

Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

17th March, 2013

Fifth Sunday of Lent (St. Patrick's Day)

No: 1171

A Parishioner's Tribute



Dean Denis O'Connor was born in Dromore, Bantry where he attended the local national school, on to Farranferris and then to Maynooth where he was ordained Priest on the 20th June, 1948. Following his Ordination his first assignment was in Youghal (Diocese of Cloyne).

On his return to the Cork Diocese, he served in St. Finbarr's South, Carrigfada, Kinsale, Togher, The Cathedral, Farranree and in 1984 Canon Denis O'Connor was appointed Parish Priest of Ballineaspig and in 1987 he was honoured by being appointed Dean of the Cathedral Chapter. As Parish Priest in Ballineaspig for fourteen years, this holy and gentle Priest guided the Parish quietly and effectively. He endeared himself to his parishioners and they in return loved and respected him.

Through his encouragement, foresight and leadership, one of the first Pastoral Councils in the Diocese was formed in 1987. His earnest wish was that more and more lay people in the Parish would take an active part in the life of the Parish.

Dean O'Connor was endowed with many fine qualities. His commonsense and down to earth approach to issues that demanded his attention were evident in the way he approached and dealt with problems. He possessed a deep understanding of human nature, of the difficulties of parents rearing families and of the problems that young people face in the modern world.

Articles which he wrote for the weekly Parish Bulletin were full of wisdom, good advice and encouragement.

He has spoken from the Altar with great sensitivity on delicate social issues such as abortion, divorce, drug abuse and on the difficulties and scandals which have beset the Church in recent years.

Parishioners describe the Dean as a thorough gentleman, easy to talk to, a good listener which is why he was so well liked and respected. But above all he was a deeply spiritual man, devoted to the Mass and Eucharist and dedicated to his priestly duties. He was a caring person, going about doing good, visiting the sick in their homes, caring for the less well off and counselling and advising those in trouble. Even when he retired as Parish Priest in 1998, he remained in the parish as an assistant Priest and continued his great work.

It is impossible to pay adequate tribute to this great Priest who for over sixty years has been ministering in this Diocese. He has left an indelible mark in every parish in which he served.

His outstanding contribution to his Church, to the Diocese and to the community at large was recognised by the Cork City Council when he was conferred with the Freedom of the City of Cork on the 22nd May, 2009.

Michael Lehane
(Former Chairman of Parish Pastoral Council)

1984 - 2013

Alpha and Omega

(Beginning and End)

This week's Bulletin is dedicated to our beloved Dean Denis O'Connor whom God called home to his eternal reward on Saturday, 9th March, 2013.

"Well done good and faithful servant, enter the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world"

THE DEAN WRITES:

(From Bulletin No: 980 - 26th October, 2008)

"THOSE WHO DIE IN GRACE GO NO FURTHER FROM US THAN GOD, AND GOD IS VERY NEAR"

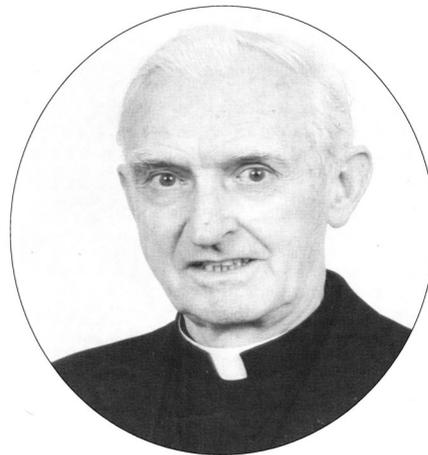
Last August I spent a few weeks with my sister down in West Cork where we all grew up. After tea one evening I went to visit my parents' grave - and my own next to them which I bought over thirty years ago.

While I was cleaning and tidying up the graves a man was working with a J.C.B. in another part of the cemetery. At dusk he sauntered over to me. He read my parents' names on the headstone and remarked to me, "I knew that man well, he taught in Dromore School. He had a son a Priest - I wonder what became of him." (Needless to say I wasn't wearing clerical garb on the job). I answered, "He is kneeling here before you, cleaning his own grave." This response brought an abrupt end to our conversation.

Most of us don't want to think about death or dying. After all it's something that has happened to countless others, but not to me - something that has to do with extreme old age. But death doesn't always wait for old age - as the early morning news too often reminds us. Those who have died suddenly in accidents or otherwise didn't think death was waiting around the corner when they got up that morning.

Of course, we do get uncomfortable with the subject of death, and this is natural. And yet it's so much part of life - it's so much part of the reality of what we are.

The Church reminds us during November to pray for those who have gone before us and to take a sensible look at where our own lives are going - not in any morose way - not getting depressed about it - but rather thanking Jesus who walked the road before us and has gone now to prepare a place for us in his own home in Heaven. In the meantime he loves us to bits in spite of all our weakness.



DO IT NOW

If with pleasure you are viewing
Any work that I am doing,
If you like me or you love me, tell me now.
Don't withhold your approbation
Till the Father makes oration
And I lie with snowy lilies o'er my brow;
For no matter how you shout it,
I won't care much about it;
I won't see how many teardrops you have shed;
If you think some praise is due me
Now's the time to slip it to me,
For I cannot read my tombstone when I'm dead.

More than fame and more than money
Is the comment warm and sunny,
Is the hearty warm approval of a friend.
For it gives to life a savour,
And it makes me stronger, braver,
And what's more it gives me spirit to the end;
If I earn your praise - bestow it,
If you like me, let me know it,
Let the words of encouragement be said;
Do not wait till life is over
And I'm underneath the clover,
For I cannot read my tombstone when I'm dead.

A Poem often referred to by our Dean