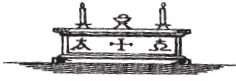
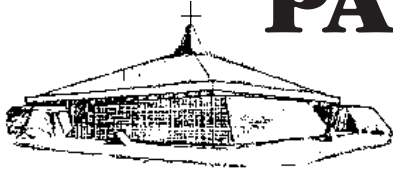


THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2002

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

The difficulties and deprivations of life can sometimes discourage and embitter people. We Christians are invited to recognise the gifts that God has given us. We are not to barden our hearts in doubt but rather to listen to his words and worship him in thankfulness for the love of his Son. In such listening and worship we receive God's spirit of hope.

RECONCILIATION

At the period of history when Britain maintained presence in the North-West Frontier of India, two English officers, Colonel Stoddart & Captain Connolly, were sent to Bukhara, a great centre of Islam, on government business. They never returned, but news at length came that both had been murdered, after terrible treatment by the Amir, the Ruler of Afghanistan.

Nineteen years passed and then one day in St. Petersburg in Russia, an old English prayer-book was found by a visitor in the house of a Russian officer. It's fly-leaf and the margins were covered with pencilled notes. It has been picked up on a stall in Bukhara, but the Russian officer to whom it belonged could not read it. His visitor, however, could. It had belonged to Captain Connolly, and the pencilled notes told how from December until June, he and Colonel Stoddart had spent months of suffering, half-clad in the bitter cold of an Afghan winter, wounded and ill-treated and with no change of clothes, at last they were led to an open square outside the prison, where before a hostile crowd, Stoddart was executed. Then Captain Connolly was offered his life if he became a muslim, but he replied "I will not be a muslim. I am ready to die". And he too was beheaded.

Now the Russian officer's visitor knew Connolly's family and sent the prayer-book to England to the Captain's sister and his sister endowed a bed in the frontier hospital for Afghan Tribesmen.

When the hospital patients, tribesmen, heard this story they would say with amazement, "The sister of that man pays for a hospital bed, that the men of the nation who killed him may be cured? Has she forgotten about his death?" "No", is the reply. "It is that he may not be forgotten that she does it. That is the way of Christian Reconciliation."

John O'Donovan

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST:

Let us come before the Lord,
bringing all our needs.

READER:

For the baptised, that they may
appreciate the gifts that are theirs, we pray.
Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For adults and children preparing for
baptism, that our prayer and support
may encourage them, we pray.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who thirst for meaning and truth,
that they may experience God's grace,
we pray.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For poor nations where water is scarce,
that they may have the help they need
in the fight against thirst, we pray.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For this community, and particularly for
people in any kind of difficulty,
that Lent may teach us to be true friends
of those in need, we pray

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray that all citizens of our State
will appreciate the importance of taking
part in our local, general and referenda
elections. May we always be grateful to
Christ who came that we may have life
and have it to the full. May God help us
to guarantee that every person may have
the opportunity to share in that life, we pray

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

PRIEST:

O God, we are yours, you lead us by the
hand: send us the help we need, we pray,
through Christ our Lord. Amen

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

*Water is the common thread in today's three readings and of course in the context of baptism,
it is through water that we receive the Holy Spirit and are made sisters or brothers of Jesus.*

O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS



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

- Ben Patrick Vander - Linde, 21 Leedale Grove
- Jack David McGrath, 35 The Meadows, Classis Lake
- Nora Noelle Margaret Charlotte Casey, 18 Innishmore Crt
- Hannah Jo Thorton, 143 Leevew
- Jordan William Murphy, 65 Fernwall, Greenfields
- Jordan Stephanie Burrows, 86 Willowfield
- Joseph Thomas Delaney, Kilnaglory
- Ella Jade Vallely, 42 Daffodil Fields

+

IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:
John O'Donovan, 15 Beech Road
Julie Jenkins, Ballincollig & Macroom

