

# Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

13th February 2011

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No.1086

## God's Word

Readings for Sunday 20th  
February

First Reading  
Lev 19:1-2,17-18

Psalm 102

Second Reading  
1 Cor 3:16-23

Gospel  
Mt 5:38-48

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES



## OUR LADY OF LOURDES

On the 11th February 1858, Our Lady first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, a fourteen year-old girl in Lourdes, a small town on the mountains between France and Spain. Her life was changed forever. Millions of pilgrims who visited Lourdes have experienced peace, strength, hope, prayers answered, including miraculous healing. Their journeys home were happier than their journeys out.

In Lourdes the focus is on the sick. Every afternoon the Blessed Sacrament procession takes place and is led by invalids on stretchers and wheelchairs. After gathering in front of the Basilica or in the underground Church, they receive a special blessing before Benediction. (At the end of our annual Corpus Christi Procession, the Bishop goes directly to our sick gathered near the altar in Daunt Square and they too receive a special blessing from Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.)

In 1992 Pope John Paul designated the feast-day of Our Lady of Lourdes as World Day of the Sick. Only God and Our Lady at times fully know the real pain of the sick, all in need of physical, mental, spiritual and emotional healing. Life is a lonely journey, constant pain, never at times fully understood, many getting no relief at all. Every day in all our families we experience pain of various kinds.

We think too of all involved in medical research. Thank God for those who have found various cures. May Jesus, who healed the sick and Mary, health of the sick, bless all who care for our sick at home and in hospital. May all who are healthy appreciate their health and through our Masses prayers and caring may all our sick get some relief and hope, Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for all of us, especially the sick.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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**087-251 9940**

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

## COFFEE MORNING



In the Crypt after the 12.15pm Mass this Sunday 13th February in aid of the Transition Year students at Mount Mercy College's Y.S.I. project. All funds will be donated to our chosen charity 'Enable Ireland'.

There will be tea, coffee and cakes on sale, at a reasonable price, as well as a raffle with brilliant prizes. It would be much appreciated if you would come along and contribute.

## WEEKEND PSALM

Sixth Sunday in ordinary time - Year A

Patrick Killeen



They are hap-py who foll-ow God's law!

## NOTICE BOARD

### Bulletins to Homes

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

### Parent and Child Group at the Crypt

Our group meets at the Crypt on Thursday mornings from 10:15am (closed during school holidays). New members needed. Parents, grandparents and childminders are all very welcome to bring babies, toddlers and pre-school children. Tea and coffee provided for adults. Cost is €3 per family group. Contact name - Angela - 087 7927861. Playgroup is on Thursday next, 17 February, closed on 24 February (school mid-term) and re-opening 3 March.

**Cura Pregnancy Support Services** is an Agency of the Irish Episcopal Conference established in 1977 to ensure the provision of services to people facing a crisis pregnancy. The organisation has 16 Centres and 4 Outreach Services around the country. Cura provides the following service: free pregnancy testing, crisis pregnancy counselling and support, post natal support, information on rights and entitlements, making links with other service providers, counselling after an abortion. Other services include: crisis pregnancy counselling to baby's father and other family members, schools awareness programme.

**NAOMI** for information on pre-marriage courses, full day on specific Saturdays, €90 per couple. Also counselling to achieve/postpone a pregnancy. Address 110 Patrick Street (entrance Drawbridge St), tel. 4272213.

## BIBLE CORNER



### A NEW VISION

Sometimes a gospel passage has so many varied aspects that different points strike different individuals as the key message. Sunday's gospel is one such passage. It ranges from anger to adultery, from scandal to swearing, from insincerity to integrity. But despite the variation, the core message is clear. Only the person who continues to grow into the fullness of the law of love of God and of the neighbour can join in the friendship of God now and forever.

A common danger for us is to bargain with God's law, to play one part off against another. To accept that one should not kill seems equitable enough but to always refrain from denigrating another's character seems above and beyond what is humanly reasonable. If we abide by the precept of avoiding murder, we can fool ourselves into believing that character assassination is not too bad after all. Such skin deep virtue evokes Christ's unequivocal denunciation.

He says clearly that he is calling us to a higher ideal, a more generous response. True, we will fail. He knows that and His forgiveness is always available. But His challenge is to never settle for mediocrity, to daily respond to the seeds of courageous faith he sows in our hearts, to be willing to let Him change us every year of our lives. It is a glorious calling.

Fr. Tom

### BROTHER ANDRÉ - THE DOORMAN

*Alfred Bissett was born near Quebec in 1845. One of ten children his father, a carpenter, was tragically killed in an accident when Alfred was nine years old, and this resulted in the family being quite poor. Three years later his mother died of tuberculosis. She had been a deeply religious woman.*

*Alfred was sent to live with his aunt and her husband. Fragile health however prevented him from manual work and with little education he wandered from job to job.*

*From early in life he exhibited an unusually intense spirituality often spending hours in prayer. His life-long patron saint was Sr. Joseph. On reaching his twenties he applied to join the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Montreal, but was rejected because of frail health. Archbishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal intervened on his behalf and Alfred was accepted, receiving the religious name of Brother André.*

*For the following forty years André was doorkeeper at Notre Dame College, receiving and advising the many people who called. As he listened to stories of hardship, sorrow and sickness, André was often moved to tears. Repeatedly he told people to take their troubles to St. Joseph. He himself would pray that their requested be granted.*

*Over the years Br. André's reputation grew with many claims of cures through the prayers of the good brother and St. Joseph. On his many visits to the sick André would anoint them with oil from the lamp of St. Joseph's altar at the College chapel, and countless cases of people being cured without any apparent medical explanation were reported. André became known as a miracle worker - a claim he vehemently denied. "It is God and the Saints who can heal you. not I. I am but a tool in the hands of divine providence."*

*A lifelong project he totally embraced with the building of an oratory dedicated to St. Joseph overlooking Montreal. Bro. André died in 1935. People flooded in huge numbers to pay their respects - an estimated one million filed past his coffin. Beatified in 1982, he was canonised and proclaimed a saint by Pope Benedict last October. His remains are buried in the oratory he helped to build and attract many visitors. Today St. André of Montreal is widely venerated in Canada.*

*Arthur O'Callaghan*