

Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

1st March, 2009

First Sunday of Lent

No. 996

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 8th
March

First Reading:
Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

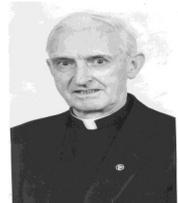
Psalms 115

Second Reading:
Rom 8:31-34

Gospel: Mk 9:2-10

THE DEAN WRITES

THOUGHTS FOR LENT



When I was young I never thought of Lent as a time to be enjoyed rather than endured - cf. Monsignor Kevin in last week's Bulletin, and how right he is. As a child it meant giving up sweets. As we grew up it meant giving up cigarettes (what a blessing). Growing to adulthood it meant fasting (another blessing, for those of us who grew out as well as up). Later we latched on to the word Lent - old English word Lenten = German Lang = length = longer days. So Lent is a time for new life, new beginnings, brighter times.

From long and sad experience the greatest danger I recall about Lent is that these few weeks would come and go, and we would find ourselves in Holy Week and our good intentions forgotten. So today is the day to make the most of the bright days ahead, and make a change for the better. That word 'change' sends a shiver down my back. It's so much nicer to drift along, but there is no sense of achievement or fulfilment in drifting. You know the story of the beggar dressed in rags and the picture of misery. The king took notice and invited him to the Palace. He arrived in all his rags. The king got him a lovely new suit with shirts and shoes to match. The following week the king took a drive down town and to his dismay the beggar was dressed as before in all his rags. The king was so disappointed and asked him what was wrong. The beggar said, "I couldn't continue to beg in my new clothes and I'm too old to change now."

I suggest there are three things to tackle for Lent.

- If there is something seriously wrong in our life this must be our first concern head on - excessive drinking - drugs - injustice - or whatever.
- There is strength in comradeship - so let's march together with our Lenten resolution whether it's daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, Fr. Tom's talks on St. Paul's Letters - or whatever we might decide to do.
- A wider commitment again. Take a Trócaire Box as we show care for the unfortunates in Darfur - or Chad - or wherever. The flood in the Lee is made up of single drops.

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



St. Paul – Man of Faith

Last Tuesday Fr. Tom began his series of Lenten talks on St. Paul's "Letter to the Galatians". In the course of an inspiring hour, from 8 to 9 p.m., he gave a fascinating introduction to Abraham, a key figure for understanding St. Paul's letter. At the beginning of the evening many of the audience shared the lasting benefits and blessings they had received from attending Fr. Tom's series on Paul last Advent. You are still in time to join the group next week as Fr. Tom begins looking at the Letter itself.

Bring a Bible and a friend to the Crypt next **Tuesday, 3rd March, at 8 p.m.**

Email: holyspiritparish@eircom.net

Website: www.dennehycrossparish.ie

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to **Jim Kehoe**, Sheare's Park, on the death of his brother, Tommy in Bristol.

TRÓCAIRE'S Lenten campaign this year is about 26 million of our brothers and sisters worldwide who have been forced to abandon their homes because of armed conflict and violence. People such as Khalid and his family, who appear on this year's Trócaire box, are forced from their homes in terrifying circumstances losing their land, their livelihoods, and often even their own family members.

Please support Trócaire's Lenten campaign this year.

NOTICE BOARD

First Friday is next Friday 6th March. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament next Friday from 10.30am to 7.30pm followed by Mass.

St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society monthly meeting next Thursday at 3.00pm in the Parish Office.

Scripture Prayer Group (Lectio Divina)

The group meets every Monday morning after 10.00 Mass in the Parish Office. New members are always welcome, both men and women, and we are issuing a special invitation to those who may be interested to make a start for Lent. Just call to the office at the above time, if you would like to join us, or if you would like further information.

The Irish Bishops' Commissions annual collection will take place next Sunday 8th March. This collection helps fund the work of the Irish Bishops' Conference and its agencies and commissions. These include emigrants, justice and peace, communications, CURA, etc.

St. Vincent de Paul Society acknowledges gratefully your loyal support and invites parishioners who may require short term (or longer) assistance at this time to contact the President by letter c/o of the Parish Office, or at the Central Office in Tuckey Street.

Street Leagues at St. Finbarr's H & F Club for boys between 6-11 years. Launch and registration on Saturday 7th March at 10.00am. Thereafter every Saturday 6-9 year olds coached at 10.00am and 10-11 year olds at 11.00am. The objective is to get everyone enjoying the games and to get the players started with dedicated and qualified coaches.

The 2009 AGM of Bishopstown Community Association Ltd., will take place at Wilton Park House, Wilton, on Tuesday 10th March at 8.00pm sharp. All existing members are invited to attend and new members are also welcome. Please support your community by attending and getting involved.

The Irish Wheelchair Association provide a motoring assessment, advice and tuition service for people with any type of mobility difficulty. Please contact 4350282.

Bible Corner



6 LENTEN MILESTONES

Lent is an opportunity to be open to grow in faith, hope and love. Each Sunday is a milestone in this growth. A key image from each weekend's Word may help us to focus.

March 1st RAINBOW: God makes a promise of unconditional love, a covenant. The rainbow is a reminder of this assurance.

March 8th MOUNTAIN: Jesus takes the trio aside to strengthen their faith. We need to make space in cluttered lives to savour God.

March 11th TEMPLE. God is everywhere but unless we focus on someplace, he is nowhere. Weekly Eucharist is central.

March 22nd CROSS: So much love. Awesome. Will we let the experience touch us, heal us, empower us?

March 29th TRÓCAIRE: Sowing seeds of goodness is ours. The harvest is in God's hands.

April 5th PALM: The Jews publicly proclaimed their appreciation of Jesus. How do we do it?

Do not let Lent 2009 slip away. It will not come again.

Fr. Tom

JUST A THOUGHT

COUNTING MY BLESSINGS



Nothing went right yesterday. I went to bed feeling sorry for myself, envious of all who had happy lives with permanent jobs and were fit and healthy. It was easy for them to smile! "Why?" "Why me?" I cried, fisting my pillow. Then I decided to look back on my day, to see if there was, in fact, anything at all good about it. As I slowly meandered from the dawning of my day I saw that so many blessings were bestowed on me that I had not even noticed in my self-pity. I began to count them as I remembered each little goodness of *touch* and *sight* and *sound* given to me. Some seemed so tiny but nevertheless were *gifts*. Honestly, as I counted to a hundred and beyond I felt comfortably sleepy. Though I knew that my trials and tribulations were not going to disappear very easily, I knew that God would get me through. I woke this morning with renewed HOPE. Thanks be to God.

STATION OF THE CROSS NO. 1

Lord of Justice and truth, give us the courage to stand up for what we know to be right. Give us the strength of your Spirit that we may be proud to profess our faith in your Son.