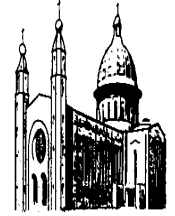


Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin

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PLEASE NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

holyspiritparishcork@gmail.com

A PEACE FILLED GIFT

Forgiveness, given and/or received, is the gift that can outlast even a lifetime with its healing power enriching relationships now and for generations to come.

WHAT IS FORGIVENESS SAYING?

It is saying that what happened was not appropriate and caused offence but now we need new seeds of hopeful trust in relationships to re-engage so that pain may be healed, respect be renewed and maybe even allowing love to blossom again. Forgiveness may not always restore what has been lost, but it can keep us from being locked into a destructive circle of blame of ourselves and of others. Failure, hurt and misunderstanding have to be acknowledged inwardly to clear the undergrowth of guilt so as to allow the seedlings of forgiveness take root and thrive. A good place to start is to forgive ourselves for our own failures. God has forgiven us already.

SHOULD FORGIVENESS BE EARNED?

At its core, genuine forgiveness is always a free gift and is always a bit of a mystery. It cannot be fully explained. Rather, its creative power is often only appreciated by those who give it and those who receive it. It stems from the innate goodness that lives in every human heart unless it is crushed by painful experience and fear of repetition or it is suffocated by selfishness and revenge. This innate goodness is nourished within us every time we reach out however tentatively to another in the hope of new beginnings.

CHRISTMAS IS A FOCUS OF SUCH GIFT GIVING

To be a first mover in the process of forgiveness in one's own life is a step beyond compare. To help another to risk such reaching out is a blessing for all involved. This week we can heal hurts between us in families, within communities and wider society through the contact call or visit or even the smile. Forgiveness is a risky business. Jesus wants us to risk it. Answer His call now. Example is a great motivator and on the Cross, Jesus forgave His executioners.

Fr. Tom.

P.S. Sometimes accepting forgiveness from God needs to be formalised. Next Sunday's Reconciliation Service at 5.00pm is one such opportunity. Bring a friend.



Weekly Collection Envelopes for 2020

The 2020 weekly collection envelopes are now available for collection from the **Sacristan** before and after all the daily and weekend Masses. **PLEASE** collect your box, as soon as possible, so that they can be used the first weekend in January 2020. Your co-operation would be much appreciated.

Christmas Reconciliation Service

**on next Sunday,
22nd December, 2019
at 5.00pm.**



Children's Mass on Christmas Eve



There will be a practice in the Church on **Monday, 16th December at 2.45pm** for school children who would like to take part in the family at 6.15pm on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, 24th December, 2019. All children are more than welcome to take part.

Ministers of the Word and Eucharist

If you have not already collected your Rota for year 2019/2020, you might kindly do so from the Sacristan before or after any of the weekend Masses.

PARISH NOTICES 15/12/2019

Third Sunday of Advent

Bulletin no: 1428

Bishopstown Library Gramophone Circle:

The monthly meeting will take place on Thurs. 19th Dec at 3pm in the Bishopstown Library, Wilton Shopping Centre. The Musical Presenter on the day is John Hendrick. Admission is free with light refreshments provided. All welcome.

The Lee Singers

The Lee Singers will join us for the 6.15pm Mass on next Saturday, 21st December, 2019.

