

Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

28th June 2009

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No.1013

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES

SAINT BERNADETTE OF LOURDES



The pilgrim visitor to Lourdes is drawn through the busy streets, edged and crowded with shops selling every conceivable object of piety, to the comparative peace and prayerfulness of the 'domain' which insulates the area around the grotto of the apparitions.

There, standing or kneeling or sitting, the pilgrim faces the statue of the Virgin Mary placed in a niche of the rock. The pilgrims have come there to gaze on the 'Beautiful Lady' whom a small girl Bernadette reported as appearing and speaking with her in the year 1858.

Today, the image of the Beautiful Lady remains, but the figure of the small, poor and sick child Bernadette has disappeared. The pilgrims take her place in looking towards the niche in the rock – and in doing so, as like as not, forget Bernadette. They are taken up with the Beautiful Lady who is now for them, 'Our Lady'.

But if we forget Bernadette we are liable to miss the meaning of Lourdes and much deeper meaning of the Gospel story.

The facts of the story are that Bernadette, who died on the 16th of April, 1879, was in human terms a most unlikely person to receive an apparition. At the time, owing to her father's poverty, they had lost almost everything and were living in the old town gaol. Bernadette was young, poor, scarcely educated and of uncertain health. When four years after the apparitions and with considerable reserve, the local Bishop came to recognize the authenticity of the apparitions he wrote in the official letter (Jan. 18th, 1862):

"What sort of instrument is the Almighty going to use to communicate his merciful designs to us? Once again it is what is poorest and most fragile in the world, a child of fourteen, born of a poor family".

Bernadette is an example of holiness for our time. In a busy rushing world, where so much humanly depends on getting on, passing examinations, achieving a higher income, surrounding oneself with comforts and luxuries beyond the dreams of two thirds of the world, Bernadette lives poorly, asks for nothing but God's love, achieves nothing but her response to that love. She follows the hiddenness of Jesus in Nazareth and faithful service of Mary, her Beautiful Lady.

It is easy to say these things. It is not easy to live them. For instance, her own Mistress of novices in the convent, who was a remarkable and holy person in her own way, got fed up with talk about Bernadette's canonization. She was regarded as a useless servant. She suffered the severity of her superiors, one of whom even said: "Oh! She was a little peasant girl ... If the Holy Virgin wanted to appear somewhere on earth, why would she chose a common, illiterate peasant instead of some virtuous and well instructed nun", and "I do not understand why the Holy Virgin should reveal herself to Bernadette. There are so many other souls more lofty and delicate".

As she was dying, Bernadette clutched her crucifix and placed it on her heart. She stretched her two hands towards the crucifix and said: "My Jesus! Oh! How much I love you" and "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me". She again said: "I am ground like a grain of wheat; I never thought I would have to suffer so much".

Are we really strong enough to take her place?.

Rest in Peace

Tony O'Leary, Magazine Road, died at the Bon Secours Hospital on Tuesday 16th June. Tony had been unwell for about two years, but he was too young to die - and his death came rather unexpectedly at the end. He was a valued and popular employee of the Port of Cork for many years, and the large number of fellow employees and friends attending his obsequies bore ample testament to that. We extend the very sincere sympathy of our community to his mother Eileen, his sister Catherine, his brother John, his aunt Kathleen, sister-in-law Susan, brother-in-law Des, and a large circle of relatives and friends who will miss him. He was laid to rest with his late father, Denis, in St. Oliver's Cemetery, Model Farm Road.

The death took place on Wednesday evening of Patrick Madden, 7 Leesdale, Model Farm Road. Patrick, affectionately known as P.J., died peacefully at his home. He is sadly missed and mourned by his loving wife, Angela, his daughters, Sharon, Mandy and Tracy and his son, Alan. He was a most loving father to the late Paula who passed away some years ago. Needless to say, all the other members of the family, including sisters, brothers, in-laws, grandchildren, aunt, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends mourn his passing. He was a good and loving father imbued by the strong faith passed on to him by his parents in his native Courtmacsherry. He did not spare himself when it came to caring for his home and his family, and how happy he was to see them all doing well for themselves. And, indeed, when it came to the practice of his faith, he was not found wanting. He attended the 6.15 p.m. Mass in the Church of the Holy Spirit every Saturday evening before making the weekly visit to his brother. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, both here in the parish and at home in his native Courtmacsherry. God rest him now and all the dead.

GOD'S WORD

July 5: Ez 2:2-5. Ps 122. 2 Cor 12:7-10. Mk 6:1-6.
July 12: Amos 7:12-15. Ps 84. Eph 1:3-14. Mk 6:7-13.
July 19: Jer 23:1-6. Ps 22. Eph 2:13-18. Mk 6:30-34.
July 26: 32 Kgs 4:42-44. Ps 144. Eph 4:1-6. Jn 6:1-15.
Aug 2: Ex 16:2-4,12-15. Ps 77. Eph 4:17,20-24.
Jn 6:24-35.
Aug 9: 1 Kgs 19:4-8. Ps 33. Eph 44:30-5:2. Jn 6:41-51.
Aug 16: Prov 9:1-6. Ps 33. Eph 5:15-20. Jn 6:51-58.
Aug 23: Jos 24:1-2,15-18. Ps 33. Eph 5:21-32. Jn 6:60-69.
Aug 30: Deut 4:1-2,6-8. Ps 14. Jas 1:17-18,21-22,25.
Mk7:1-8,14-15,21-23.

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BIBLE CORNER



AGAINST THE TIDE

Uncertainty stalks the land. Every day some people someplace are losing their jobs. Private pension schemes are disintegrating. The young (and their parents) are worrying will they ever get work. Schemes to care for the most vulnerable and those with special needs are endangered. Some fear that if they needed a hospital bed they would not get it. Fears about personal safety are very real for many. Anxieties, spoken and unspoken, disturb inner peace in many hearts. The temptation is to focus on oneself, to hoard even the little one has.

Into the middle of that turmoil comes St. Paul telling us "how we always have had the most of everything". He is challenging us against the tide to be generous with those less well off than we are ourselves. The example he holds up for us in this regard is Jesus: "He was rich but became poor for your sake."

The second reading this weekend is one to take home and discuss around the kitchen table. God knows what the Lord might inspire us to do that would truly enrich us.

Fr. Tom

NOTICE BOARD

The priests of the parish are deeply grateful to all who contributed to their support through the Spring Dues.
Your generosity is much appreciated.
A special word of thanks to our distributors.

First Friday

Next Friday 3rd June is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament next Friday 3rd from 10.30am to 7.30pm followed by Mass.

St. Vincent de Paul monthly collections for the Summer as follows: July: 11/12th (**second weekend**).
August: 1st/2nd. September: 5th/6th.

The Parish Office will be closed for July and August. Certificates available in the Sacristy during Mass times, telephone 087-2698708. Enquiries to the priest-on-duty at 087-2519940.

Parish Bulletin

Publication will resume in September, and deliveries of Bulletins to the homes will re-commence in October.



We wish all our readers a happy, sunny and safe Summer.