

Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

18th April 2010

Third Sunday of Easter

No. 1036

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 25th
April

First Reading
Acts 13:14,43-52

Psalms 99

Second Reading
Apoc 7:9,14-17

Gospel
Jn 10:27-30

CONTACT DETAILS

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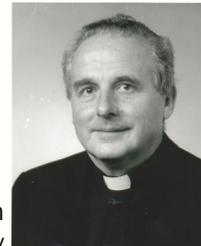
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TO STAY OR TO GO?



Recently, the remark of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, that the Catholic Church in Ireland had lost all credibility made the headlines. The comment was described as inaccurate, insensitive or even, offensive. Yet, in the eyes of many people, the remark rang true, painfully true. Some have left the Church in pain, anger or disillusionment. Some have drifted away in apathy or indifference. More are facing an agonising question on why one should stay with such a discredited Church.

Two thousand years ago as the crowds melted away from following him, Jesus asked the Twelve: "Will you also go away?" Peter rallied the little group and they stayed as a community. It was the only option if one believed that Jesus was whom he claimed to be. He was Son of God made man who came to bind his followers into a network of communities of love, hope, faith, service and joy that we call his Church. He did not come just to develop individual, intimate, personal relationships with each one, but to bind us together as his people to live through love in his presence. Such was his call then. Such is his call now.

This vision has been blurred and seriously damaged beyond our imagining. But it is still God's vision for us. He nourishes that vision in and through the Eucharist. His Spirit of forgiveness makes reconciliation and healing possible even when it is high impossible. Without the sacraments, we are all impoverished, growing in hardness of heart, self-righteousness and even despair. What is the way forward? The Easter-Pentecost period is a special time for the Holy Spirit. As never before, we need the gifts of the Spirit - wisdom, understanding, courage and awe in God's presence, to inspire us, to permeate every aspect of our lives, of our institutions, of our leadership, of our service, of our worship and prayer.

When we gather in prayer, the Spirit can empower us to find loving, wise creative ways to rebuild a church fit for purpose in our time. Otherwise, we may end up in a destructive blame game that lays waste God's Church without nurturing new seedlings of hope and life.

As regards the personal question of staying or going, I'll stay, please God, because I need to. I need the community of believers to support my prayer, to celebrate Eucharist and Reconciliation, to keep hope alive, to live the gospel as well as to preach it. Without the Church, I would not be able to follow God's call, to fulfil my destiny, to try to live through love in God's presence. I hope you will stay, too, because you are a key part of God's plan of love for all of us. Without your active help, God's Church will not be renewed. Bí linn.

*"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people,
Inspire us with the fire of your love. Amen."*

Fr. Tom

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Rest in Peace

We offer our sincere sympathy to the families our parishioners who died recently. May their souls rest in peace.

Anne Murphy, late of Lima Lawn.

Helen Walsh, late of Horgan's Buildings.

In Sympathy

To **Dean O'Connor**, on the death of his sister, Sr. Dominica, Bon Secours Hospital.

To **Rita Higgins**, Laburnum Lawn, on the death of her son-in-law, Jerry Donovan, Ballincollig.

WE NEED YOU!

We ask the risen Christ to give strength to the courageous priests who are staying the course and ploughing on; the ones who are making up for the actions of a few, by shining their candle of hope and love and sacrifice, even when their hearts are breaking and their motivation is at an all-time low. Thank you for being in the middle of this awfulness and because you keep going when you least feel like it; for celebrating the sacraments and for trudging back and forward into every house, hospital and nursing home, every nook and cranny that needs your comfort and help

Let us keep our priests in our prayers unceasingly.

Una Markey - Intercom

FEAST DAYS

Thursday 29th April is the Feast day of St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380). She was named patroness of Europe in 2000. Church and state leaders came to her for guidance throughout her short life. She tried hard to reconcile warring families and bring unity to the church. Her words convinced the Pope to move back to Rome from Avignon where popes had lived in exile for 74 years. Towards the end of her life a schism split the church, with two popes opposing each other. Catherine tried to end this, writing forthright letters to the warring factions. This work took its toll and she died at the age of thirty-three in Rome, where she had moved to support the Pope.

'Scandalous Saints & Spirited Sinners' by Bernard Cotter

NOTICE BOARD

Novena of Good Counsel at St. Augustine's Church from 17th to 26th April, 11.00am, 4.00 and 8.00pm. Saturday 24th anointing of the sick at 11.00am and 4.00pm. Sunday 25th day of prayer for all preparing for examinations. All sessions will be broadcast on www.staugustinescork.ie



Baile an Easpaig Gramophone Circle

Will meet next Wednesday, 21st April at 3.00pm. in the crypt of our church. Paddy Murphy will give the recital, and this will be the final recital for this season. Do come and join us.

Blood Donor Clinic

At the Barr's Club, Togher, Wednesday 21st April, 5.00-8.00pm.

Cork Ursuline Past Pupils' Union

All Ursuline past pupils are invited to the annual Reunion/AGM at the Ursuline Convent Blackrock, on Saturday 24th April at 3.00pm. Refreshments will be followed by Mass at 6.00pm. RSVP by Wednesday 21st to linda-jsc@eircom.net, or Irene Higgins at 4541583.

Holy Souls Crusade Pilgrimage 2010

Divine Mercy, Krakow - 22nd-29th August, visiting Czestochowa, Wadowice, Kalwaria & Zakopane. Garabandal - 9th/16th October visiting Potes, Picos de Europa, Santo Toribio, Covadonga, Oviedo & Limpas. Details: Mary Mullins 091-798407/087-2255739

Bishopstown Community Association

The AGM will be held in Wilton Park House on Tuesday 20th April at 8.00pm. All interested parties are invited to attend. For details contact 4545790/4343575.

Drugs Awareness Evening

Open Forum discussion on Monday 26th April, 7.30 to 8.30pm. at Bishopstown Community School. Main themes with experienced speakers include the challenge of parenting, drugs - the hidden problems, what makes children/young adults vulnerable, and the availability of drugs in the Bishopstown area. Refreshments served. For more information please call 087-9952757

EASTER DUES

Our sincere thanks to the many parishioners who have sent in their generous Dues.

A word of appreciation to our courteous distributors/collectors who facilitated the good work.

- *The priests of the parish*

WEEKEND PSALM

Easter 3 - Year C

Patrick Killeen



I will praise you Lord you have res-cued me.