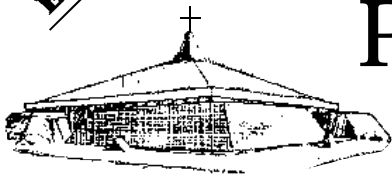


6 PAGE  
EDITION

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



CHRIST OUR LIGHT  
INNISHMORE



ST. MARY & ST. JOHN  
STATION ROAD

**SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2001**  
**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



*At his baptism Jesus was revealed as the Son of God and began his work of bringing the vision of God, his justice and his liberation to people. At our baptism each of us is given a share in this mission, so we become children of God.*

## LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

Long before Christianity reached Italy with the arrival of St. Peter in Rome, the ancient Italians worshipped a multitude of gods. These were related to everyday life such as the god of the harvest, the vintage, the sea and the earth. Even ordinary domestic things such as the hearth and the door had their own gods. The god Janus was the guardian of the door and the gates and was represented with faces on the front and back of his head. January, the first month of the year was named after Janus because at this time of the year we tend to look back and forward: back on the year that's gone; forward to the year to come. Indeed, at New Year we tend to look back on all of our lives and look forward with, perhaps, some trepidation on what remains to us of life.

From childhood we grow in knowledge as we learn worldly wisdom at school and in the university of life. Frequently, alas, we lose our innocence during our formative years. Last Sunday we read in the Gospel that the boy Jesus advanced in wisdom, in age and in grace. He did so without loss of innocence. For the rest of us how easy it is to mistake folly for true wisdom, to take for granted the world's promise that owning things and doing things will bring us happiness, to silence a muttering conscience when we bend the rules of morality just a little to grasp what the world offers. "Sure I'm doing no harm to anybody; no one will ever find out; everyone else is doing it anyway..." And so the self delusion goes on until one day we realise that the only true happiness will come with the grace of a clear conscience.

St. Augustine regretted the years he had wasted in searching for human wisdom when he wrote in his "Confessions": "Late have I loved you, o Beauty so ancient and so new; late have I loved you! For behold you were within me, and I outside; and I sought you outside and in my ugliness fell upon those lovely things that you have made... I was kept from you by those things... You chased away my blindness. I tasted you, and now hunger and thirst for you; you touched me and I have burned for your peace."

The new year while offering us the promise of a new future can also call us back to the love we had for Jesus in more innocent days just as old friendships call to us from the past. Mary Coleridge puts that thought nicely in one of her poems:

*Time brought me many another friend  
That loved me longer.*

*New love was kind, but in the end  
Old love was stronger.*

*Years come and go. No New Year yet  
Hath slain December.  
And all that should have cried - "Forget!"  
Cries but - "Remember!"*

*Leonard O'Brien*

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**PRIEST**

My brothers and sisters, the baptism of Jesus is one of the most important events recorded in the New Testament. May we like Jesus be open to the Spirit as we make our prayers to God our Father.

**READER**

For the Church ,  
may she always remain perfectly open to the power and promptings of the Holy Spirit, so that through her closeness to Christ,  
she too may remain  
Beloved of the Father:  
Lord, hear us;  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the worlds leaders,  
may they recognise the need for the comforting strength of God's Holy Spirit, which alone can give the world true meaning and purpose.  
Lord, hear us;  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those troubled in conscience,  
may they be released by the Spirit  
To lead full Christian lives, proclaiming without fear that Jesus is Lord.  
Lord, hear us;  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the members of this community,  
may we renew our baptismal commitment, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and so be filled with Christian love, joy and hope.  
Lord, hear us;  
Lord, graciously hear us.