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

- Michael McNulty, Fr. Sexton Park
- Patrick Riordan, Old Blackrock Road
- Mary O'Keeffe, Church View
- The Harrington Family
- Elizabeth Cronin, Leo Murphy Tce.
- Tim O'Connell, Maglin
- Neil Langan, Donegal
- Donors Intentions
- Peg O'Donovan, Late of Beara
- Maureen Noonan, Cathedral Avenue
- Jimmy Langan, Donegal
- Mabel Neenan, Millstreet
- Con Sheehan, Maglin
- Jack & Rita Harrington, The Square
- Mary Herlihey, Rosscarbery
- Daniel O' Sullivan, Donamore
- Elizabeth Wilson, Carlow
- Kathleen Dorgan, Powdermills
- Marie Quinn, Muskerry Est.,
- Ken Dennehy, Late of Castle View
- John Dennehy, Late of Castle View
- Michael Moloney, Church View, Raheen
- Michael Moloney Jun., Church View, Raheen
- Tom & Kate Staunton, Athohe
- Michael & Mary Murphy, Waterfall
- Catherine & Patrick Howard, Ballinlough
- Pauline O'Callaghan, Main Rd.
- Catherine Barry, Fermoy
- Jim Doyle, Westcourt
- Ted Corkery, Aherla
- Pat & John Sheehan, Coachford
- John Joe & Charles McCarthy
- Curley A. O'Donovan

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

3 Sunday Ex. 17:3-7. Ps. 94. Rom. 5:1 -2. 5-8. Jn. 4:5-42. *Lect 1: 245*
The catechumens and the baptised Christians are together on this Lenten pilgrimage. Christ offers the water of life to all who thirst. Today occurs the first scrutiny or exorcism for the catechumens. By it they are being prepared to accept the Spirit. Through that Spirit the gift of love is poured into our hearts, a gift bought for us by the blood of Christ. The prayer that they grow in wisdom and love echoes the readings, and must still be the prayer of all Christians. (Cf. Missal, p. 753.)

4 Monday 2 K. 5:1 -15. Ps. 41. Lk. 4:24-30. *Lect 1: 262*
The Catechism reminds all the baptised of their responsibilities. We belong now to Christ who died and rose for us. We are to be servants of each other in the communion of the Church and to be obedient to those who teach, holding them in respect and affection. We must profess publicly that faith we have received, and participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the Church. CCC, 1269-1270.

5 Tuesday Dan. 3:25, 34-43. Ps. 24. Mt. 18:21-35. *Lect 1:264*
The prayer of Azariah is one of true humility before a gentle and merciful God. Jesus, however, requires a further element in our prayer. We must not hold anything against our neighbour.

6 Wednesday Deut. 4; 1.5-9. Ps. 147. Mt. 5:17-19. *Lect 1: 267*
The Law is a great treasure, to be safely guarded and to be handed on as a sacred trust. In the new Jerusalem, the Church, the laws of Christ are not to be seen as burdens or out of date. They are the evidence of the love of Christ for us.

7 Thursday Jer. 7:23-28. Ps. 94. Lk. 11:14-23. *Lect 1: 268*
Lent belongs to the whole Church. Lent should see us striving to achieve unity in the bond of peace. It could be a season of healing.

8 Friday Hos. 14:2-10. Ps. 80. Mk 12:28-34. *Lect 1: 271*
We are called to return in faithfulness to the God who made us. We are reminded not to have other gods before him. "We will say no more, 'Our God', to the work of our hands."

9 Saturday Hos. 5:15 - 6:6. Ps. 50. Lk. 18:9-14. *Lect 1: 273*
"Only when we humbly acknowledge that 'we do not know how to pray as we ought' are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. 'Man is a beggar before God'." CCC, 2559. It is not passing emotion that God wants from us. It is faithful love. Infrequent or occasional acts of worship speak of devotion that easily disappears like dew or a morning cloud.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

- 4th St Casimir**, 1458-84, strove to promote peace and the unity of Western Europe. Patron saint of Poland.
- 5th St Kieran**. Kieran of Saigir was born in Cape Clear, County Cork. He is numbered among the pre-Patrician saints of Ireland. He went to the Continent, where he was baptised and later ordained priest and bishop. He returned to his father's territory, Ossory, and seems to have lived as a hermit.
- 7th Sts Perpetua**, a young upper class married woman & **Felicity**, a slave girl were martyred in Carthage, AD 203
- 8th St John of God**, 1495-1550. He is patron saint of nurses, the sick, heart patients, printers and booksellers
- 8th St Senan** was born near Kilrush, County Clare. His vocation seems to have resulted from an experience of danger from the sea. His early studies were mainly made at the monastery of Kilnamanagh. His principal monastic foundation was on Scattery Island, near Kilrush, in the Shannon Estuary. He was *anamchara* to Ciaran of Clonmacnois and Brendan, and died in 544.
- 9th St Frances of Rome**, d. 1440, lived a happy married life in Rome where she was especially concerned for the poor.

