

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2001

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



It was through Our Lady's faith and perfect obedience to God's will that Christ was born, the promised Emmanuel, God - with - us. God continues to be with us if we receive His Son in faith.

PEACE ON EARTH

Some years are remembered by images that are so forceful that they blot out all the other news stories that make up the daily record of world affairs. The year that has past will be remembered by the television pictures of crumbling twin towers and, in Ireland, the faces of crying school girls in Belfast making their way to school through a jeering mob. The birth of the new century had brought hopes of peace to a world wearied of the continuous wars of the nineteen hundreds. Those high hopes were cruelly dashed by the events of 2001. If we are to learn anything from these events it is that the struggle for peace must go on through every century, through every year, indeed through every day. John Philpot Curran once said that eternal vigilance was the price of freedom. It is much the same with the preservation of peace. Even within the family itself, one careless comment, one hurtful remark, and the insult can get stitched into the memory for all time. Peace can be shattered in a moment. Peace can take years to build up.

The peace process in the North is proof that the efforts of good men and women can triumph in the end. It is not that many years ago when the big news at Christmas was that there would be a ceasefire for a few days during the Christmas season. In those days a total ceasefire seemed an impossible dream, a shared government seemed sheer fantasy. Yet that is now a reality thanks to the unrelenting commitment of decent people.

The Christmas Angels' promise of peace was not unconditional: peace was promised to "men of good will". So it really comes down to our own dispositions. Either we are for violence, injustice, quarrelling, hatred, revenge and all the other evils that we learned were opposed to the fifth commandment or else we take as our model the Infant Jesus who was born in the humble surroundings of the stable and lived and died as a man of peace.

Leonard O'Brien

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST:

Let us bring our prayers to the Lord, the King of Glory.

READER:

For all who follow Christ, that they may make their hearts ready for Christmas.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For parents who look forward to the birth of their offspring, as Joseph and Mary did, that they may have a safe delivery and the gift of a healthy child.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For our relatives and friends travelling home, that they may travel safely, and find rest with us.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For people who dread Christmas because of bereavement or loneliness, that our support may help them through it.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who have gone before us in faith, that they may share in Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

PRIEST:

O God, yours is the earth and its fullness, bless your people by hearing the prayers we make through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARY'S DREAM

I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the presents weren't for our son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornament. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree. Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our son. I don't think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name. I had the strangest feeling if our Jesus had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real!

Best Wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

The priests of the parish join in sending their Christmas greetings to all members of the parish and to all readers of the Ballincollig Parishioner. We thank you for all your help and co-operation during the past year. You will be remembered in our Christmas Masses.

Leonard O'Brien, Pat O'Donovan, Paul O'Donoghue, John O'Donovan

BAPTISMS



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

- Kelly Twohig, 12, Leesdale Drive
- Brian Paul McGrath, Model Farm Road, Carrigrohane
- Isbelle Ellen Grace Kenefick, 77, Castlepark



IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:
Michael Lucey, Clashanaftrin, Ovens

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

- Lill O'Mahony, Bandon
- Florence & Noreen Kelty, Fr. Sexton Park
- John O'Callaghan
- Damien McCarthy
- John Murphy, Parkmore, Beara
- Brendan O'Sullivan, Glendower
- Anthony McCarthy, Castlepark
- Kate Durcan, Co. Mayo
- Bill & Kit Foley, England
- John Lynch, Ballyburden
- Elizabeth Fouhy, East Gate
- Billy Green, Station Road
- Deceased members of John A. Wood
- Brendan Power, Aisling Lawn
- Nellie Murphy, Station Road
- Mary Lenihan, Inniscarra View Est.
- David Brosnan, Beech Road
- Maura Kelly, Beech Park
- Patrick & Margaret Kelly, Ive Leary
- Brigid O'Regan, Carrignarra
- James Lucey, Station Road
- Denis & Margaret Linehan, Inniscarra
- The McGroarty Family, Cobh
- Elizabeth & Florrie McCarthy, Muskerry Estate
- Patrick Murphy, Inniscarra
- John Lucey, Coolroe
- Jerry & Hannah Goulding, Inniscarra
- Eugene & Kitty O'Callaghan, West Village
- John & Josephine Cuddihy, Tipperary
- Mary McSweeney
- Sean & Geraldine Daly
- Tom Daly
- Paul Wall
- Charles Lynch, Gurranabraher
- Sean Keating, Cathedral Road & Lissarda
- Cronin Family, Pearse Road
- Dermot Barry Murphy