Visit Our Website: [www.ballincolligparish.ie](http://www.ballincolligparish.ie)

*Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.*

**BAPTISMS**

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



**Alison Anne O'Mahony, The Cloisters**

**MARRIAGES**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**



**William Gerard Ryan, Coolroe, Ballincollig & Claire Maria Walsh, 15 Willow Dr. Ballincollig**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF**

- John O' Callaghan, Fr Sexton Pk.**
- John Joe Sullivan, Eyeries**
- Patrick Barry, Ardarosty**
- Mary Sexton, Clash Rd.**
- Billy Greene, Station Rd.**
- Julia & Jeremiah Forde, Station Rd.**
- Patrick & James Forde, Station Rd.**
- Thomas & Nora McGrath**
- Denis McGrath**
- Michael McGrath**
- James & Nora Cleary**
- Thomas & Nellie Cahill**
- Jack & Paddy Carey**
- Eileen & Dan Fehily**
- Daniel & Josephine Deady**
- Bridget & Michael O' Regan, Carriganarra**
- Eileen O' Regan, Carriganarra**
- Mona Hourigan, Limerick**
- Jim O'Connell, Maglin**
- Denis Murphy, Fr Sexton Pk.**
- Con Sheehan, Maglin**
- O'donovan & Galvin & Clifford Families**
- Jerry Herley, Ballinora**
- Thomas & Winifred Murphy, Co. Mayo**
- Tom Twomey, Ratheen**
- John & Francis Corkery, Poulavone**
- Tim Canty**
- Sarah Lehane, Model Farm Rd.**
- Paddy O'Connor**
- John Barry-Murphy**
- Kitty Kingston**
- Maureen Callanan, West Village**
- Tim Mullane**
- Jerry Sheehan, Curraheen**
- Con O'Regan, Maglin**
- Thomas & Nora Cummins, Kinsale**
- Michael Hickey, Greenfield**
- Kathleen Day, Essex**
- Dec. Membs. Legion of Mary**
- Ted Dineen, Ovens**
- Jack O' Connell, Main St.**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

7 Sunday Is. 40:1-5.9-11. Ps. 103 Tit. 2:11-14; 3:4-7. Lk. 3:15-16. 21-22

The Baptism of the Lord "Jesus' messianic consecration reveals his divine mission... His eternal messianic consecration was revealed during the time of his earthly life at the moment of his baptism by John, when 'God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power', 'that he might be revealed to Israel' as its Messiah. His Works and words will manifest him as 'the Holy One of God'" CCC, 438.

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

8 Monday Heb. 1:1-6. Ps. 96. Mk. 1:14-20. *Lect II: 3*

The Letter to the Hebrews is to be understood as a homily, rather than a letter. The author is a preacher intent on moving his listeners to conversion and fidelity. He is concerned about the meaning of the Christ event, and its consequences for the believer. Just as for the people of his time so for us today the message of forgiveness, the call to courage and to hope, the challenge to risk are relevant. For God has spoken in his Son to us today.

9 Tuesday Heb. 2:5-12. Ps. 8. Mk. 1:21-28 *Lect II:5*

The humanity of Jesus is strongly stressed: he is immersed in our existence. Like us he suffered and was tempted.

10 Wednesday Heb. 2:14-18. Ps. 104. Mk. 1:29-39. *Lect II:7*

Jesus is the pioneer of our salvation, the one who leads us forward into a new land. The new high priest, chosen from the people, has entered the presence of God, offered sacrifice for sin, and removed the burden of guilt. He continues his merciful intercession: for through his own experience he understands our temptations.

11 Thursday Heb. 3:7-14. Ps. 94. Mk. 1:40-45. *Lect II: 9*

Let us not be foolish and reject the word spoken to us today, and in turn lose our own entrance into God's presence, into the Promised Land.

12 Friday Heb. 4:12-16. Ps. 18. Mk. 2:1-12 *Lect II: 11*

The temptation to give up, to disregard the word of God, to take his gifts lightly - these are the dangers for Christians at all times.

13 Saturday Heb. 4:12-16. Ps. 18. Mk. 2:13-17. *Lect II: 11*

We stand before God's Judgement with Jesus who feels for our weaknesses.

Next Sunday's Readings: Is. 62:1-5. Ps. 95. 1 Cor. 12:4-11. Jn. 2:1-11.

The first of the signs given by Jesus, at Cana in Galilee.

**SAINTS THIS WEEK**

Saturday 13. St Hilary, c315-c.367, was elected (c.353) bishop of Poitiers and distinguished himself by his stand against Arianism. Exiled (356-59) by Emperor Constantius because of his anti-arian efforts, he used the time to write. His major works include *De Trinitate*, a study of the trinity, and *De synodis*, a valuable historical record of the time; he also composed hymns.