**STUDENT MASS
FOR LENT**

COLAISTE CHOILM

EACH SCHOOLDAY
AT 8.35A.M.

CROWLEY'S FUNERAL HOME

BALLINCOLLIG
Telephone: 021-4874777 Mobile: 087-2759254
FLORAL TRIBUTES,
FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING
REMOVALS TO ALL CHURCHES
CREMATION AND REPATRIATION ARRANGED
For personal attention contact
Michael or Patricia



VICTIM SUPPORT

**Gurranabraher Branch
Fax/Phone: 021 4877975**

Has Crime Affected Your Life?

**Being the victim of crime can be a new and
very traumatic experience.
Victim Support can offer you acknowledgement,
emotional and practical support**

OUR SERVICE IS FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

**For further information please contact:
Fax/Phone: 021 4877975**

**Or call to:
Southern Regional Office,
Ground Floor,
4 Anglesea Villas,
Anglesea Street,
Cork.**

Ph: 021 4322333

SPRING DUES

Envelopes have now been distributed to each household.
Please return it by placing it in the Basket at Mass. Spare
envelopes are available from the back of the Church.

CHURCH OF CHRIST OUR LIGHT

A general clean-up of the grounds will
be held on Saturday 23rd March.

Please Support



Cork Marriage Counselling Centre

Cork & Ross Family Centre
34 Paul St., Cork
Tel: 021-4275678 Fax: 021-4274917

ENVELOPE OFFERING

Next Weekend. - 9th & 10th March - Please Support

*A sincere thanks to all who attended the Coffee Morning in
Noel & Nora Hennessys house on 15th of February. The Coffee Morning
was a great success and the sum of €506 was raised for the Missions*

*God Bless and once again,
Thank you.
Fr. Christy Harrington*

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	EACH SUNDAY	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
<p>Masses</p> <p>Sunday: 8.30, 10.00, 12.00 Mon- Fri: 9.30am, 8.00p.m. Saturday: 10.00am, 6pm (Vigil)</p>	<p>ROSARY RECITED AT BOTH CHURCHES EACH SUNDAY 3.00P.M. <i>Everyone most welcome</i></p>	<p>Masses</p> <p>Sunday: 11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm Mon-Fri: 8.30am., 6.30pm Saturday: 10.00am, 8.00pm (Vigil)</p>
<p>Confessions</p> <p>Saturday: after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass</p>	<p>SACRISTY SERVICES <i>Before and after all Masses Sundays & Weekdays</i> <u>CHURCH OF ST. MARY & ST. JOHN</u></p> <p>- Mass Card Signing - Requests for Baptism/Marriage Certs, etc. <u>CHRIST OUR LIGHT</u> - Mass Card Signing -</p>	<p>Confessions</p> <p>Saturday: after 10am Mass</p>
<p>Baptisms</p> <p>Saturday: 5.00pm Sunday: 12.45pm</p>		<p>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

**FATIMA APOSTOLATE
 GROUP
 BALLINCOLLIG**

The Monthly Meeting of the Apostolate
 will be held on Monday next,
 March 4th, 2002
 at 7pm in the Youth House,
 Station Road, Ballincollig
All are welcome to attend

**SOCIETY OF
 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
 Monthly Collection**

This Weekend
 2nd & 3rd March

PLEASE SUPPORT





SUTTONS OIL

HOME HEATING OIL

- Commercial
- Agricultural

Centre Park Road, Cork
Tel: 021-4911700
 Fax: 021-4911701

*Home Heating Budget
 Payment Plan*




COMMUNION REFLECTION

The prodigal girl,

Great poets have sung the beauties of home,
its comfort, its love and its joys;
how back to the place of its sheltering dome
I welcome the prodigal boy.

They picture his father with pardoning smile
and glittering robes to unfurl;
but none of the poets thought it worthwhile
to sing of the prodigal girl.

The prodigal son can resume his old place
as leader of fashion's mad whirl,
with never a hint of his former disgrace -
not so for the prodigal girl!

The girl may come back to the home
she had left but nothing is ever the same:
the shadow still lingers o'er the dear ones
bereft, society scoffs at her name.

Perhaps that is why when the prodigal girl
gets lost on life's devious track;
she thinks of the lips that will scornfully
curl, and hasn't the heart to come back.

Yes, welcome, the prodigal son to his place;
kill the calf, fill the free-flowing bowl;
but shut not the door on his frail sister's
face, remember, she too has a soul.

