THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Sunday 03-October-2004

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day for Life

Our faith is so often put to the test not just by intellectual doubts but by the difficulties of life. The paradox is that it is only faith that will bring us to life through these trials. It is only faith that allows us to see beyond what we give to what we have already been given by God himself.

St. Mary & St. John Station Road

The Faith Of Our Youth

I have listened frequently to the comments of people of 'the good old days of past times'. People were happier and healthier then even though they were poorer. Religion was not so complicated in those days. 'If only' ... they continue, 'life could remain the same. Why do things have to change?' 'I still believe in God' one person commented, 'but I wish I had the faith I had when I was young.'

'What was so good about that?' I asked one person. 'When I was young I believed everything – the whole lot. I was so certain about everything, about life itself, especially about God. But I no longer have that kind of faith. Now I'm not sure what to believe. I question everything.'

Some people have suffered a lot in their journey through life. While some feel that God was with them in their difficult times, others feel that they were abandoned by God. There is a loneliness and heartbreak that lies deep in every person whose faith has been lost.

Yes, people still pine for the faith of their youth. Everything was simple then. Everything was clear, everything was certain. People do not realize that the greatest changes that had occurred were actually within themselves. Many long for the faith they had as children. And rightly so – it was something people.

We all long to recapture the religious sense of the world we had as children. But we all have to leave childhood behind, and with it a world of certainties. Childhood faith passes or at least changes. However, it is not God that changes but us.

The idyllic faith of childhood cannot be held onto eternally. Jesus said we should enter the Kingdom like a little child but he didn't say we had to have the faith of a child. Ours has to be an adult faith, a faith that takes account of the difficulties and ambiguities of life.

All of us can make our own of the Prayer of the Apostles, 'Lord increase our faith'. It is not enough to keep the faith – we have to grow in it. Faith grows when exercised. Faith also grows through regular nourishment. How do we nourish the faith? By prayer and contact with our believing community here in Ballincollig

John O'Donovan

Reflection for Parents

We often fall into bed at night declaring to the empty darkness, "No one appreciates all I did today." Perhaps it's the lot of parents to spend most of their years in a state of exhaustion, but when those little legs climb up to our laps and tiny hands clutch our necks in a hug, we don't feel quite so weary or burdened. The smile that crosses our lips shows our true appreciation for God's gift and the service we offer is our gift in return.

Christ Our Light Innishmore

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

We remember that God is always faithful, always ready to hear our prayer. So let us ask for what we need.

Reader

For all who walk in faith, that they may be a sign of hope in our world. Lord, Hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For civil leaders and those who make our laws, that they may work for peace and for the good of all.

Lord, Hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who teach the Christian faith, for parents, teachers and catechists, that they may have the wisdom and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, Hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For a deepening of the faith of all here present.

Lord, Hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For an end to injustice and inequality in our world: that those blessed with wealth may remember the divine call to share.

Lord, Hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who have gone before us, signed with the sign of faith, may they have eternal life with God?

Lord, Hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest

Lord, our God, you have blessed us with life and with faith in you. Hear the prayer, which we make to you in the name of Jesus, your Son.

Amen.

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

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BAPTISMS

WE WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY ALL THOSE WHO WERE BAPTISED RECENTLY :

Aine Clare Creedon, 16 Westgrove, Coolroe. Fionn Oisin O'Donoghue, 19 Innishmore Lawn. Jamie Michael Wills, 4 The Paddocks. Padraig Eddie Crotty, 33 Leesdale. James Daniel Young, 20 Leesdale Drive. Rory Patrick Robert O'Donoghue, 'Ellmar', 9 Woodberry. Holly Brenda Brady, 20 Beech Road, Muskerry Estate.

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jane Carroll, Castleknock & Joe Keane. Bernadette Casey, Westcliffe & John Comeron. Lorraine Corcoran, Church View & Kieran Cotter.

† IN SYMPATHY † PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :

Francis Buckley, West Village. Frank Burns, Ballyanly, Inniscarra. William Canty, The Lough.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OC-CURS:

Con & Eileen Murphy, Macroom & Muskerry Estate. John Kiely, Ovens. Peg &John O'Hanlon. James O'Sullivan, Kilmichael. Letitia Brady, Pine Walk. Stephen Baston, Aylsbury. Deceased members of the Brennan & Murphy Families. Stewart Sharatt. James Walsh, Carrigaline. Tony & Judy O'Sullivan, The Crescent. Michael Barry-Murphy, Glengarriffe. Daniel Burke, Whitechurch. Diarmuid O'Hegarty, Wilton Avenue. Noreen Nyhan, Inniscarra View. Finbarr Kearney, Ballinhassig. Patrick O'Connell, Victoria Cross. Paddy Fitton, Ballyshoneen. Deceased members of the Cronin Family.