FOURTH WEEK IN ADVENT

23 Sunday Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Rom. 1:1-7. Mt. 1:18-24. *Lect I:68*
Our attention is now directed fully to the coming of Christ in the Christmas mystery. The Preface calls us to wonder at this great happening, to prepare for Christmas in prayer and praise. The Psalm tells us to purify our hearts as preparation. Prayer and reconciliation should be features of these days.

24 Monday Morning 2 Sam. 7:1-5,8-12,14,16. Ps. 88. Lk. 1:67-79. Lect I:92

Zechariah prophesies that the Rising Sun comes to give light to all in darkness and the shadow of death. "Sun of justice, come and enlighten us."

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS - The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ

24 Monday Christmas Eve
Evening Is. 62:1-5. Ps. 88. Acts 13:16-17,22-25. Mt. 1:1-25. *Lect I:99*

25 Tuesday Christmas Day
Midnight Mass Is. 9:1-6. Ps. 95. Tit. 2:11-14. Lk. 2:1-14. *Lect I:104*
I bring you news of great joy. This night a child is born for us, a son given to us.

Dawn Mass Is. 62:11-12. Ps. 96. Tit. 3:4-7. Lk. 2:15-20. *Lect I:107*
The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the baby, and glorified God.

Day Mass Is. 52:7-10. Ps. 97. Heb. 1:1-6. Jn. 1:1-18. *Lect I:109*
The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory.

26 Wednesday Acts. 6:8-10. 7:54-59. Ps. 30. Mt. 10:17-22. Lect I:125
St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was one of those in charge of the poor and needy. He is outstanding for his forgiveness of his enemies. Patron of deacons, stonemasons and bricklayers.

27 Thursday 1 Jn. 1:1-4. Ps. 96. Jn. 20:2-8. Lect I:127
St. John, brother of James, son of Zebedee, the disciple whom Jesus loved, is traditionally said to have died at Ephesus. He is considered to be the author of the fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation and three Letters. The Letters especially teach the law of love; he is said in his old age to have preached only one message - Love one another.

28 Friday 1 Jn. 1:5-2:2. Ps. 123. Mt. 2:13-18. Lect I:129
"The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the Holy Innocents make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light: 'He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.' Christ's whole life was lived under the sign of persecution. His own share it with him. Jesus' departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents him as the definitive liberator of God's people." CCC, 530

29 Saturday 1 Jn. 2:3-11. Ps. 95. Lk. 2:22-35. Lect I:131
Christmas has its origins in a feast of light to celebrate the victory of the Sun of Justice, a light shining in the darkness.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

26 Wednesday - St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was one of those in charge of the poor and needy. He is outstanding for his forgiveness of his enemies. Patron of deacons, stonemasons and bricklayers.

29 Saturday - St. Thomas à Becket, 1118-70, was made Archbishop of Canterbury and came in conflict with King Henry II. He was killed in his cathedral on this date.

CROWLEY'S FUNERAL HOME

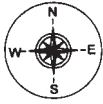
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*For personal attention contact
Michael or Patricia*



BALLINCOLLIG TIDY TOWNS

We extend our thanks to all concerned who helped us achieve excellent results in the Cork County Council "Inter Town Litter Challenge" & "The National Tidy Towns" competitions during the past year, especially our named sponsors for their generous contributions.

We look forward to your continued support throughout 2002.