Author Unknown

DANGER

We live under the shade of the Almighty.
We are sheltered by the God
Who is above all gods.
All our days are under his care.
His providence, like eagle's wings,
Shields us.
He orders his angels to protect us
On life's singled trail,
They signpost the way.
We need not be afraid of the dark, or
Fear dangers in broad daylight.

As we wake each morning,
We hear his reassuring words:

'Because you cling to me in love,
Know me as I really am, and
Talk to me as friend to friend.
I will deliver you,
Protect you, because
You acknowledge my name.'

Psalm 91:14

NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS:

Samuel 16:16-7, 10-13. Paul. 5:8-14 John. 9:1-41

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 9TH/10TH MAR
ST. MARY & ST. JOHN CHRIST OUR LIGHT

6.00p.m.(Vigil) - Karen Sheehan	8.00p.m.(Vigil) - Pauline Collins
8.30a.m. - Martha Barry	11.00a.m. - Noreen O'Riordan
10.00a.m. - Margot Twomey	12.30p.m. - Pat Mc Geough
12 Noon - Tony Hegarty	5.30p.m. - Eileen Nolan



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

9th/10th March 2002

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



SATURDAY 9TH
6p.m.

Vera Allen
Bernadette Bell
Oliver Delaney
Betty Casey
Frank Riordan
Siobhan Riordan

SUNDAY 10TH
8.30a.m.

Mary Buckley
Theresa Lucey

10a.m.
Anne Cahill
Pat Lee
Mary Delaney
Seamus O'Shea

12.00 Noon
Joan Barrett
Sheila Carroll
Marsie Curling
Pat Keenan
Will Casey
Steve Wills

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

SATURDAY 9TH
8p.m.

Geraldine Lynch
Charlie Vaughan
Joan Stephenson

SUNDAY 10TH
11a.m.

Máire Uí Chrualaí
Neil Jeffries
Eileen Byrne
Mary Coleman
Dan Coleman

12.30p.m.
Con O'Connell
Denis O'Mahony
Christine O'Mahony
Tom Murray
Maura Lombard

5.30p.m.
Patsy Galvin
Bridie O'Donnell
Phil O'Connell

STATEMENT OF THE IRISH EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROPOSED ABORTION REFERENDUM

1. It is the clear and consistent teaching of the Catholic Church that human life is sacred from the moment of conception. In his 1995 Encyclical Letter *The Gospel of Life* (*Evangelium Vitae*) Pope John Paul II re-stated the teaching that "the human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception. Therefore from that same moment his or her rights as a person must be recognised, among which in the first place is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life" (#60). Nothing can ever justify the deliberate killing of an innocent human being.

2. The basic right to life is a natural and moral right which does not depend on legal or political recognition for its value. However, the Church has always insisted that a primary function of law is to protect the most needy and vulnerable human beings, including the unborn.

3. For these reasons, it is the responsibility and the entitlement of the bishops of Ireland, in communion with the Universal Church and its Supreme Pastor Pope John Paul II, to offer guidance to our people regarding the proposed Constitutional amendment as set out in the Twenty-fifth Amendment of the Constitution (Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy) Bill 2001.

4. At present, the law in Ireland concerning the right to life of the unborn is determined by Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court in the "X Case". It remains our conviction that the judgement in that case is profoundly flawed. It is for this reason that we have called on many occasions for a new referendum which would effectively overturn this judgement and restore adequate protection for the unborn.

5 We welcome and support the new proposal as a significant improvement on the current unsatisfactory situation. In particular, this proposal would appear to set aside deficient aspects of the "X case" judgement, including the acceptance of the risk of suicide as a legitimate ground for justifying abortion.

6. We are satisfied that, on any reasonable interpretation, the specific and particular protection offered to the unborn by the new proposal does not dilute or weaken the general protection already afforded by Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution.

7. But even if this new proposal is enacted, outstanding issues remain which require the ongoing attention of our legislators. We believe that the existing rights of the unborn from the moment of conception under Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution need to be reinforced by precise legislative measures.

8. In particular, we are concerned that adequate and clear legal protection be offered to the unborn prior to implantation. This is particularly urgent in view of what is happening and what is likely to happen in the area of cloning and research on human embryos, and also in the area of assisted human reproduction where particular problems arise regarding the storage and disposal of human embryos. It is of vital importance that embryos are never treated other than as human persons whose inherent worth and dignity are valued and vindicated.

