

# Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

22nd March 2009

Fourth Sunday in Lent

No.999

## God's Word

Readings for Sunday 29th  
March

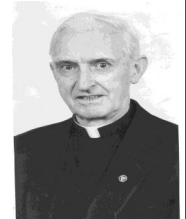
First Reading: Jer 31:31-  
24

Psalms 50

Second Reading:  
Heb 5:7-9

THE DEAN WRITES

## ALL POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT; AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY



Lord Acton was the genius who thought up that statement in 1887 and I doubt if I am competent to expand on the implications of it. But I do know that Jesus said, "I have come not to be served, but to serve." He also said when the mother of James and John asked him for the top jobs for her sons in his Kingdom, "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all, and servant of all." And to make sure we would all understand what he meant - and that he was in earnest about putting it into practice - he gave an example that would never be forgotten. When they had all gathered to celebrate the Last Supper, he took a basin of water and washed the feet of his Apostles. They were dumbfounded. This was the lowest and most humiliating service anyone could provide for another at the time.

Of course we must have lawful authority in any civilised society. In fact people who heard Jesus teach remarked that he spoke with authority - which undoubtedly he did. But this is something entirely different from using others to exert power or advantage.

One doesn't have to be President of U.S.A. or Prime Minister of China or even Taoiseach of Ireland to wield this kind of power. Even our own community, or place of work, or perhaps even in our own household power can be exercised on a much smaller scale, but nonetheless stifling. I remember many years ago listening to a lady in the local shop asking a customer about her son who he had emigrated to England. "How is Jimmy getting on?" . "Oh, great". "What kind of work is he doing over there?" "To be honest, I don't know. All I know is he is over men." This obviously was a boast for the consumption of all us who were present, and an exercise of the power thing. "If anyone wants to be first he must make himself last of all, and servant of all."

We might all reflect on what these words mean for ourselves.

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friend or neighbour



## STATION OF THE CROSS NO. VII

Lord of the journey, you know how deeply we fall and how often we become discouraged by our failures. Be with us on our pilgrimage of life, reach out to us and raise us up in the warmth of your loving arms.

We pray for those who have been diagnosed with terminal illness, those in pain and those who are the victims of violence.

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## Rest in Peace

John (Jackie) Moylan, Laburnum Park, died somewhat unexpectedly on the 15th March after a very brief stay in St. Finbarr's Hospital. Born in 1916 near Ennis Co. Clare, he enjoyed extraordinary health of mind and body, clipping his own hedges into his nineties and looking forward with confidence to a Grand Slam in Cardiff this weekend. Even though he came to Cork in 1932 to work as an apprentice in Dwyers, Washington Street, his heart never left his native county, with Clare's All Ireland victory bringing him joy beyond measure. His work as a commercial traveller brought him all over West Cork where he met his beloved wife Kay who predeceased him only last October. Home and family were the centrepiece of his life and his sons' rugby exploits widened his sporting interests. Though a reserved man, he was a man of great welcome and hospitality to all. He will be greatly missed by young and old. To his sons Bernard and Noel, his daughter-in-law Angela, his grandchildren Shauna and Ailbe, we offer our sincerest sympathies. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sé.

## NOTICE BOARD

Next Wednesday 25th pupils from St. Catherine's School will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** in the church at 10.30am. There will be no 10.00am Mass.

### Year of St. Paul

Fr. Tom's lectures continue on Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Crypt.

### Exposition for Lent.

On Sunday March 22nd there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with time for quiet prayer and reflection in St. Catherine's Convent chapel from 3.00pm until 5.00pm. All are welcome.

### Songs for the Journey Concert

An evening of sacred music and mime, mantras and songs, with Monica Brown on Thursday 26th March at Christ the King Church, Turner's Cross, 7.30 to 9.00 pm. (seated for 7.25pm please). All welcome, donation €10. It promises to be a spiritually uplifting experience. Music and prayer resources available on the evening.

### Interested in Music and Drama?

CIT Cork School of Music offers courses in Musicianship for 5 to 8 year old beginners and also for adults. Information Evening in the School at Union Quay on Thursday 26th March at 8.00- 9.00 p.m. for parents of new students only. Closing date for applications Monday 27th April. Tel. 4807300.

### Blood Donor Clinic

In GAA Hall, Bishopstown, Tuesday 31st March from 5.00pm to 8.00pm.

**Found** a sum of money on the Model Farm Road. Further details from 087-6492554.

**Cookery Demonstration** by Chef Tom Keaveney at Bishopstown Community School commencing 7.30pm. on Thursday next, 26th March. Bishopstown. Please come and bring a friend.

## BIBLE CORNER



### “GOD’S WORK OF ART”

It was a touch of genius by St Paul to tell the Ephesians that they were “God’s work of art”. They needed a reminder of what the Good News really meant. It was only if they realised how precious they were to God that they would remain faithful in difficult times. They needed the boost. Paul’s imaginative description gave it to them.

It can do the same for us through this weekend’s second reading. Due to our weaknesses, and maybe our conditioning, we can grow despondent and lose sight of the vision. God’s love for us is never deserved or earned. It is a pure gift to which we respond with courage and joy. Let the vitality of God’s word reinforce our hope this weekend.

Fr. Tom Clancy

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

In the spring of 1209 Francesco Barnabone accompanied by a motley group of men walked from Assisi to Rome. Their mission was to ask Pope Innocent III to approve a penitential way of life for them. Recognising the work of the Holy Spirit in those men, the Pope granted approval. This year marks the 800th anniversary of the Franciscan Order.

Francis, whose father was a wealthy merchant, enlisted in two military campaigns. He then suffered a serious illness which changed his life forever. Returning to Assisi he spent many years in prayer asking God for guidance. A mystical vision before the crucifix, where Christ spoke asking Francis to “repair my church which is falling into ruin”, totally transformed him. The Franciscan rule embraced brotherhood, absolute poverty and concern for the poor and sick. Francis’s simple doctrine of putting into practice what Christ had preached was greeted with great joy.

In March 1211 Francis and his friend Clare established the order of the Poor Clares. We are blessed and privileged having the Poor Clare community in our parish.

His love of all God’s creatures, animals and birds is legendary. Francis chose never to be ordained a priest. Towards the end of his life, while in prayer he was marked with the stigmata - the wounds of the crucified Christ. Almost blind, he died on 3rd October 1226 after a long illness, aged forty-four years.

Arthur O’Callaghan

### A SMILE, FOR GOD’S SAKE



*A smile is quite a funny thing, it wrinkles up your face,  
and when it’s gone its hard to find its secret hiding place.  
But far more wonderful it is to see what smiles can do.  
You smile at one, one smiles at you and so, one smile makes two.*

*(can be sung to the air of ‘Auld Lang Syne’ at any time of the year)*