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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Wishing you peace this Christmas time and success in the New Year ahead

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	CHILDREN'S MASS	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
<p style="text-align: center;">Masses</p> <p>Sunday: 8.30, 10.00, 12.00 Xmas Eve: 9.30am, 6pm, 10pm Xmas Day: 8.30, 10, 12 Noon Wed-Fri: 9.30am Saturday: 10.00, 6pm (Vigil)</p>	<p>The Children's Christmas Mass will be celebrated at 6p.m. Christmas Eve in the Church of Christ Our Light</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Masses</p> <p>Sunday: 11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm Xmas Eve: 8.30am, 6pm, 8pm, Midnight Xmas Day: 11am, 12.30pm Wed-Fri: 8.30am Saturday: 10am, 8pm (Vigil)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Confessions</p> <p>Xmas Eve: 11am-1pm (Monday) 3pm-4.30pm Saturday: after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Confessions</p> <p>Xmas Eve: 11am-1pm (Monday) 3pm-4.30pm Saturday: after 10am Mass</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Baptisms</p> <p>Saturday: 5.00pm Sunday: 12.45pm</p>	<p>The Editorial Team of the Parishioner and the Website would like to thank all our advertisers for their support and wish them and all our readers a very Happy Christmas</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Baptisms</p> <p>Saturday: 7.15pm</p>

PARISH CLERGY

CHURCH NO. ☎ 087-2479140
 Fr. L.O'Brien P.P ☎ 021-4871206
 Fr. P. O'Donovan C.C. ☎ 021-4872808 Fax: 021-4872808
 Fr. Paul O'Donoghue ☎ 021-4876055
 Fr. John O'Donovan ☎ 021-4870434

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MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

24th /25th December 2001

ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH

6p.m.
 Ted Nelligan
 Frank O'Riordan
 Siobhan O'Riordan
 Aisling Kelly
 Jerry O'Connor
 Margaret O'Sullivan

10p.m.
 Betty Sheehan
 Helen Kelly
 Betty Casey
 Geraldine Graham
 Mary Daly
 Brendan Daly

CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH

8.30a.m.
 Mary Buckley
 Theresa Lucey
 Bernadette Bell

10a.m.
 Vera Allen
 Jim Walsh
 Seamus O'Shea
 Mary Murphy
 John O'Donovan

12.00 Noon
 Michael Crowley
 Oliver O'Donovan
 Noel Hennessy
 Barbara Kelly
 Peter Reilly
 Pat Kelleher

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH

6p.m.
 Eileen O'Donoghue
 Lelia O'Brien
 Catherine Green
 Mary Twomey
 Finbarr Murray

8p.m.
 Jim Cahill
 Kit Cahill
 Sheila O'Connor
 Marion O'Sullivan
 Phil O'Connell

12 midnight
 Neil O'Donoghue
 Patricia O'Donoghue
 Maura O'Driscoll
 Rose Cotter
 Patsy Galvin

CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH -

11a.m. - Maura McNamara,
 Angela Cunningham, Larry Cunningham,
 Anne O'Connell, Maria Mullins

12.30p.m.- Eileen Garvey, Sally Power
 Joan Stephenson, Breda Callanan,
 Marie O'Brien

MINISTERS OF THE WORD DEC. 29TH/30TH

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN

CHRIST OUR LIGHT

6.00p.m.(Vigil) - Muireann Nelligan	8.00p.m.(Vigil) - Michael Greene
8.30a.m. - Elizabeth Daly	11.00a.m. - Fiona O'Connor
10.00a.m. - Declan Chalmers	12.30p.m. - Marlyn O'Connor
12 Noon - Brendan Daly	5.30p.m. - Eileen Nolan

MINISTERS OF THE WORD DEC. 29TH/30TH

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN

CHRIST OUR LIGHT

6.00p.m.(Vigil) - Muireann Nelligan	8.00p.m.(Vigil) - Michael Greene
8.30a.m. - Elizabeth Daly	11.00a.m. - Fiona O'Connor
10.00a.m. - Declan Chalmers	12.30p.m. - Marlyn O'Connor
12 Noon - Brendan Daly	5.30p.m. - Eileen Nolan

