

Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

22nd February 2009

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

No.996

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES

LENT CAN BE LOVABLE



Theme: Lent is meant to be enjoyed, not to be endured, for it invites us to begin again, to grow spiritually stronger through self-discipline.

One could love Lent; like all lovable things, Lent is meant to be enjoyed rather than endured. No matter what kind of a mess we have made of things up to this point, Lent once again offers us an opportunity to leave our past behind and start again. We may have broken our Lenten resolutions, but Lent invites us to begin again and renew. This is the wonderful thing about Christian life. It is a series of new beginnings. We can always start again.

Let us begin Lent with confidence, because whether we look with longing into the garden or with fear into the desert, God walked there first. We begin Lent with hope because the signs of ashes and purple will soon be covered over by the light and flowers and alleluias of the Easter Season as the darkness of Winter will be changed into the colour and promise of Spring. We should begin Lent with enthusiasm because, although what we do for Lent - our fasting, abstinence, prayers and works of charity - may indeed be small, they are important victories for the Kingdom of God and they are defeats for the evil present in our lives. Hence, we must make love, not war, with Lent.

Turning out from ourselves, let us remember the many areas of the world and the peoples for whom we should pray during Lent. The people of Sudan dying from the disease of malaria, the women of the poor countries of the third world who have to work so hard in the homes and the fields to provide for family, the millions suffering from AIDS, the refugees and displaced people, the child soldiers, the sweat shops, genocide in Rwanda and a host of others.

May we become aware of their needs and find inspiration to help. May we become more aware of love, love given, love shared, love that makes a difference. May we find fulfilment in you Jesus who died to bring life and love to every one. Amen.

YEAR OF ST. PAUL

Following our introductory exploration of the *Letters of St. Paul* before Christmas, Fr. Tom will continue to lead the exploration on Tuesday nights in the Crypt at 8.00pm. beginning this Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, 24th February.

Topic: Paul's Letter to the Celts, better known as the *Epistle to the Galatians*.

All welcome. Bring bible, please

Come and enjoy Fairtrade Tea/Coffee and Banana Goodies in the Crypt after 6.15pm and 10.30am Masses this weekend.



Please take a copy of the Bulletin home or give it to a friend or neighbour

Email: holyspiritparish@eircom.net

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LENT

Originating in the fourth century of the Church, the season of **Lent** spans 40 weekdays. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays **in** Lent.

The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer, self examination and repentance in preparation to celebrate Easter.

Next Wednesday 25th is **Ash Wednesday**, a day of fast and abstinence.. Masses at 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30pm. Distribution of ashes at each Mass. No evening Mass during Lent. Evening Mass is available in Wilton S.M.A. Church at 5.35pm and Curraheen Church at 7.30pm.

There will be **Stations of the Cross** on four Fridays of Lent - none on the First Fridays of March and April when there will be a 7.30pm Mass. Two of these stations will be conducted by the youth of the parish.

Trócaire boxes will be available in the church during Lent.

Infant Jesus Sisters "Drishane"

Calling all friends, neighbours and past pupils for an informal get together in preparation for our centenary celebration in May.

The evening will be introduced by our well known Alice Taylor
Friday 20th March at 7.30pm. At the SMA Hall, Wilton

All welcome.

A SMILE, FOR GOD'S SAKE



"Wow!" God said. "I just created a period of alternating light and darkness on the earth."

"What will you do now?" an angel asked.

"I think I'll call it a day." God replied.

Contact Details

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God's Word

Readings for Sunday 1st March
First Reading : Gen 9:8-15; Psalm 24;
Second Reading: 1 Pet 3:18-22; Gospel: Mk 1:12-15

BIBLE CORNER

IMAGING GOD



For the ancient Hebrew people, the struggle for survival was dominant. Resources of water and basic food were very scarce. Even life itself was under constant threat from warring neighbours. The lure of idolatry endangered the very race itself.

Strict rules were developed to protect the core values of the race. Breaches of this legal code were punished by heavy penalties. In such an environment, there was little room for understanding, forgiveness or mercy.

Like all of us, the Hebrews envisioned God from their human experience. Hence, an Old Testament God was depicted as the hard task master, harshly exacting, sometimes vindictive.

However, even in such a culture, little glimpses of a more tender and radically forgiving God slip through the grimness.

This weekend's first reading from Isaiah is one such gem. Savour it as an aperitif to the gospel.

Fr. Tom

NOTICE BOARD

St. Vincent de Paul Society monthly collection will take place at Masses next weekend.



Book Swap in aid of the **L'Arche** Community, at the Kingsley Hotel on Thursday 26th February, 7.00pm - 10.00pm. Bring 10 books that you no longer need and €20. You get the chance to swap your 10 books for a different 10, and enjoy a glass of wine. Bring your friends. All welcome.

Family Carers forum will take place on Thursday 26th February at the Ambassador Hotel, Military Hill at 8pm. Speaker Kathy Sinnott MEP. All welcome, refreshments served. For more information contact the Carers Association on 4806397.

Step Out in Faith this Lent

Lenten Lecture on Thursday, 26th February - 'What About Jesus Christ?' - at Presentation Brothers, Mardyke House, 7.00pm. €10. Contact Br. Barry Stanton 4346770.

Jeremiah: Prophetic Suffering and New Covenant

A Series of Talks for Lent presented by Fr. Charles Conroy, MSC, at Sacred Heart Centre, Western Road, 7.30pm Tuesday 3rd, 10th, 24th and 31st March. There will be ample time after the talks for open discussion.

Table Quiz in aid of IRFU Charitable Trust at Highfield Rugby Club on Thursday 26th February, €40 per team of four. The questions will be primarily of general knowledge with some on sports. Each table will represent a different rugby team - international, professional/provincial, club, school and participants are encouraged to wear their selected team's colours. A Signed Irish Rugby jersey will be raffled on the night. To enter, please contact Iosoidé Dromey at 0879581507.

Pancake Morning in aid of C.U.H. sick children's holiday fund hosted by the Bishopstown Community Gardai at the SMA Hall, Wilton on Tuesday 24th February between 11.00 and 2.00pm. Pancake, tea/coffee €5, raffle tickets €3 for signed Munster jersey. All welcome.