**CORK COUNTY COUNCIL/CORK CORPORATION  
20/20 VISION**

***DISPOSAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES***

*Bring your used Christmas tree to one of the following locations for shredding:*

- COUNCIL YARD, INNISHMORE, BALLINCOLLIG
- PARK N' RIDE CAR PARK, VICTORIA CROSS
- FROM MON. 8<sup>TH</sup> JAN. FOR ONE WEEK ONLY



**IN SYMPATHY**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:**

- Johanna Metcalfe, Main Rd.**
- Fr. Fachtna O'Neill, Curraheen**
- Christopher Crowley, Farranlea Pk.**
- Brendan Power, 46 Aisling Lawn**
- Joe O'Leary, Ovens**
- Breda O' Callaghan, Churchfield**
- Donal Prenderville, Killorglin**

NOTICES

Ballincollig Youth Development Group

**The above group is no longer in business.  
 The group has over £1000 in funds, which it wishes  
 to give to one or more youth groups.  
 We would like to hear from youth groups giving details  
 of what work they do or intend to do.  
 Ballincollig Youth Development will have the  
 final say in the distribution of the funds.**

**Please apply in writing, to  
 The Secretary, Ballincollig Youth Development Group,  
 Youth House, Station Road, Ballincollig.**

**All information to be supplied no later than Friday, 12 January 2001**

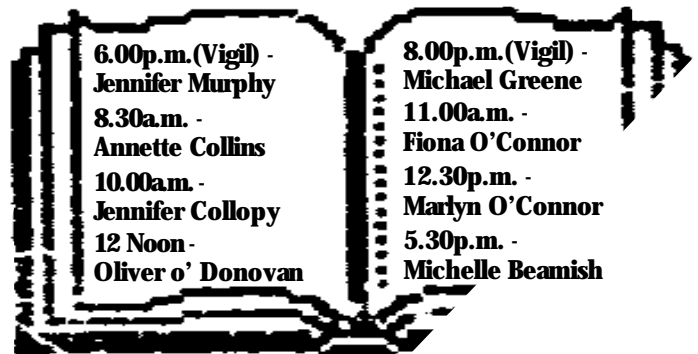
**SOCIETY OF  
 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**MONTHLY COLLECTION**

*Next Weekend  
 6th & 7th January 2001*

**PLEASE SUPPORT**

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 13TH/14TH JAN  
 ST. MARY & ST. JOHN CHRIST OUR LIGHT



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST 13th /14th January 2001  
 ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

**SATURDAY 13TH**  
 6p.m.  
 Vera Allen  
 Bernadette Bell  
 Oliver Delaney  
 Betty Casey  
 Frank Riordan  
 Siobhan Riordan

**SUNDAY 14TH**  
 8.30a.m.  
 Mary Buckley  
 Jane Halligan

10a.m.  
 Ann Cahill  
 Pat Lee  
 May Delaney  
 Seamus O'Shea

12.00 Noon  
 Joan Barrett  
 Sheila Carroll  
 Marsie Curling  
 Brendan Daly  
 Mary Daly  
 Pat Keenan



CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

**SATURDAY 13TH**  
 8p.m.  
 John O' Donoughue  
 Eleanor O' Donoughue  
 Kathleen Daly

**SUNDAY 14TH**  
 11a.m.  
 Robert Wade  
 Mary O' Mahoney  
 Margaret Brown  
 Lelia O' Brien

12.30p.m.  
 Brid Dolan  
 Peggy Sheehan  
 Pat Manning  
 Terry O'Driscoll  
 Bernie O'Driscoll

