CHRISTIANITY – A RELIGION OF PERSUASION NOT FORCE

These days as we are reading from the Acts of the Apostles we can see that the early church bore much fruit in its missionary activity. It is an example of the church at its best – the way Jesus meant it to be.

A religion of persuasion, not force, a religion that attracts people to it rather than driving them into it. We have no sword of Jesus – the cross on which he was crucified was his only weapon. There are no swords of our first popes; we can assume Peter set aside his sword permanently after the episode in the Garden of Gethsemane concerning the ear of the High Priest's servant. Christianity would be spread not by the all too human method of taking up the sword and waging war on the heathen but by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It was the same Holy Spirit that inspired the Early Church to be as successful as what it was. Later on of course we know that scandal and corruption came to the church as it does to any organisation that has weak fallible human beings as its members. The inspiration of the Holy Spirit was sometimes ignored as Christians engaged in persecution of non Christians and forced conversions on those who did not want it.

So is Christianity a religion of persuasion or force? Jesus very definitely was a man of compelling persuasion whose goodness captivated and fascinated those who willingly followed him. And by and large this is mostly what our church tries to do. One billion members is a signified and I would say it is the full of attractions that has this hold of them rather than the push of coercion. Whatever power Catholicism has in the modern world is derived from the same Holy Spirit who inspired the early Christians in the Acts of the Apostles – it is the power to persuade and not force. And so we pray that we too will be a people of conviction and quiet persuasion that will attract other to the Pearl of great price – the faith we profess.

Fr. Padraig

CLONDALKIN ACTIVE RETIRMENT

Hi everybody,

Glad to be back after a little break! Our Splash Tour is on Thursday 29th May, details from Kay Doyle.

On Wednesday 4th June we are having a Regional Social Evening at Punchestown.. The bus will collect us from The Towers Club; I will let you know times next week. We will have a bit of food, a few bets and a dance before returning home, so get your hats out ladies and gentlemen. We will also have best dressed, so a little bit of fun to be had by all.

Our annual outing is to Kilkenny in June, also Tom is organising a trip to The Titanic, Belfast in July, dates to be confirmed, so all is good, and we have a few outings to look forward to.

Clare

CHURCH DUTY

Cleaning: Rita Arnold Flowers: Aileen Skelton from 30th May to 13th June (Weddings Saturday)

CHILDREN'S CORNER

We had no entry last week so we are hoping for many this week



THE QUIZ
May is the month we honour?

Your entries to ellenteresacoyne@eircom.net by Tuesday or to the Sacristy by Wednesday morning

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Notices and submissions for the Newsletter must be received before 10.30am on WEDNESDAY morning to be considered for inclusion into that week's edition. Envelopes marked "PARISH NEWSLETTER" should be left into the Sacristy or Parish Office.

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

Village

Office/Sacristy 459 3520

Fr Damian Farnon, Moderator St Cecilla's 459 2665

Fr Pádraig O'Sullivan, Co-P.P. St Columba's 464 0441

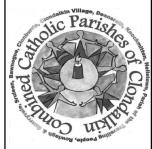
Deacon Seamus McEntee St Mary's 459 2311

Clonburris

Fr Shán O Cuív CC 087 238 7530

Knockmitten

Fr Des Byrne CC 45 Woodford Drive. 459 2323



Parish Pastoral Workers (for the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin)

Peter Siney 089 461 4226

Christopher Okereke 457 3546

PARISH NEWS

Clondalkin Village, Clonburris & Knockmitten

clondalkinchurch@eircom.net

www.clondalkinparish.com

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Sunday – 25^{th} May 2014

No 21

ONE DIRECTION

Well, the secular and the sacred clashed this weekend. The final First Communion Masses took place on Saturday. We congratulate the boys and girls from Queen of the Apostles National School Clonburris and na Gaelscoileanna along with their teachers and parents. Two couples, Laura and Dermot and Amanda and James were married on Friday and Saturday. Younger parishioners and indeed some of the invited guests to the weddings faced a dilemma whether to attend the weddings and First Communions or the 'One Direction' concert? The girls from the presentation schools who took part in their pre Confirmation retreat answered very strongly that the wedding or First Communion is far more important and that concerts come around again.

The annual May procession will be on Tuesday 27th at 19.00 (7pm) and all are welcome. We particularly invite all those who were Confirmed or received Holy Communion for the first time along with their families. Please be in your seats by 18.50 (6.50pm). It is that time of year again with the Graduation Mass for Moyle Park last Wednesday and for Coláiste Bríde on Monday.

Parishioners of a certain vintage will remember one of the original boy bands were the Beatles. Paul McCartney is seventy one which shows we are all heading in the one direction!!!!