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

29th /30th December 2001

ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



SATURDAY 29TH

6p.m.
 Aisling Kelly
 April Ryan
 Eileen Murphy
 Ted Nelligan
 Angela Murphy
 Ann O'Connell

SUNDAY 30TH

8.30a.m.
 Helen Kelly
 Roddy Martin

10a.m.
 Miriam Maunsell
 Breda Ring
 Jerry O'Connor

12.00 Noon
 Louie O'Leary
 Mary Buckley
 John Walshe
 Pat Kelleher
 Irene O'Brien
 Ellen O'Sullivan

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

SATURDAY 29TH

8p.m.
 John O'Donoghue
 Eleanor O'Donoghue
 Kathleen Daly

SUNDAY 30TH

11a.m.
 Mary O'Mahony
 Margaret Brown
 Rose Cotter
 Billy Barry
 Nell Cantillon-Murphy

12.30p.m.
 Mary Twomey
 Peggy Sheehan
 Pat Manning
 Terry O'Driscoll
 Bernie O'Driscoll

5.30p.m.
 Garreth Irish
 Shelia Curran
 Statia O'Callaghan

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL *SINCERE THANKS*

Our Christmas Appeal on 8th and 9th December amounted to £12,000.

Your unfailing generosity is a simple but powerful endorsement of our work. At the same time an expression of your concern for those who, through no fault of their own, are not as fortunate as ourselves. In the name of the society of St. Vincent de Paul and of the people we help, our sincerest thanks.

BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB

Mens Results

Our Un-11's and Un-17 Teams played their Skibbereen counterparts here in B.C.S. last Saturday. Unfortunately for our Un-11 Boys, we were missing some experienced players and Skibb took advantage of this and put the very young Ballincollig side under a lot of pressure making it difficult for them to score.

The Un-13 Team struggled for much of the first two quarters but got back into the game and managed to level the score in a very exciting 4th quarter but in the end, while Ballincollig were definitely more skilful, Skibb's team won out with their taller and older side.

The Un-17 Mens Team had no such difficulties in their game against Skibb in a match which saw Ballincollig take the lead from the start, allowing Skibb no chance to recover. Our Div. 2 Mens Team were also victorious in their game with Blue Demons, beating them by 10pts. This win keeps them top of the league table and unbeaten in any of their games. Well Done Lads.

On Sunday three Ballincollig teams travelled to Bantry. The Un-11's played two games on the day. The first against Bantry A team was a very close, exciting game which came right down to the wire, unfortunately for us Bantry just got ahead by 1pt to win the game. Their second match was also a thriller and this time Ballincollig were victorious. Great credit is due to this very young team and quick mention for Ben Noonan, Eoin Aherne and Gavin McCarthy, some of the more junior members who contributed so well on the day.

Our Un-13 team could not seem to find their normal enthusiasm on the day and gave a rather poor performance against a strong Bantry side, who lost no time in pulling too far ahead for us.

The Un-15 team had a great win in their game. The small squad of six players took on Bantry at every turn and put basket after basket past their defence, and Ballincollig went on to win by a great margin.

Ladies Results

The Girls Un-14 team played Carrigaline last Saturday. Ballincollig were most unlucky to lose this game as they played extremely well against a very hard and physical Carrigaline side who lost no time in using their strength against a far smaller Ballincollig team. However we fought back well and were disappointed to lose the game by only 4pts.

The Un-16 Girls were also unlucky to lose their game on Sunday morning against Cobh. We were down at half-time, then made a good come back to take the lead, only to lose it again and let Cobh slip in the winning basket.

Ballincollig Basketball Club would like to take this opportunity to wish all it's members, their families and the people of Ballincollig a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and thank every one for their wonderful support of the club in the past year.

Training will resume on January 5th and 6th.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*The coming of the Lord is an event to give great confidence to all God's people.
Christmas is our assurance of God's presence and care.*

WELCOMING THE LIGHT

In those who trusted You, dear Lord,
Your peace glowed strong and clear.
Fill us with the peace that comes
From knowing You are near.