5.30p.m.  
 Garreth Irish  
 Sheila Curren  
 Statia O'Callaghan

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	EACH SUNDAY	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
<p><b>Masses</b>                      Sunday: <b>8.30, 10.00, 12.00</b>                      Mon-Fri: <b>9.30am</b>                      Saturday: <b>10.00, 6pm, (Vigil)</b></p>	<p><b>ROSARY RECITED AT BOTH CHURCHES EACH SUNDAY 3.00PM.</b>  <i>Everyone most welcome</i></p>	<p><b>Masses</b>                      Sunday: <b>11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm</b>                      Mon-Fri: <b>8.30am</b>                      Saturday: <b>10.00am, 8.00pm (Vigil)</b></p>
<p><b>Confessions</b>                      Saturday: <b>after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass</b></p>	<p><b>SACRISTY SERVICES</b>  <i>Before and after all Masses Sundays &amp; Weekdays</i>  <b>CHURCH OF ST. MARY &amp; ST. JOHN</b>                      - Mass Card Signing -                      Requests for                      Baptism/Marriage Certs etc.</p>	<p><b>Confessions</b>                      Saturday: <b>after 10am Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Baptisms</b>                      Saturday: <b>5.00pm</b>                      Sunday: <b>12.45pm</b></p>	<p><b>CHRIST OUR LIGHT</b>                      - Mass Card Signing -</p>	<p><b>Baptisms</b>                      Saturday: <b>7.15pm</b></p>

PARISH CLERGY

CHURCH NO. 087-2479140

Fr. L.O'Brien P.P. 021-4871206

Fr. E. Crowley C.C. 021-4870434

Fr. P. O'Donovan C.C. 021-4872808 Fax: 021-4872808 Fr. Paul O'Donoghue 021-4876055

**ADVERTISERS**  
*Why not e-mail your contribution to us?*  
[parish@ballincolligparish.ie](mailto:parish@ballincolligparish.ie)

**BALLINCOLLIG SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**  
**Usual Fraternity Meeting**  
**on Thursday 11th of January 2001**  
**at 11a.m. in**  
**St. Mary & St. John's Church**  
*All members are requested to attend*





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**THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY of IRELAND**

**CORK BRANCH**

*CARERS SUPPORT MEETING*

**Monday 8th January 2001 at Jury's Hotel at 8p.m.**

Wilton Road,  
Cork.

Tel: (+353 21) 4545011

Fax: (+353 21) 4545005

Email: shbcomm@indigo.ie

**SOUTHERN HEALTH BOARD  
URGE TEENAGERS TO TAKE UP  
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE  
GROUP C VACCINE OFFER**

Southern Health Board  
Bord Sláinte An Deiscirt



**Dr. Catherine Murphy, Specialist in Public Health Medicine said:** *"The SHB is concerned at the poor uptake of the vaccine amongst teenagers. Adolescents aged between 15-18 years, because of their vulnerability to the disease, are one of the primary target groups to receive the vaccine. We would urge these young people to take up the offer of the free vaccine. Many students will be returning home for Christmas and we would ask that they make an appointment and go along to see their Student Health Officer before term ends or to see their GP during the holidays. Meningitis is a serious and sometimes fatal condition and thankfully there is now a vaccine to protect against the devastating consequences of the disease".*

**Meningococcal infection is the most common infectious cause of death in children and young people up to the age of 20 years. Ireland has one of the highest rates of Meningococcal Group C infection in the developed world and the infection claimed 11 lives out of 165 confirmed cases reported in Ireland between July 1999 and June 2000.**

**More than 205,000 people in the SHB region will receive the Meningitis C vaccine on a phased basis (figures based on the 1996 census for 0-23rd birthday).**

**The incidence of this disease is of great concern to public health professionals. There was a 43% increase in Meningococcal C cases between July 1999 and June 2000 compared to the same time period the previous year. Reports from the UK have confirmed a 75% decrease in the number of cases of Meningococcal C infection since the introduction of a similar immunisation programme.**

**Dr. Murphy goes on to say:** *"The immunisation programme is particularly relevant for the people of Cork and Kerry as these areas have, in recent years, experienced higher than the national average incidences of Meningococcal disease. In particular in recent months the group C strain of the disease, which normally accounts for about one third of all reported cases, has been far more prominent in Cork and Kerry than the Group B strain. The Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine protects specifically against the group C strain of the disease and does not protect against any other type of Meningococcal infection such as Group B disease, which is common in Ireland. Therefore, it is still vitally important to have a high awareness of the symptoms of the disease".*

**2000 Meningococcal disease figures to date (as at 15th December 2000)**

<b>Total Notifications Received</b>	<b>80</b>	
<b>Kerry</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>Cork City</b>	<b>39</b>	
<b>Co. Cork</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>Confirmed Cases</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>Group C:34, Group B:18, Group Y:1</b>
<b>Unconfirmed cases</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Figures for same period last year:</b>	<b>83 notifications</b>	
<b>Other bacterial meningitis for 2000</b>		
<b>Notifications</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>2</b>	

