

Ballineaspig Bulletin



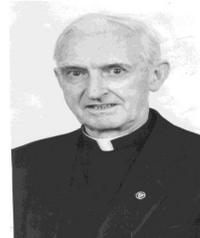
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

14th March 2010

Fourth Sunday of Lent

No. 1032

THE DEAN WITES



God's Word

Readings for Sunday 21st
March

First Reading
Is 43:16-21

Psalms 125

Second Reading
Phil 3:8-14

Gospel
Jn 8:1-11

HAIL GLORIOUS SAINT PATRICK

On Wednesday next there will be celebrations from Allihies to Los Angeles - and round by Hawaii to Fiji and Sydney, to Kuwait and Rome, and back to London and Dublin - all in honour of the 'dear Saint of our Isle'. Patrick never dreamt that his name would be known and honoured throughout the world so long after his death. It's mostly due to the thousands of missionaries who went to the ends of the earth to bring the Good News of salvation that Patrick brought to us - and the millions of young Irish men and women who left our shores to make a life for themselves abroad, and brought with them the 'Faith of our Fathers'.

So, a little exuberance with justifiable pride is in order as they gather wherever it may be - shed a tear - and sing 'If we only had Old Ireland over here'.

St. Patrick left a clear and humble account of his life in a booklet called *The Confessions*. He recalled he was neither devout nor prayerful in his early teens. This all changed with the harsh reality of a life of slavery on the bleak and lonely slopes of Sliabh Mish. There he turned to God, and prayed "a hundred times a day and after as many times a night". He escaped to his home in Britain to be warmly welcomed by his family who lived in modest comfort of the time. Later they were aghast to learn of his decision to return to Ireland, and leave his home for ever.

Nor was he received with honour and ceremony on his return to Ireland, but rather with suspicion and slander. But he wrote: "I give thanks to God who has kept me faithful."

Patrick was keenly aware of his own limitations. In the very first line of his autobiography he wrote, "I am Patrick, a sinner, the least of all the faithful, and held in contempt by many." He was burdened by the loneliness of an exile who would never see his home and family again. But through it all he was convinced that in spite of all difficulties and ridicule he was still loved, blessed, and called by God to carry out his mission to the Irish people of his time. That's the one point I would wish all of us to remember from his St. Patrick's Day of 2010. We too are loved, blessed and called by God to carry on his mission at this juncture in Irish history.

And no matter how unworthy we may feel ourselves to be, we are the ones called upon to carry on his mission in this challenging time in our history. The deepest significance of St. Patrick's Day is not the parades, or the flags, or the songs, or the toasts, but God's purpose - that St. Patrick started something in Ireland that yourself and myself are meant to carry on.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

*We wish all mothers in the parish a very happy Mother's Day
(and hope they won't have to lift a finger for the day!!)*

NOTICE BOARD



ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASSES

Vigil Mass Tuesday 16th: 7.30pm
Wednesday 17th:
9.00, 10.30 (as gaeilge) and 12.15pm

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next weekend.

Padre Pio Pilgrimage visiting San Giovanni, Rome and Loreto and audience with the Holy Father. Leaving Cork Airport on September 5th to 15th. Contact Mrs. Maire Coll, Ennis, at 086-8804603.

Community Education & Development Qualification

Are you active in your community on either a paid or voluntary basis? Would you like to have nationally and internationally recognised qualifications in this area? C.I.T. can provide you with such an opportunity with our B.A. degree programme while you continue your current community work. This is a 3 year programme of lectures, workshops and a work-practice element based in the community. For those who do not wish to make a commitment for the full 3 years, there is the option to leave after 2 years with the Higher Certificate Qualification. Applications are also invited from candidates who have significant experience in community work and/or qualifications in cognate areas for advanced entry to the second and third year of the programme. Entry to this programme is based on interview. Contact Anne Deasy, C.I.T. tel. 43226700, email anne.deasy@cit.ie

Alzheimer Society, meeting of Saturday Club, 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Saturday 20th March at Bessboro Day Care Centre, with music provided by Joan Burke & Friends. Light refreshments provided, free admission, all welcome. Further information contact 4972504.

Veritas, Carey's Lane, special offer starting on Monday 15th March. If you buy €25 of Holy Communion gifts you get a beautiful Italian designed silver plated communion prayer book worth €12.50 completely free. We also have a large section of Confirmation gifts in stock as well.

YEAR FOR PRIESTS

Augustinian, Capuchin, Dominican and Franciscan - Religious Celebrations
MASS, HOMILY AND PRAYERS

St. Augustine's Church - Monday 15th March at 7.30pm.
Holy Trinity Church - Tuesday 16th March at 7.30pm
St. Francis Church - Thursday 18th March at 7.30pm
St. Mary's Church - Friday 19th March at 7.30pm.

Preacher: Fr. Tomas Lane CM, All Hallows
All Priests, Religious and Laity are welcome.

"My Son, you are with me and all I have is yours..."
(Luke 15:32)

The parable of the prodigal son illustrates a parent's unconditional love for his or her children, as a father welcomes home a son who has strayed, while reassuring his other son that he is also loved dearly. On **MOTHER'S DAY** we realise, again, the depth of this parental love in our own lives. The little girl on the **Trócaire** box, Domitille, is lucky to have a mother to love and look after her. Often her mother, Triphonie goes without food to make sure her children get enough to eat. She tells Trócaire that there isn't always enough to go round and she will do whatever it takes to make sure they don't cry with hunger. Please support Trócaire's Lenten campaign this year in whatever way you can. Your support will help mothers like Triphonie all over the world.

JUST A THOUGHT FOR LENT



The relationship between the father and his sons in the Parable of the Prodigal Son challenges us to consider how we love one another. Do we love out of a sense of duty? Or do we love because we know ourselves to be deeply loved by God? We are reminded of Pope Benedict XVI's words in Deus Caritas Est (n.1), "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person (Jesus Christ), which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction". This Lent we pray that we will know ourselves to be loved by God and that his love will inspire us in real ways to love those in our world most in need of our care.

WEEKEND PSALM

Lent 4 - Year C

Patrick Killeen



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