Enjoy all the events of these few days and may the Lord bless us with some sunshine

Fr. Damian

WEDDINGS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Laura Wheeler and Dermot O'Connor

recently married.

ADORATION

This Thursday, 29th May, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Sisters' Oratory: In the morning: from after 10am Mass to 11.45am

Church: 7pm to 9pm and all are welcome

CCPC INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The Group will not meet as usual on Tuesday 27th May; instead all are invited to take part in the Parish May Procession commencing at 7pm from Church of Immaculate Conception.

"BRING FLOWERS OF THE FAIREST"

The annual May Procession will be held on Tuesday evening at 7pm and to really honour Our Lady we ask for donations of flowers from your garden etc. The team who decorates the church will need to have them by 3pm on the day. They can be left at Our Lady's big statue or in the Sacristy after morning Mass. We hope to have flowers for the children to carry with them on procession but that depends on the flowers donated.

(The team please assemble in the Church Friday 30th May at 3pm)

NOTICES

Monday 26th May

Miraculous Medal Novena after 10am Mass and Rosary.

Tuesday 27th May

Lectio Divina under the direction of Sr. Anne in the Pastoral Centre after 10am Mass.

ST JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS' **SOCIETY**

The next meeting of St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society will be held on Wednesday morning at 1030am in the Pastoral Centre, upstairs and new members always welcome.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



The Sacrament ofConfirmation will be conferred on the girls of the local school by our own Fr. Damian.

We pray that they, families and friends will have a day to

remember always.

(Please note: Mass at 9.30am instead of 10am)

"COFFEE MORNING" INVITATION

A Coffee Morning will be held at 91 Boot Road, Clondalkin on Thursday 29th May from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm. Cost €3 for a cuppa and a cake. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds will go to Clondalkin Animal Aid. Please come along and support us by having a cuppa, a cake and a chat. We would love to see you.

Mary McCoy

ANNIVERSARIES

Wednesday 28th May

Michael and Mary Lacey 9.30am

Mary and Patrick Kinnane 7.30am

Sunday 1st June

7.30pm (Vigil) Roy Steed and parents 10 30am Thomas O'Brien

12 Noon Catherine and Harry Wall Christy Collins

Bridget Lynch Sean Ryan, 5th An

Shirley McGrath, 1st An 5.30pm Larry and Paddy Farnon

CLONBURRIS Mass Intentions

Saturday 24th May

Teresa Delahunty R.D 6.30pm

Sunday 25th May

Peggy O'Gorman An. 11.00am

Anthony O'Brien An. Patrick Denton An. Kathleen Joy 1st An. Betty Mahon An.

First Communion

Congratulations to all the children who made their First Communion this weekend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Congratulations to the children of the Gaelscoileanna who received the First Holy Communion yesterday. Congratulations also to their families and teachers. We wish them well.

That was the final First Holy Communion Ceremony for this year.

PARISH WEBSITE

The Parish Website can be visited on www.clondalkinparish.com for Parish information

CLONDALKIN HISTORY SOCIETY - LECTURE

On Good Friday 1014 the Battle of Clontarf took place. En route to this famous encounter the victorious Brian Boru also took time to sack and burn Clondalkin. For more come to Eimer Gings talk on the Battle of Clontarf 1014 to be held at 8 pm on Monday 26th May 2014 in Aras Chrónáin. Admission is €5 (non members). Failte roimh gach einne!

Padraig A Ó Murchú

CELEBRATING PENTECOST

As a mark of our commitment to work together for the Good News, the local Christian Churches have organised an Ecumenical Bible Week in Dublin and the surrounding areas from Pentecost Sunday, 8th June to Trinity Sunday Trinity Sunday 15th June. This is a "FEST" rather than a conference or convention in the usual sense.

The purpose is to celebrate and honour the centrality of Scripture within the traditions and to animate a week of activities centred on the Bible in various locations.

The full programme of events is posted on the Notice Boards

HSE RESEARCH WITH **PARENTS**

The Health Services Executive (HSE) is undertaking research to understand how parents of children aged 4-9 years communicate with their children about their bodies, relationships and sexuality.

The researchers would like to hear the views of parents active in the Catholic faith on these questions. A research discussion group will be held on Wednesday June 11th at 11am in the Village Clondalkin **Parish** Pastoral Centre for Catholic parents of children aged 4-9. If you have a child aged 4-9 years please come along to have your views included in this study. Parents are asked to call the researcher, Catherine Conlon, (School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin) on 086-8502954 if they would like more information. Please call Catherine on 086-8502954 to confirm vou will attend.