

FAITH IN FOCUS: THE PORTAKABIN

Sometimes when there's been a serious accident or crime, the police set up an incident room which is usually nothing more than a van or portakabin that attends the scene of crime or accidents. The job of this van is to collect evidence from witnesses to the incident. So after an

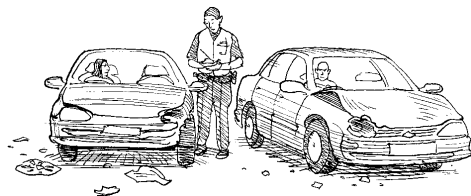
incident anyone at all can get into the van and give their version of what actually took place.

In today's scriptures we hear how the apostles were looking for someone to take the place of Judas. They wanted someone who had experienced Jesus' life and teaching, and who could "act with us as a witness to his resurrection".

Sometimes it's easy to forget that the message of Jesus will only continue to be proclaimed if ordinary people like you and I are prepared to stick our necks out, to stand up and be counted. For Christianity is not the domain of the professionals. Bishops, priests and deacons have a special role to play in proclaiming the gospel, but the brunt of the job lies with the millions of lay men and women who meet the world daily at the coal-face. Just like the portakabin van, everyone is expected to give their account, not just the professionals.

Yet this job of witnessing to the power of Jesus in our lives, to the joy that can be shared by anyone who comes to know Jesus personally, is not such a daunting thing. It can begin with some very simple steps like not being ashamed of our beliefs. We need to be proud of what we are and to act in such a way that our neighbours at least know we have faith in something. We need to live out a set of values that sometimes puts us at a disadvantage, perhaps even making us the butt of people's jokes or jibes. Of course, if our religion is nothing more than prohibitions and negativity then people will have a right to question it. If, however, we are able to show the world that the pattern of life offered by Christ can bring fulfilment and can satisfy where other things fail to make a mark, then people might begin to wonder what exactly it is that we Christians have got to shout about.

We can't afford to be timid. We have to speak up, to testify about Jesus, to witness to the power of his resurrection. So when the van turns up on your doorstep and asks you about him, what sort of statement will you make?



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH COLWYN BAY

01492-532670

www.catholicchurchcolwynbay.co.uk

Sunday 5th June 2011 Ascension of the Lord

Prayer for the Parish

O God our Father and Creator

Where two or more are gathered together in your name
you are there in their midst.

We bring to you our parish of St Joseph's to ask your blessing
as we meet the challenges of our mission of witness and discipleship.

Give us courage and enthusiasm.

Give us spirit of initiative and originality of thought.

Give us charity and unity

and make us aware of each other as we work towards the renewal of our
parish.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

St Joseph pray for us.

EXPOSITION, ROSARY AND QUIET PRAYER

Saturday 11-00am to 12-00noon

SATURDAY CONFESSIONS

11-00am to 11-30am

5-00pm to 5-30pm

SATURDAY MASS

5-30pm

SUNDAY MASSES

9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m.

Monday 12noon Mass

Tuesday 7-30pm Mass

Wednesday 9-30am Mass

Thursday 9-30am Mass

Friday 12noon Mass

PLEASE REMEMBER in your prayers all those who are sick, especially :

Basil Sanders, Mary Derrick, Peggy Porter, Edward Burke, Bridget McLaughlin, Fr Colm O'Riain OMI, Wendy Swinton, , Mary O'Leary, Fr Chris Dunne OMI, Eddie Mann, Neil Hogan, Mike Tobin, John Lyon, Rose Bostock., Drina Watts, Gay Merrick, Francis Shaw, William Richardson, Mary Bushell, Betty McCarthy, Peter Smith, Nancy Bowden, Anthony, Norman Graham, Josie Canning, Cathy Murphy, Eddie Hosker, Stacey Usher, Anne Boyle, Claire Carlson, Eva Rose Callaghan, Ernie Speakman, Derek Hughes, Annie Quinn, Annie O'Neill, Heather Hillis Maxwell.

