

# Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

26th June, 2011

The Body and Blood of Christ

No: 1104

## A letter from our Bishop

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

June 2011

I am writing to you regarding the decline in the number of priests in the Diocese and its implications for all of us. By way of example, in 1998, 154 priests worked in the Diocese. Today the figure stands at 103 and this number will continue to decline in the future. A total of 28 priests from Religious Orders and Societies have temporary assignments in the Diocese but they could be recalled at any time. They serve as chaplains in hospitals, third level institutions, prison, army and navy. A major challenge facing us is how to cope with this reduction in the number of priests. We have to plan for the future within the doctrine and discipline of the Church.

As you are aware, we have divided the Diocese into what are known as Pastoral Areas or groupings of parishes. Few parishes have the expertise and talents to respond to all their needs. Indeed, parishes are enriched by mutual co-operation. Even without a reduction in the number of priests, this co-operation remains a necessity. We are the Body of Christ and it would be a mistake if we were to regard the neighbouring parts of this body as separate. In the words of St. Paul: "The eye cannot say to the hand, I do not need you".

Given the continuing fall in the number of priests, each pastoral area faces the real prospect of losing at least one priest within a couple of years. I have invited each pastoral area to revise their Mass schedules. Meetings have been held with representatives (priests and lay people) from each parish to prepare recommendations and workable solutions. Pastoral areas will make every effort to ensure that there is a choice of Mass times available in each area. It may be necessary, however, for people to make adjustments to their regular routine. It is hoped to implement the new schedules at the beginning of 2012.

Many lay people are very involved in the work of the parishes through the various participatory structures e.g. parish councils, parish assemblies, finance committees, liturgy groups, prayer groups, baptism groups. Many of the tasks traditionally associated with the priest, but not essential to the nature and ministry of the priesthood, need skills and expertise which are more evident among parishioners. Indeed, lay people, through their baptism, are given a special assignment in the secular sphere in bringing the good news to people. There are many areas of life today where the lay apostolate is very important e.g. schools, homes, places of work, politics and business. The Second Vatican Council emphasised the importance of lay involvement and this vision was not rooted in any crisis. The Lord continues to say to all people: "*Go into my vineyard too*".

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I am hoping that the greater lay involvement will lead to a realisation of the need for the priest. All our initiatives and new structures do not obscure in any way the irreplaceable role of the priest. Without the priest there would be no Mass, and no Christian community can be built up which does not centre on the Eucharist. I know that you will continue to pray that the Lord's invitation to follow and serve him in priesthood and in religious life will be responded to with generosity.

We must always be people of hope. Hope means that we have a future. Jesus Christ is the source from whom we draw our hope and our life. Pope Benedict has spoken about a new springtime for the Church. Prayer is a vital part of our work. Prayer was central to the life of Jesus. Our work will not be easy but let us not forget that Christ has promised to be with us. "Christ's power working within us can do infinitely more than we can ask for or imagine". (St. Paul).

Finally, we turn to Mary in whom the generations who went before us put their trust, and never in vain, to watch over us at this time.

Praying God's blessing on you and your families,  
I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

**John Buckley,**

Bishop of Cork and Ross.

## NOTICE BOARD

### Dyslexic Workshops

The Dyslexia Association are now accepting bookings for their workshop beginning Monday, 12th September in the Bishopstown Community School. All enquiries to (086) 8064799 or [dyslexiacork@gmail.com](mailto:dyslexiacork@gmail.com).

### Are you a good listener?

Senior Help Line is opening a new city centre location in Cork and is, therefore, looking for new volunteers. The commitment is three hours on Wednesday morning once every four weeks. All our volunteers are older people, men and women, who receive initial training. This training will take place in Cork. Senior Help Line is a confidential listening service for older people by older people for the price of a local call anywhere in Ireland, LoCall 1850 440 444. Senior Help Line is open every day and every evening. For further information contact Damian Leneghan, Head of Training on 01-8029020/086-3951251 or Anne Dempsey, Head of Communications on 01-2875304/086-8074529.

### Irish Blood Transfusion Service

The next Blood Donor Clinic will take place on Tuesday 28th June from 5.00pm to 8.30pm at The Barr's Club, Togher. Please come along and donate blood and help cope with the increasing demand from hospitals and patients in the region.

### Flower Festival

A Flower Festival will be held in St. Patrick's Church, Fermoy on Sat. 2nd July (11am-5pm) and Sun. 3rd July (1pm-7.30pm).

### Annual Eucharistic Procession:

Please assemble outside "The Brick Oven" Restaurant (just beyond St. Maries of the Isle Primary School) at 3.30pm to walk in procession to Daunt Square in honour of Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.

## Rest in Peace

May God grant eternal rest to Elaine O'Driscoll, Rossbrook, Model Farm Road who died in Australia and our deepest sympathy to her parents, John and Eileen, sister Doireann and brothers Denis and Edward.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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Dean Denis O'Connor  
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Parish Office  
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**Emergency Number:**  
**087-251 9940**

### MASS TIMES

#### Sunday

9.00, 10.30, 12.15  
Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

#### Weekdays

9.00, 10.00

#### Eve of Holydays

7.30pm

#### Holydays

9.00, 10.30

*Parish Bulletin will resume in September. A sincere thank you to our distributors.*

*Parish Office will close for July and August. Certificates available in the sacristy from 8.30 to 11.00am each day or after weekend Masses.*

*Emergency number: 087-2519940.*

**Best Wishes to all involved in the Special Olympics, especially to all from our community.**

**Email:** [holyspiritparish@eircom.net](mailto:holyspiritparish@eircom.net)

**Website:** [www.dennehycrossparish.ie](http://www.dennehycrossparish.ie)