9. In this regard, we are about to make a substantial submission to the Government Commission on Assisted Human Reproduction setting out in detail our moral concerns in this area.



Ballincollig Parish Council
CHURCH FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



presents

HOUSES & GARDENS IN IRELAND

Lecture by Mr. Richard Wood

Illustrated with slides

Rugby Club

Thursday March 21st at 8.00pm

Light Refreshments Raffles

Admission €7 - Tickets available in the Sacristy



Children world-wide, exploited, brutalised, enslaved.

Sadly, the lives of millions of children - especially those in poorer countries - are absolute hell. Children in poverty are often weak and vulnerable. Many governments, armies, corrupt war lords, ruthless businessmen and corporations see children not as a treasure to be nourished, but as a commodity to be cruelly exploited. This Lent, Trocaire is highlighting the obscenity of child exploitation and child labour. We need your help.

5 SHAMEFUL FACTS ON CHILD LABOUR

- 1** About 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 work. Of these, around 80 million are estimated to work in the worst forms of child labour.

- 2** More than 300,000 children are forced to fight with armies and militia in over 40 countries. In Sierra Leone there are more than 6,000 child soldiers.

- 3** UNICEF estimates that 200,000 children from Western and Central Africa are sold into slavery each year to work at harvesting cocoa and other cash crops.

- 4** Basic education is the key to eliminating the worst forms of child labour. In 2000, 325 million children were not attending school at primary and secondary levels.

- 5** Up to 2 million women and girls world-wide are victims of a growing trade in forced labour within the sex industry.

10. The issues raised and addressed by the proposed referendum are crucial and merit the serious attention of all voters. In recognising the proposed legislation as a significant anti-abortion measure rather than a comprehensive pro-life amendment, we see the proposed referendum as an opportunity to ensure that more secure protection is offered to the unborn. We believe that this is an opportunity that should not be lost, as a rejection of this measure would effectively leave the X-Case judgement as the authoritative legal interpretation of Article 40.3.3.

11. We share the concern of many groups and individuals that the new proposal strengthens legal protection for the unborn only after implantation in the womb. We understand the reluctance of many who are opposed to abortion to vote for a measure which does not seem to vindicate the right to life of the unborn from the moment of conception. However, it is our conviction that the new proposal represents a considerable improvement on the existing situation, and that it does not in itself deny or devalue the worth and dignity of the human embryo prior to implantation.

12. In dealing with what appears to be a limited or imperfect measure, we believe that, in the context of The Gospel of Life (#73), Catholic voters should feel free in conscience to support this measure, even if it is viewed as less than might have been desired.

13. We are of the view that a clear legal prohibition on procured abortion, as set out in this proposal, represents an important step towards ensuring adequate protection for the life of the unborn. However we are aware that legal measures alone will never suffice, and that ultimately we must always be guided by the moral law, which forbids deliberate abortion and demands that we do everything in our power to cherish and support life at every moment of its existence.

14. Abortion, in the moral sense, "is the deliberate and direct killing, by whatever means it is carried out, of a human being in the initial phase of his or her existence, extending from conception to birth" (The Gospel of Life #58). Any intentional destruction of human life once begun, whether by experimentation, so-called therapeutic cloning, chemical means, such as the morning-after pill, or by medical intervention is contrary to the moral law.

15. We wish to express our continuing commitment to supporting any woman faced with an unwanted pregnancy. In particular, we want to express our pastoral concern for those women who feel that abortion is the only option available to them. We warmly endorse the work of CURA which was set up to ensure that any woman unhappily pregnant has easy access to the help she needs.

16. At the same time we are reminded by Pope John Paul II that "often the woman is the victim of male selfishness, in the sense that the man, who has contributed to the conception of the new life, does not want to be burdened with it and leaves the responsibility to the woman" (Crossing the Threshold of Hope p.206).

17. In conclusion, we encourage all our people to vote in the forthcoming referendum, and we ask that these coming weeks be a time of special prayer for God's guidance.

COMMUNITY GAMES

The committee for Ballincollig Community Games wish to thank sincerely the local community for its extraordinary generosity during last weekends Church Gate Collection. They also wish to thank everyone who helped, particularly the basketball, gymnastics, table tennis and pitch & putt clubs, whose members manned the Church Gates. Such was the generosity of the people that this year's collection surpassed last year, which was an all time record.