went a little awry but the letter is packed full of teaching about faith, salvation, suffering and the role of the Spirit in our lives. In Rome, there were a number of Christian communities, some were Jewish converts who were familiar with their history in the Old Testament and others were converts from paganism who knew little of Jewish history. Paul addressed both groups in this letter which complicates it for us and the short distinct excerpts read each weekend add to the difficulty. However it is well worth exploring its riches especially in the year ahead which is being devoted especially to St. Paul.

Struggle to read the entire letter over the coming months and you will be greatly enriched. The first section deals with the poverty of humankind without Christ but this weekend's reading introduces a more hopeful section, highlighting that it is faith justifies us not our achievements. Thanks be to God

Fr. Tom

### Corpus Christi Procession

Addressing an attendance of over 20,000 people at the annual event Sr. Briege McKenna thanked the people of Cork for remaining faithful to the Procession during the past 83 years saying that as an expression of faith it will always bring God's blessing.

She paid tribute to the Irish Missionaries who brought the Catholic faith to countless people across the globe. "Our faith is a priceless treasure which is nourished by the Eucharist". She said she had witnessed many wonderful miracles of faith. Only recently a young African boy - totally paralysed - was miraculously cured during a Service of Eucharistic adoration.

Wouldn't it be a shame if this great institution were allowed to fade out.

Arthur O' Callaghan

### WHERE WE ARE

This weekend's Mass readings are taken from "Ordinary Time". This is the name given to Sundays outside of the Advent/Christmas and Lent to Pentecost seasons. The numbering of these Sundays began back in January. Now after the Feasts of Trinity and Corpus Christi, we take up the numbering again with this Sunday being the ninth. Apart from a special feast (like 29th June and 14th September), the continuous reading of sections of St. Matthew's Gospel will be the backbone of our weekend liturgies until Advent.

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