

Ballineaspig Bulletin



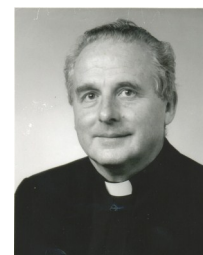
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

25th January 2009

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 992

FR. TOM WRITES



God's Word

Readings for Sunday 1st
February

First Reading
Deut 18:15-20

Pslam 94

Second Reading
1 Cor 7:32-35

Gospel Mk 1:21-28

A CALL TO CARE

The inauguration of President Obama has sparked a flame of hope, not only in the U.S.A. but in many hearts worldwide. We seem to believe that one person can make a real difference when he tries to live out a vision that all peoples are brothers and sisters, the one human family of God.

It is clear that 2009 will be a tough year and a very tough year for very many. Already, short time and redundancies are sweeping through the land like an insidious cancer. The prophets of difficulty are being proved right after years of being ridiculed. It may be important to analyse the mistakes of the past and to learn from them but it is even more important to chart a way forward.

We are being softened up to expect and accept a drop in our economic standard of living. Cuts are being proposed here there and everywhere at this time of writing. One of the more chilling suggestions by a government minister is that money for carers will be seriously reduced. What a place to start. The danger is that the most vulnerable are the ones to suffer most once again.

The looming hardship will be a selfish circling of the wagons of despair or will be a clarion call to awaken each one of us to a new generosity, to courageous initiatives, to build little cells of neighbourly care, to a sensitive awareness of others' needs. It will be a time of opportunity to curb our extravagance and to live more simply so that others may simply live. It will be a time to strengthen and support the voluntary organisations like St. Vincent de Paul, Simon, Meals-on-Wheels so that there may be a dinner or a roof where otherwise there would not be one. The calls will be varied if we have the ears to hear them and the hearts to heed them.

The old Scout motto of a daily good deed may have a new relevance. No day should pass without such acts of loving kindness. Let us not waste too much energy on cursing the darkness. Rather, let us enable one another to light candles of loving hope each day.

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of the Bulletin
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or give it to a friend
or neighbour

FAITH IN ACTION

On behalf of the people of our twin parish in Turkwel, we thank everyone who supported our Christmas Gift cards project which will enable commencement of the building of a Medical Centre in the near future. Thank you to our priests who gave gentle reminders every weekend, to the family who 'followed the wren' on St. Stephen's Day and all who supported them and contributed €687.25 to the fund.

The final total was **€15,425.25** which was a wonderful reflection of the generosity of all who donated to and supported this venture.

Thank you all very much.

Rest in Peace

Margaret Shaw (better known to a more senior generation as Rita Lynch) died at her home on Model Farm Road on Friday 16th January. Rita had been in failing health for some time, but always seemed to bounce back. She was a member of the well-known Lynch family in Macroom. Rita was gifted with a signally sweet singing voice, and after some voice training at her secondary school (Ursulines Blackrock) and further afield was in much demand for concerts, not only in Cork city and county, but nationally and indeed internationally. An old admirer from New York called to the presbytery here just two weeks ago and his first enquiry was "How is Rita Lynch?" Rita had been happily married to Pat Shaw, who predeceased her as did their only son Harry. We extend our deepest sympathy to her daughters, Mary, Marita and Salette, her grandchildren, nephews, nieces, sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, her loyal carer Norma and all who miss her. Now she joins the angels in heaven to sing forever the praises of the Lord.

NOTICE BOARD

St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection will take place next weekend at all Masses. The Society wishes to thank people for their great generosity throughout 2008, and particularly so at Christmas.

Rediscovering Paul

An introduction to the life, letters and theology of the Apostle to the Gentiles, 7.30-9.00pm, Thursday nights 29th January, 5th and 12th February at Bru Columbanus, Wilton, presented by Sr. Mary O'Brien and Dianne Corkery, Faculty of Theology, St. Patrick's College. Cost €20 (€10 seniors/students). Further information at 4357765.

Fr. Tom hopes to resume his series on St. Paul during the Tuesdays of Lent, dealing with the letter to the Galatians.

Night of Music, Song and Dance

At St. Catherine's National School on Friday, 30th January, 7.00-9.00pm. held by Comhaltas Cheoltoiri Eireann Craobh Baile an Easpiag. All welcome.

God the.....Who?.....What?.....Where?

A lecture series led by professional theologians reflecting on the ways we understand God. Every Thursday night 7-8 in Presentation Brothers Mardyke House, until 28th March. €10 per lecture.

Bereavement Support Group

At the SMA Parish Centre, Wilton, beginning on Tuesday 10th February at 8.00pm, room 10. It is open to all people recently or long-term bereaved. For further information please call Kathleen 4544262 or Margaret 4544429.

Email: holsyspiritparish@eircom.net
Website: www.dennehycrossparish.ie

BIBLE CORNER



MESSAGE AND STORY

The story in this weekend's gospel is a dramatic one. It shows Jesus as a charismatic dynamic leader whom men are prepared to follow, even giving up their jobs. Peter and Andrew may have been small-time fishermen but James and John had a family business with their father Zebedee. The promise was irresistible. It is a gripping story but, maybe, it is so good that it distracts us from the earlier two-part message, believe and repent. Believe the good news. Jesus has come to tell us that God loves each one with a unique and unconditional love and in the security of being so loved, he unites, challenges and enables us to love one another accordingly. What a destiny.

Repent. We do not always live up to our destiny. Every Eucharist is a celebration of that destiny with an inbuilt opportunity to turn from selfishness, to leave guilt behind, to repent, to be empowered by the Spirit for the week ahead. Be inspired by the story and be mindful of the message.

Fr. Tom

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Last week, addressing the representatives of the 177 countries who maintain ties with the Holy See, Pope Benedict strongly condemned "acts of discrimination and very grave attacks on Christians during the past year."

Did you know that there have been more Christian martyrs in the twentieth century and in this century than in all the previous centuries put together? Christians from across all denominations are suffering for their faith all over the world.

According to newly released figures from the Vatican, 39 Catholic missionaries were murdered in the last two years - including Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho, murdered in Iraq. Jesus warned explicitly that times of persecution would be the lot for many who follow Him. Since the beginning the blood of those martyrs has been the seed of the Church. They show by their witness that this world with its false promises and empty rewards is passing and fleeting and point us towards another world where Christ reigns in eternal glory.

Please remember in your prayers all those who are persecuted for their faith.

Arthur O'Callaghan

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, whose feast day is next Wednesday 28th, was born in Italy in 1224. He died in 1274. St. Thomas taught that Christian revelation and human knowledge are aspects of a single truth and cannot be in conflict with one another. He is one of the greatest theologians of the Church, and is patron of schools, universities, students and booksellers.