

Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

2nd February, 2014

Presentation of the Lord

No: 1203

MASS TIMES

Sunday

9.00, 10.30, 12.15
Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

Weekdays

9.30am only

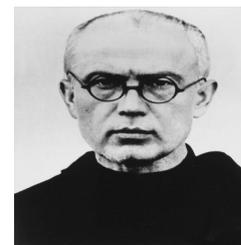
Eve of Holydays

7.30pm

Holydays

9.00, 10.30 &
7.30pm

A SAINT FOR OUR TIME



The twentieth century will record the abiding images of two World Wars. Against this most depressing dark backdrop, certain stars shine out as examples of what remains noble in human nature. Stories that remind us that men and women are made - still in the image of God - and that God's goodness is greater than any evil. The story of Maximilian Kolbe is a shining example.

God's Word

Readings for **Sunday**
9th February, 2014

First Reading:
Is 58:7-10

Psalms: 111

Second Reading:
1 Cor 2: 1-5

Gospel:
Mt 5: 13-16

The German invasion of Poland, which started the War, was accomplished in just one month. At the heart of the Nazi war machine was the incarceration of thousands who were rounded up and imprisoned, many were never seen again. The Policy of eliminating the intelligentsia, aristocracy and clergy was designed to tear the heart out of the people. Among those arrested was Fr. Maximilian Kolbe. He and many others were imprisoned at Auschwitz concentration camp.

On visiting Auschwitz, one can be overwhelmed by the evil that was once unleashed there. No other place on God's earth showcases as effectively the inhuman and demonic evil inflicted on the unfortunate men, women and children imprisoned there. In the bleak and dreadful situation, Fr. Kolbe worked tirelessly in comforting all those who were suffering. In poor health himself, he willingly shared his small food ration with others.

In July 1941, a prisoner managed to escape from the camp. The rule was in the event of an escape, ten remaining prisoners would be executed in the starvation bunker. For three hours the men stood under the blazing sun. Eventually Commandant Fritsch walked among the men selecting those who would be sent to the starvation bunker. One man chosen sobbed uncontrollably and cried out for his wife and children. Suddenly Fr. Kolbe stopped the Commandant and requested that he be allowed to take the place of that man. This was agreed and the priest was led away with the other nine to the death cell.

Despite his bodily frailty, Fr. Kolbe was to survive the longest of the ten, nearly four weeks. During the ordeal, those who passed by the bunker could hear the sound of hymns and prayers led by the priest. Finally, impatient to use the bunker again, a medical orderly injected the dying priest with carbolic acid—he died moments later.

Fr. Maximilian Kolbe O.F.M. was canonised on October 10th 1982 by Pope John Paul II. Among the huge attendance was Francis Gayowniczek, the man for whom Fr. Kolbe laid down his life. His Feast Day is celebrated on the 14th August.

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Arthur O'Callaghan.

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HOME OR GIVE IT TO A FRIEND OR
NEIGHBOUR

NOTICE BOARD

First Friday:

Next Friday, 7th February, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Next Friday, 7th February after the 9.30am Mass to 7.30pm followed by evening Mass.

Lourdes Invalid Pilgrimage Fund:

The annual collection will take place at all Masses next weekend, **8th/9th February** to enable invalids visit Lourdes.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society:

Monthly meeting will be held on next Thursday, 6th February, 2014 at 3.00pm in the Parish Centre.

Pastoral Council:

Next meeting will be held on *Monday, 10th February*, 2014 at 8.15pm in the Parish Centre.

Liturgy Group:

Next meeting will be held on *Tuesday, 11th February* at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Faith in Action:

The next meeting of the group will be held on Tuesday, 4th February at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre. New members are always welcome. Further information: 086 1522719.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

Wish to acknowledge, with thanks, the generous proceeds from the Crib over the Christmas Season. This amounted to €651 which will be used in their vital work for those less well off.



Why does Pope Francis follow St Francis of Assisi?

Why not come along to a short six week course which will be held in the Parish Centre on Thursdays 10am to 11am beginning on **February 6th**. The course/prayer meetings will explore the spirituality of St Francis of Assisi and how it shaped the spirituality of St Clare, St Anthony of Padua, St Bonaventure, St John Vianney, St John Bosco and St Padre Pio. The course will also address how Franciscan spirituality shapes the teachings of Pope Francis. Franciscan Devotional practices such as The Stations of the Cross, The Franciscan Chaplet of St Anthony, Padre Pio's letters on the Passion of Jesus Christ with reflections by the Poor Clare Colettine Sisters, will form part of this course.

The course/prayer meetings will be given by Pat Nugent of fs.

Please contact parish office or Pat Nugent (087) 0518239 if you are interested in attending.

BIBLE CORNER



A LIFE FULFILLED

Simeon is one of the stars of this weekend's gospel. He was in the right place at the right time with the right attitude of heart. When Mary and Joseph arrived in the Temple to present the infant Jesus to the Lord, as Jewish parents did, Simeon rejoiced in the new life and shared the excitement and parental pride of the occasion. Even though he had spent most of his life serving the Lord in the Temple, he was open to a new experience with his God. He was given an insight to who this child was and what life held in store for the promised Messiah, the Saviour who offers us a deepening awareness of the purpose of life and death. Simeon met Jesus, the crowning moment of a long life lived faithfully before God.

Not getting any younger myself, I feel a great affinity with Simeon, especially when I welcome a new infant for baptism in our Church here. I, too, am privileged to share in the excitement of new life, the joy, the hope, sometimes the pain, but always the love.

My prayer is that each one of us, whenever we meet new life, we may also encounter our brother Jesus, so that one day we may be ready to say like Simeon:

"Now Master you can let your servant go in peace, just as you have promised: because my eyes have seen the salvation that you have promised for all nations to see"

Fr. Tom

PLEASE NOTE:

Sunday, 2nd February - Candlemas Day:

There will be blessing of candles at all Masses this weekend.

Monday, 3rd February - Feast of St. Blaise.

There will be blessing of throats before and after the 9.30am Mass.

Tuesday, 11th February Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes World day of the Sick.

Blessing of the sick will take place **only** at the 10.30am Mass on Sunday, 9th February. The blessing is available to everyone, so bring a friend or neighbour along and join us in praying for our sick.

Weekend Psalm:

The Presentation of the Lord - February 2nd