St. Joseph's

School and centre for the Visually Impaired (based in Drumcondra, Dublin 9) offers a wide range of educational, medical and social services to children aged between 0 and 20. If you are a parent or a professional working with a visually impaired child perhaps we can help you? For further information contact either Annmarie Costello or Fr. William Stuart on (01) 8373635

You either belong wholly to the world or wholly to God. St. John Vianney

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

03 Sunday Hab. 1 :2-3, 2:2-4. Ps. 94. 2 Tim. 1: 6-8, 13-14. Lk. 17:5-10. Lect l: 917

04 Monday Gal. 1: 6-12. Ps. 110. Lk. 10:25-37. Lect ll: 801

05 Tuesday Gal. 1: 13-24. Ps. 138. Lk. 10:38-42. Lect ll: 804

06 Wednesday Gal. 2: 1-2, 7 -14. Ps. 116. Lk. 11: 1-4. Lect ll: 806

07 Thursday Acts 1: 12-14. Ps. Lk. 1. Lk. 1: 26-28. Lect II: 1217

08 Friday Gal. 3:7-14. Ps. 110. Lk. 11:15-26. Lect ll: 810

09 Saturday Gal. 3:22-29. Ps. 104. Lk. 11:27-28. Lect ll: 812

Next Sunday's Readings 10-October-2004 2 K. 5:14-17. Ps. 97. 2 Tim. 2:8-13. Lk. 17:11-19. Lect I: 919

AL - ANON

Open Public Meeting Dominican Centre, Popes Quay Wednesday 6th October @ 8 pm All Welcome

Very Important Announcement

Year of the Eucharist commences October 2004 - October 2005

Among all the devotions after that of receiving the sacraments, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament holds first place, is the most pleasing to God and the most useful to ourselves. Do not then, O devout soul, refuse to begin this devotion; and forsaking the conversation of men, dwell each day, from this time forward, for at least half or quarter of an hour in some church in the presence of Jesus Christ under the sacramental species. O taste and see that the Lord is sweet. (Ps. 33: 9). Only try this devotion, and by experience you will see the great benefit that you will derive from it. Be assured that the time you will thus spend with devotion before this most divine Sacrament will be the most profitable to you in life and the source of your greatest consolation in death and eternity.

You must also be aware that in a quarter of an hour's prayer spent in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, you will perhaps gain more than in all the other spiritual exercises of the day. It is true that in every place God graciously hears the petitions of those who pray to him, having promised to do so. Ask, and you shall receive (John 16: 24); yet the disciple tells us that Jesus dispenses His grace's in greater abundance to those who visit Him in the Most Holy Sacrament. (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

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Sunday 03-October-2004

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 In the first reading, Habakkuk cannot understand why God does not intervene to save his chosen people from their enemies. God himself gives the answer: they need faith.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 In the second reading, Timothy, a bishop in the early Church, is told to bear witness to his faith.

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

Parents often live this Gospel well. Better than most people, they know what it means to "serve" without expecting a reward. For many, parenthood is reward enough. Jesus explained to the disciples in this passage that service was a requirement of discipleship. When the disciples asked how they could have more faith, Jesus explained that faith was a gift. Faith is not something we control, but only something we can appreciate as a gift from God. To show our appreciation, however, Jesus demonstrated through a lesson of service how we could show our thankfulness to God for the gift of faith. When we share our faith with others and demonstrate it by showing the love of God to those we meet, we proclaim our gratitude.

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SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Francis of Assisi 04-October-2004

Son of a wealthy cloth merchant in the Italian city of Assisi, Francis as a young man led the pleasure seeking life typical of young men of his class. Like most of such youths he got involved in the inter city skirmishes between Assisi and Perugia where he was held captive for a year. A fever, which he contracted as a prisoner, turned his thoughts to eternity. A further bout of illness resulted in his conversion to the spiritual life. When his father discovered that Francis was selling the family goods to help the poor he had him confined to a room. Later his mother released him and he went to live as a hermit in a ruined church near the city renouncing all worldly possessions and helping to nurse some lepers. He dress then worn by the poorest Umbrian peasants while he preached to the same peasants penance, brotherly love and peace.

