

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin



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MASS TIMES

Sunday

9.00, 10.30, 12.15

Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

Weekdays

9.30am

Eve of Holydays

7.30pm

Holydays

9.00, 10.30 &

7.30pm

17th Sunday (B)

25th July, 2021

John 6: 1-15

BARLEY BREAD

In the time of Jesus, barley bread was a staple diet of the very poor. It was the only food a young boy had in today's Gospel story. The well off would have distained it at any time. The Gospel does not tell us whether the well-off had more substantial sandwiches with them when they joined the crowd to see the celebrity miracle healing worker in action. At any rate, they did not reveal their food reserves much less offer to share them. More likely, they smugly congratulated themselves on their foresight in providing for every possible need for their own families. In contrast, the youngster's generosity (naivety, perhaps) may have allowed Jesus to touch the hearts of all present to share their food. Some may have been too afraid or ashamed at first, to reveal how little they had to offer. But together they fed the five thousand. Those with no food, received what they needed. A miracle of bonding and solidarity.



John 6, 1-15

However the miracle happened, Jesus used the occasion to prepare hearts for the gift of the Eucharist. He chose ordinary bread through which He comes to live within us, sharing our lives and we sharing in His life of love. A sharing that demands bonding and sharing between us in neighbourhoods and in wider groups at home and abroad.

Today's Gospel is not meant to evoke guilt but rather to encourage us to imitate God's generosity in giving us His Son. How will we respond this week?

Fr. Tom Clancy



PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin is available **weekly** on the Parish Website: or can be e-mailed by forwarding your e-mail address to the Parish Office.



St. Vincent de Paul

The August collection will take place this coming weekend, **Saturday, 31st July/Sunday 1st August, 2021.**