REFLECTION

I pray Lord, for the needy of our world:
come among us as one who will help,
and call us all to help the hungry and sick,
the uneducated and homeless,
those who are victims of violence and war,
the lonely and depressed.
May your coming this Christmas be for them
a time of peace and love;
may we bring to them, in what way we can
the joy of your coming.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE PRIESTS OF THE PARISH

According to the Diocesan custom,
the collection at Christmas Day Masses
is one of the two occasions during the
year when the offertory collection
goes to the priests of the Parish

ROSARY AT CRIB

The junior members of the
Legion of Mary will recite the Rosary
at the Crib in the Square on
Christmas Eve at 12 noon and would
love other children to join them.

Everybody most welcome

FATIMA APOSTOLATE GROUP AND CIRCLES OF ROSARY

The fifteen mysteries of the Rosary
will be recited in both Churches on
New Year's Eve 31st December
at 3.00p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME

FATIMA APOSTOLATE GROUP BALLINCOLLIG

The Monthly Meeting of the Apostolate
will be held on Monday January 7th, 2002
at 7pm in the Youth House,
Station Road, Ballincollig
*Present Members and New Members
are all welcome to attend*

THE ROSARY

The Rosary will be recited on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 9.30p.m. in the Church of St. Mary & St. John (before 10p.m. Mass

ALL ARE WELCOME

BALLINCOLLIG COUNTRY MARKET LTD.

Wish all their customers a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and thank them for all their support in the past year.

We are now taking a much needed rest until January 18th when we re-open as usual 10-11.30a.m. in the Community Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME

THE ORIGIN OF 'SILENT NIGHT'

A holy night, a silent night, with Mother and child, all is calm, all is bright. This inspiring hymn came to us because an organ in Germany broke down about one hundred years ago.

Without an organ the parish priest in a small country church said it would be a 'SilentNight'. The organist would compose a melody. The priest would write the lyrics and the choir would just sing the soft praises of this hymn for Midnight Mass.

That is all it was meant to be, just a simple hymn sung once and forgotten.

Then a snowstorm prevented the man who fixed the organ from coming until the snow melted in the spring.

After he finished he noticed the music left on the organ since Christmas night and took it back to Munich. The rest is history. "Silent Night" has reverberated throughout the ages. With its quiet sounds of love and peace it has inspired millions and millions, touching the lives of countless people.



ANNUAL TOY MASS

The members of the Secular Franciscan Order would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to everybody who supported their Toy Mass on 9th December.

The response was overwhelming. Thank you all so much. We wish you all peaceful, happy homes this Christmas and the New Year

The staff and pupils of Ballincollig Community School would like to express their appreciation to the local community for their generous support of the carol singing in aid of Russian Orphanages in Omsk, Siberia, which took place on Tuesday December 11th.

Almost £1000 was raised. Thanks to your kindness the quality of life for the many children who live in these orphanages will be greatly improved.

May you all have a very blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Anne Henning (Chaplain)

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM NOELLE AND FAMILY

Noelle and her family would very much like to thank you all again for your prayerful support and warm friendship, most especially since Noelle was diagnosed with a brain tumour on February 2001. With heartfelt gratitude and thanks to God for so many graces and blessings and a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, please continue to pray for a mighty miracle for Noelle and great healing for all of us. May the joy of that first Christmas fill your homes with happiness. Christmas blessings and every good wish for the New Year. We are arranging for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to be offered for all your intentions at Bethlehem this Christmas.

The Wrenne Family

LIGHT A CANDLE

Why not join us, the SFO members, in lighting a candle in your home at 7.00p.m. on this Sunday 23rd December and pray for peace.

Peace in our hearts, homes, country and the whole world.

MORE LIGHT - LESS DARKNESS

MARY McLEAN'S SALON

3, Sunningdale

A happy & peaceful Christmas from Annette, Linda and Mary