In his newly found poverty, a rich magnate of the city and a Canon of the Cathedral soon joined Francis. These new recruits went to the public square where they gave away all their belongings to the poor and went to live in huts at a spot called the Porziuncola where he had restored with his bare hands the ruined church of St. Mary of the Angels. More followers joined him and the Friars Minor were formed as a religious Order. The Pope approved the order and Francis was ordained a Deacon and spent the rest of his life preaching repentance in the streets, in public squares, from the walls of castles. So many wanted to join his movement that he devised the Third Order, a sort of middle state between the world and the cloister for those who could not leave their families to join the First Order, or Friars Minor.

This week the display in both churches reminds us of the abundance of fruit, vegetables and food available to each of us. Let us thank God for His provision

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY COLLECTION

This Weekend 2nd &3rd October 2004 PLEASE SUPPORT

FATIMA APOSTOLATE GROUP

The monthly meeting of the Apostolate will be held on Monday 4th October 2004 at 7 pm in the Youth House, Station Road. *Present members and new members are all welcome to attend*

The Rosary

During the month of October, the Rosary will be recited each evening Monday to Friday at 6:30 pm in the Church of St. Mary & St. John

All are welcome "Come pray the Rosary with us for Peace in the World"

Fatima Apostolate

Irish Blood Transfusion Service Seirbhis Fullabitrichain Eireann The GAA Pavilion Ballincollig

On Monday 4th October 2004, Tuesday 5th October 2004 Wednesday 6th October 2004, Thursday 7th October 2004

From 3:00 – 5:00 & 7:00 – 9:00 pm

A Spiritual Day

For Mothers and Grandmothers Geraldine O'Mahony, OP October 2 Saturday Time: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee, soup provided. St Dominic's Retreat & Conference Centre, Montenotte, Cork. €25 for day (covers both Mother & Grandmother) Number 8 bus. Enquiries & Booking from the Secretary Tel. 021.4502520

Mission Alive

A special exhibition promoting awareness of the missionary work of the Church opens in Cork on October 3rd and runs for four days.

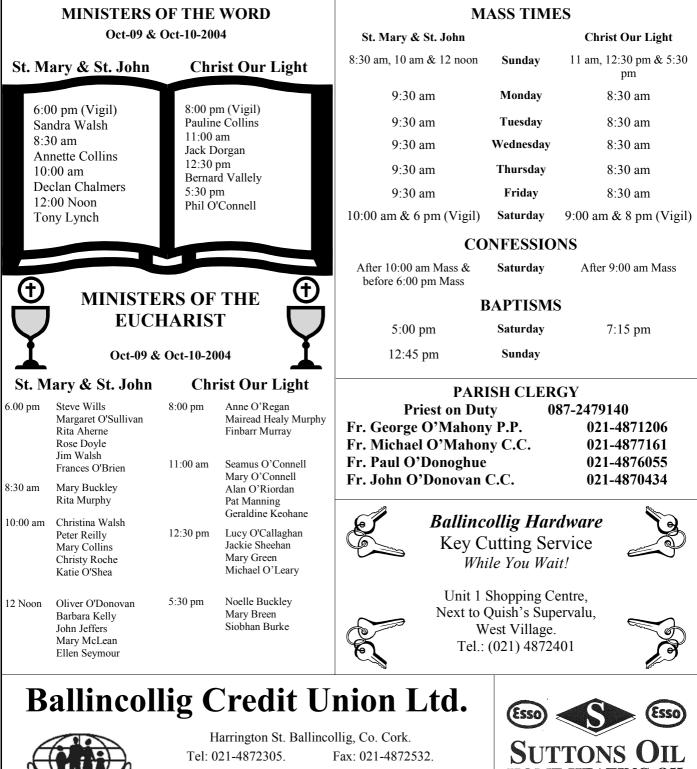
The events begins with a televised Mass being broadcast from the Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross on Sunday Oct. 3rd. The principal celebrant will be an Archbishop from Zimbabwe who has campaigned for justice and human rights for his people. The exhibition title "Mission Alive" is organised by the Irish Missionary Union, a joint venture of the Irish-based missionary societies and congregations.

The exhibition will be based at the Bishopstown GAA Club and contains a wide range of stalls, audio-visual displays, crafts and produce from mission countries, and photo displays of local missionaries at work.

The exhibition will also feature contributions from local school children.

The Mission Alive exhibition is open to the public and has something of interest to all ages.

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER





Now open all day Wednesday

New Opening Hours from March 29th 2004

- Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
- 10:30 5:00 pm 9:45 - 5:00 pm 9:45 - 5:00 pm 9:45 - 5:00 pm 9:45 - 7:00 pm 9:45 - 12:00 pm

So go on ... Give yourself some credit !!! **Ring us today** !!! Call 4872305



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