

Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

19th January 2009

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

No.991

THE DEAN WRITES



FACING DOUBT - FINDING FAITH

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 25th
January

First Reading : John 3:1-5,10

Psalm 24

Second Reading
1 Cor 7:29-31

Gospel: Mak 1:14-20

How would you define religious faith? Two thousand years ago some holy person in the young Christian church wrote a splendid explanation of the New Religion of the time - they called it *The Letters to the Hebrews* (or to members of the Jewish faith). It says: "Only Faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the realities that are unseen."

It's not a foolish expectation, but really a gift from God that simply takes us beyond what reason can discover by itself - accepting the word and testimony of God - and in particular the teaching of Jesus the Son of God. We should never be afraid to question Faith matters with an open mind, especially when we find Faith difficult to accept. The following quotation was found on the walls of a Nazi concentration camp after World War Two: "I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I can't feel it. I believe in God even when he is silent."

"Where is God in all this?" So a distraught mother said to me one time after hearing that her twelve year old daughter might well have cancer - and the sudden realization that she could lose her child. Yet, she said, Faith was with me even in my time of doubt and I couldn't feel it, but just trusting in the goodness and love of God. (Thankfully that child made a full recovery.)

Recently I read in an American publication: "I am a church worker whose daughter has stopped going to Mass. How many parents I have counselled to let their young adult children find their own way, to be patient and hopeful, and that as parents what they can do is model their Faith by the way they lead their lives." I should listen to myself, she said!!

Prayer of Faith

God, a few years ago some people were saying that you were dead.
Some people still claim they can't be sure or can't be bothered.
Some are torn and wracked with doubt.
Some of us who believe aren't very good proof of your compassion and humanity.
Let us sow more love so that your praises may be sung.
In every home, on every continent.
Amen.

CONTACT DETAILS

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SACRISTAN REQUIRED

Due to the coming retirement of our esteemed Sacristan, Gertrude Hurley, we are now seeking a replacement.

For further information, please write to Monsignor O'Callaghan, c/o Parish Office,
Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday February 5th.

Mass and Anointing of the Sick

The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, 11th of February, is "World day of Prayer for the Sick".

Here in the Parish of the Holy Spirit we will be celebrating a special healing service on Saturday, 7th of February. Mass and the anointing of the sick will begin at 3.00 p.m., and all are welcome to attend this special healing service. Should transport be needed, please advise us.

Tea will be served afterwards in the Crypt.

Table Quiz

Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh Parents' Association are holding a Fun Table Quiz at Highfield Rugby Club on Friday 23rd Jan at 8.30pm. The funds raised will go towards providing a defibrillator and associated training for staff. Tables of 4 @ €40 per table. All welcome!

Cork Institute of Technology will hold a mature student Information Evening on Wednesday, 21st January, from 7-9pm in Lecture Theatre 2, Library Building, with an opportunity to find out about a wide range of courses at Degree, Honours Degree and Postgraduate on offer, admissions procedures, grants, fees and supports. Further information, contact 4326682 or visit www.cit.ie

Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle

We will resume next Wednesday 21st at 3.00pm. in the crypt of our church when David McInerney will give the recital. Bí ann gan teip.

It's not too late to join the weekly envelope collection system. Remember:

- *There is no additional cost to you*
- *It allows your Spring and Autumn Dues, plus your weekly contributions, to be counted. It is of huge benefit to the Parish*

2009 Envelopes available in the parish office 10.00-12.30 Monday to Friday. If you are unable to collect them please contact the office at 4344452 and we will arrange delivery.

Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 18th to 25th.

The theme for the liturgies during the week is "Reconcile your People".

There is an inter-church liturgy to launch the week of prayer at the Methodist Church, Ardfallen, this Sunday 18th at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Council is very grateful to those who have already taken their 2009 envelopes for the voluntary, confidential collection system. It is stressed that there is no extra cost to the donor but there is considerable gain to the Parish when envelopes are used instead of the traditional system.

The council is grateful to the Bulletin Editorial Team for their great work and is now asking for additional volunteers to contribute articles and help spread the workload of the team.

Bible Corner



A NEW ERA BEGINS

There is a widespread hope that the handing over of the presidency of the United States from Bush to Obama at this week's inauguration may mark a new beginning in building world peace.

Today's gospel recounts another handing on of the baton of leadership. John the Baptist tells his two young enthusiastic followers that the hope for the future is in Jesus and that they should follow him now. The Baptist bows out and the two sign up. Not only that but one of them Andrew, has an elder brother Simon Peter whom he brings along the next day. He is the one who is to become Chief of Staff in the new administration. Truly, it is an historic moment which Mark, the writer in residence for 2009, does not record so we go to John's gospel this week for it.

Jesus invites the two young seekers to come and spend time with him to get to know him. It is an invitation extended to all of us in 2009.

Fr. Tom

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Mount Mercy

There was great work done before Christmas supporting many projects in Africa.

First and second year students bought 9 Trócaire goats in December to be given to families in Africa. Goats are hardy animals and provide a great source of milk, food and fertilizer.

Room 1 and Room 8 students supported a Sister of Mercy project in Nairobi by packaging Christmas cards made by street children. Sr. Lori, who manages the arts and crafts project in Nairobi thanks the students for their help.

The Amnesty group has continued with its letter writing campaign. Letters have been sent concerning human rights abuses to Russia, Palestine and President-elect Obama.

Transition Year students helped the Cork group with their annual flag collection in December. Their help was greatly appreciated.

The fifth and sixth year students collected €250 to support the building of a Health Clinic in Turkwel, Kenya.

Well done, girls.

St.Catherine's News

Final call for enrolments for September 2009! Please print off the enrolment form from our website www.stcathns.com and send in to the school office. Alternatively phone 4546868 for a form to be sent out to you.

We congratulate Amy Dullea, 5th Class, on achieving a Black Belt in Karate! Pretty impressive for an 11-year-old.

Our swimming team won individual and relay Gold, Silver and Bronze medals at the Munster Schools Gala in November. Well done to Alice Noel, Emily Noel, Siobhán Furlong and Heather Dunlea.