

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

21st September 2008

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 975

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES



THE FAITH OF ST. FINBARR - VOCATION

Next Thursday, 25th of September, the bicentenary of the North Cathedral (North Chapel) will be celebrated with a special Mass and sermon at 7.30 p.m. Apostolic Nuncio to Greece, his Excellency Archbishop Patrick Coveney will preach the sermon. On this day too we will celebrate the Feast of St. Finbarr and on next Sunday, 28th of September, the special pilgrimage will take place to Gougane Barra. A week of great activity you will say.

The place most intimately associated with the life of St. Finbarr is the Island of Gougane Barra. Gougane has been a place of pilgrimage down the centuries. The hermitage established by St. Finbarr and his followers was ideally placed in its surroundings of stately mountains and hills. Many visitors from Ireland and all over the world come to Gougane Barra and avail of the opportunity to relax awhile on sacred ground. Some take time to stroll and others speak in low tones and in reverence within this holy place. The large stone enclosure forms the hallowed shrine of St. Finbarr, the saint who came to this spot in the sixth century beside the placid lake reflecting the brilliancy of the Summer Sun, and where St. Finbarr and his monks prayed in the early morning. Gougane continues to this day as a place of prayer and devotion, a place apart, a place which has witnessed the outward expression of great faith by a Christian community many of whom remain especially devoted to St. Finbarr.

It is in a setting like this we remind ourselves about the need for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, and some of us wonder will anyone go forward anymore, and if they do not, who will be there to say Mass for us and give us the sacraments.

So priesthood is about call, a vocation. It is about hearing, whether we want to hear it or not. God asks us to follow him in the priesthood or the religious life. It is not about perfection and it is not about being better than anyone else and it is not about wanting to be up on a pedestal and it is not about looking for position or respect, and God help us if we think it is.

Priesthood is about a particular life of service in answer to God's call, and God expects all of us both clergy and laity to be good to one another according to each one's vocation in life. Husbands and wives by doing more than enough for each other, parents by making extra sacrifices for the good of their children, teachers by spending extra hours to instruct weak students, doctors and nurses taking up extra work to show they care for their patients, and parishioners by generously supporting their parish community. In a word, all of us are called to be deeply concerned about each other and committed to each other's welfare.

Perhaps we need strong motives for service to others. The first strong motive is the example of Jesus. He did not ask, how much? he gave himself, his all. He did not ask, how far to go? He went all the way.

ST. PAUL

THE MAN AND HIS MESSAGE

A series of reflective explorations led by Fr. Tom with St. Paul's letter to the Philippians

Tuesdays at 8.00pm.

beginning this **Tuesday 23rd September** in the Crypt.

Bring New Testament.

All Welcome

Rest in Peace

We pray for Bartholomew (Barty) Madden, Greenfields, Model Farm Road, who died recently. He made the most of life, enjoyed it while he could and made certain that he would enjoy the last few hours at home before journeying on to the Eternal home. He loved his home, his wife and family; he loved his parish and his country. He did his best for all while he could. He is now enjoying the fruits of his labours. We extend our deepest sympathy to his dear wife Phil and family, to his brothers and sister and to all the relatives and friends.

In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to the Sisters at St. Columba's Convent, Bishopstown Avenue West, on the recent death of Sister Margaret Mary Bushe..

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Boys and girls from 3rd class upwards are invited to become altar servers. After initial training, the commitment is to serve one Mass on alternate weekends as well as the special occasions like Holy Week and Christmas.

Training takes place in the church from 1.00 to 2.00 pm. starting next Saturday 27th September for **three** Saturdays.

Please contact Mercedes (4544113), or Fr. Tom (4347616)



NOTICE BOARD



Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle

We shall resume our once monthly gramophone recitals on next Wednesday 24th September at 3.00pm in the crypt of our church, when Paddy Murphy of Blarney Gramophone Society will be guest presenter. Bí linn.

Beginning Experience

A weekend programme to help those who have lost a spouse through death, separation or divorce. It helps the bereaved move from the darkness of their grief into the life of a new beginning. The next residential weekend programme will take place in St. Dominic's Retreat Centre, Ennismore, from 17th to 19th October. Please contact Kathleen at Family Ministry, 34 Paul Street, phone 4275136.

Special Day of Prayer in Knock for the Pope, the Church and for our families on Saturday 4th October, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. Buses from Cork €20. Please contact 021-4501667.

Parish Bereavement Support Group in the Church of the Real Presence Curraheen Road, at 8.00pm on 29th September running for eight weeks. Contact 087-9484258 or 0876197267.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 28th September
First Reading: Ezek 18:25-28; Psalm 24
Second Reading: Phil 2:1-11; Gospel: Mt 21:28-32

Bible Corner

BECAUSE I AM GOOD



On five of the next nine Sundays, the gospel will be a parable. In his parables, Jesus put before his hearers everyday incidents from their rural lives to teach a key message. This message was not always obvious to the casual listener. Instead, each story was told to make people think for themselves. A parable catches the imagination but its ultimate appeal is to the intelligence. It is significant that Jesus spoke most of his parables to the sceptical Jewish intelligentsia.

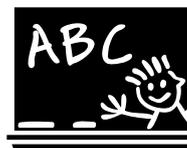
It is helpful to remember that the gospel as we have it, started with the preaching of Jesus, which was remembered and retold again and again in the early gatherings of Christians, before being edited and written down by the evangelists who sometimes added phrases that Jesus had used at another time. This happens with Sunday's gospel's last sentence which could distract us from the central message of this parable.

In Palestine at the time of Jesus, a man needed about a denarius to keep bread on the family table. There were no social supports so the daily denarius was crucial to the lower paid no matter how many hours worked. The good employer knew this and acted accordingly. His goodness irked many.

Because God is good and full of compassion for the poor and the sinner, at the end of the day, he gives each one the same essential denarius of eternal life.

What a God!

Fr. Tom



St. Catherine's News

As we begin another school year, we can look back with pride on what we have achieved last year! In May we were presented with our Green Flag and were delighted to welcome Minister Batt O'Keeffe to perform the official hoisting ceremony. As the flag is enormous we have hung it indoors for the present!

In June we received the Award of Science Excellence. We were very proud of all the Science work on display at our Science Exhibition in May.

Every classroom in the school now has an Interactive Whiteboard, thanks to the hard work done by our Parents' Association in fundraising activities. These boards bring a whole new dimension to learning as they are linked to the computer and the Internet.

Our annual school Mass will be held in our parish church on Friday 26th September at 11.45am. All are welcome to attend.

CONTACT DETAILS

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