All whose Anniversaries occur around this time including

Peggy Curran, Ray Pitman (1998), Mary Peddar (1984).

Recently Deceased

Fred Smith, James French, Mary Cafferkey, Nora Ryan, Derek Hughes.

Last Week's Offertory Collection

Was

£647-12

(including £275-77 loose)

**Missionary Oblates of Mary
Immaculate
Present**

**Oblate Youth Summer Camp
August 1st—5th 2011**

A short residential camp at Blue Peris, Dinorwic, Caernarfon for 12-14 year olds organised by the Oblate Youth Service.

Activities will include rock climbing and abseiling, sea cliff traversing, gorge scrambling, kayaking, canoeing, raft building and much more!!! All for a cost of £180-00 which covers all costs, meals, accommodation and transport.

Please see Fr Declan for further information

S.P.U.C.

Little Feet Club

May Winner—Mrs P Sullivan

Next meeting Thursday 30th June

7-00pm in the Presbytery

REPOSITORY

**The Repository is open after both the
Saturday and
Sunday Masses And also from
12-30pm till 1-00pm**

NOTICE BOARD

Information or notices for the parish notice board should be given to Sr Clare in advance

Bishop's Fund Collection

There will be a second collection taking place over next weekend

12th/13th June

On behalf of the Bishop's Fund.

PARISH NEWS

Adult Faith Group

Change of date for "What's it all about?" to 18th June 2-00pm/4-00pm

"The Meaning of Life" - was the topic voted the most popular in our recent parish survey. In response the AFG have invited Fr Gerry Hughes SJ to give a talk exploring the following issues:

Does the Universe have a point, a meaning?

Does thinking of God as Creator explain anything?

Is God present in our lives?

We have all asked questions like these. Fr Gerry will explore some answers in the light of contemporary science, philosophy and our own experience.

This will be accompanied by ample opportunity for questions and discussion.

We can confirm this is now scheduled to be held at the Parish Centre on Saturday 18th June, from 2-00pm till 4-00pm. Tea and coffee will be available over the afternoon. To assist with arrangements can those interested please list their name on the list at the back of the Church (available from 28th May).

Social Committee

The Social Committee is hoping to organise a Parish Dinner towards the end of September—more details to follow.

We are also hoping to organise a BBQ on Saturday 9th July in the afternoon—bring your own food and bbq it! Please let Margaret Batty know if you are interested by Sunday 19th June. **Tel: 07825 701029**

Parish Holiday

The next parish holiday will be to Bideford. Departing 16th April 2012.

Cost will be £165-00. Includes 4 nights DBB, excursion to the Eden Project plus one other. Local pick up points. Extra's will be single room supp, admission to Eden Project, Insurance. See John (Organist) or Tel: 517038. £5-00 deposit secures your place. **NB** This holiday is already heavily subscribed. Singles still available.

If interested please don't delay.

Religious Education for Adults

On Friday June 17th the Religious Education group will be holding a meeting in the Parish Centre to discuss the start of a *Know Your Faith* forum for adults of all ages—parents, pensioners and post confirmation pupils. It will only last an hour, from 7 to 8pm and include some sharing about why there is a need for such Education. We will take a look at the *Evangelium* programme which will form the basis of future regular sessions and ask for input about what schedule best suits those interested. Hot drinks will be available and time allowed for casual discussion and socializing afterwards.

Would you like to help families in your Parish/School?

Would you like to learn the skills to deliver the Family Caring Trusts' parenting programmes? The Marriage and Family Life Commission and the Family Caring Trust are to hold a one day training to prepare volunteers to deliver the Family Caring Trusts parenting programmes including—Noughts to Sixes, Five to Fifteen and Parenting Teenagers. This will take place in August on a date between 15th and 26th. Date and venue will be determined by demand. Places are limited so if you would like to attend the course or want more information please contact Margaret Hinton, development worker by e-mail margaretmf1@hotmail.co.uk or on 07842596878 or by post c/o Bishop's House asap.