**The first phase of the immunisation programme has been given with parental consent to children aged 0-4 years inclusive by their GP/family doctor and also, by health board vaccination teams, to young people in school from Junior Certificate to Leaving Certificate as well as to 3rd level institutions first year students. Young people aged 15-18 years who are not in full-time education are encouraged to contact their health board regarding arrangements for immunisation.**

**The Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine, while new to Ireland, has been distributed widely in the UK; more than 15 million doses have been administered up to August 2000. A rate of less than 1 report of a specific reaction for every 10,000 doses distributed has been reported, with the majority of these reactions being non-serious.**

**Literature for parents and young people has been distributed nationwide via schools, health centres and GP practices. Information about the immunisation programme can also be obtained from your GP and by viewing the following website: [www.meningitis.ie](http://www.meningitis.ie).**

**BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB**

**FIXTURES FOR JANUARY**

**UPCOMING FIXTURES - LADIES**

**Saturday 6th January - Parochial Hall**

**7.00pm Ballincollig v Brunell Un-12**

**8.00pm Ballincollig v Glanmire Un-19**

**Thursday 11th January - Parochial Hall**

**7.15pm Ballincollig  
v Blackpool Credit Union Jun I**

**UPCOMING FIXTURES - MEN**

**Friday 5th January - Carrigaline Community School**

**8.30pm Carrigaline v Ballincollig Un-15**

**Saturday 6th January - Boys Un-14 Tournament  
in Parochial Hall**

**Saturday 6th January - Midleton  
Community Centre**

**6.30pm Midleton Coasters v Ballincollig Un-11**

**Saturday 6th January - Ballincollig Community  
School**

**6.00pm Ballincollig v Crescent Limerick Un-17**

**7.00pm Ballincollig v Iona Un-19**

**8.00pm Ballincollig v C.I.E. Div. 2**

**Tuesday 9th January - Parochial Hall**

**7.30pm Iona v Ballincollig Un-19**

**8.30pm Glanmire v Ballincollig Un-15**

**NIGHT PRAYER**

*Now I am going to sleep and if this sleep  
be for me the sleep of death then  
may your own mighty hand lead me  
from the light of this world into  
the great light of eternity.*

Our night prayers are our final conversation of the day with God, and this lovely old prayer from the Scottish Gaelic is a wonderful example of the spirit that should permeate our night prayer. This little prayer touches on so much of Christian faith and hope. It is a solemn but confident handing over of ourselves to God's loving care; it is a calm acknowledgement that we are pilgrims on this earth and that day by day, night by night, our heavenly Father is leading us to himself and to our heavenly home. Such an approach can help make our night prayer a richer experience. Many of us may have been encouraged or even dragooned, in our earliest years - 'Say your night prayers' before going to bed. What did that mean for us? Perhaps it was a quick act of contrition for anything we had done wrong in the day. Now, an examination of conscience and an act of contrition at the end of the day are excellent practices, and I hope we are doing this and leading our children to do likewise. However, our night prayer is not to consist of these acts only - it is, like all our prayers, to be centred on God and his grace. It reaches out to God in gratitude, contrition, trust, hope and petition. We need not focus straight away on our failures, rather try and see how God was with us during the day, what God was doing with us and for us, and how we responded. then we can thank God for his grace at work in us and ask pardon for our failures. Finally, we can ask God for the blessings of his protection and a good night's rest - no small matter in our stressful world.

*A suggested structure for night prayers:*

- (1) If possible find a quiet place. Let your mind and heart grow still. Put yourself in God's presence.
- (2) Think about the day that is ending. How was God with me today, how did God help me? Or did I feel abandoned by God? How did God speak to me or challenge me through events? How did I respond?
- (3) Give thanks to God for his grace at work in us. Ask pardon for sins and failures.
- (4) Entrust yourself and all those you love to God's protection and ask for yourself and for the the blessings of a peaceful night and restoring sleep.
- (5) Finish with a prayer to Mary, our heavenly Mother.