

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



**St. Mary & St. John
Station Road**

Sunday 10-December-2006

Second Sunday of Advent

When God comes, he comes with power but also with compassion restoring all things. We can prepare the way of his coming with lives of holiness.



**Christ Our Light
Innishmore**

The Advent Wreath

Happy New Year! No, I am not jumping the gun; Advent is the start of the Church year. It is the season of waiting, watching, preparation, of being ready to welcome the Saviour. It is a 4 week period that is in danger of being engulfed by the Christmas spirit, which in the commercial world has long ago spilled over into Advent and well beyond. (My first sighting of Christmas merchandise in the shops was in early October).

The Advent wreath is an increasingly popular symbol of the beginning of the Church year in many churches as well as homes. It is a circular evergreen wreath with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the centre. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. Candles symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

There are usually three purple candles, corresponding to the sanctuary colours of Advent, and one pink or rose candle. One of the purple candles is lighted the first Sunday of Advent. On subsequent Sundays, previous candles are re-lighted with an additional one lighted. The pink candle is usually lighted on the third Sunday of Advent, symbolizing the joy of Christmas which is almost here. The light of the candles itself becomes an important symbol of the season. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others (Is 42:6). The progression in the lighting of the candles symbolizes the various aspects of our waiting experience. Finally, the light that has come into the world is plainly visible as the Christ candle is lighted at Christmas, and we rejoice over the fact that the promise of long ago has been realised.

Sean O'Driscoll

Christmas Appeal - St. Vincent de Paul

In Ireland of 2006, we are now the second wealthiest nation in the world, with very strong economic growth, low unemployment, and more disposable income. Over the last 15 years, inequality of incomes has greatly increased in our state, to the point where 300,000 people live in consistent poverty. One cannot but wonder how many of those who scoff at the poverty data would themselves be happy to be unable occasionally to afford a substantial meal; to have to wear second-hand clothes, to be unable to afford a warm, waterproof coat; or to live without adequate heating at some stage during the winter - to name but four of the eight poverty criteria. More than 40% of the unemployed and a similar proportion of the ill and disabled live in consistent poverty. And so, horrifyingly, do 100,000 children under 16.

Last year, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul spent almost €3.4 million per month on basic necessities such as food, fuel and electricity, clothing and education bills and so on. We depend on you to give generously this Christmas to help those who are less fortunate. We thank you for your help in the past year and we wish you a peaceful Christmas.

The annual church collection will take place at all Masses this weekend Sat 9th & Sun 10th December. Your usual support will be much appreciated.

Second Sunday of Advent

Lord, may we be open to Your healing grace as we take another step, preparing for You in our hearts.
"Let us see, O Lord, Your mercy, And give us Your saving Help"



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, we present our petitions with confidence.

Reader

We pray for a spirit of repentance for ourselves and for all Christians.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for a just distribution of the world's wealth and resources.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for the courage to live by the gospel and to be bearers of the Good News of Jesus in our homes and places of work.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for all in public service, for those who work as volunteers in the community and for all who risk their lives for others in emergency and rescue services.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

We remember the sick and all who suffer because of injury, frailty or neglect, that they may find healing and peace.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for our beloved dead named in our Mass today. May they enjoy the fullness of life promised to those who believe in Jesus.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

Priest

Loving God, hear the prayers of those who call to you in the name of Jesus your Son, who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen.

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Noah Jeremiah Dennehy-Bailey, The HalfWay, Ballinhassig.
 Zoe Elizabeth Conway, Faha, Dripsey.
 Alex Oran O'Connell, 90 The Green, Coolroe Meadows.
 Sophia Maria Noreika, 59 Willow Grove, Coolroe Heights.
 Dylan David O'Sullivan-O'Leary, Leesdale.
 Sarah Patricia Forde, Innishmore Grove.

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

John Joseph Buckley, Genezzane, Rochestown & Oonagh Anne O'Regan, 53 Maple Lawn, Muskerry Estate.
 Adrian Farry, 76 Upper Clovedon, Kilmoney Road & Margaret Mary (Marna) Quinn, 76 Upper Clovedon, Kilmoney Road.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :

Sean Cunningham, Wilton.
 Seamus O'Connell, Albert Road.
 Bella Newell, Wicklow
 Frank O'Donovan, Ballinlough / Powdermills

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS:

Martin De Nogra, Wyndham Downs.
 Bridget & Jeremiah Collins, Dunmanway.
 John O'Donnell, Inniscarra.
 Nuala Harte, Rosscarbery.
 Mary Lynch.
 Denis McCarthy, Ballinadee.
 John Cummins, Dublin.
 Frances Cunningham, Crookstown.
 Rose Reilly.
 Paddy & Norah Barry, Redemption Road.
 Jamsie & Peg Cotter, Ballingearry.
 Pat Barry, Mayfield.
 Deceased members of Organisation of National Ex Servicemen.
 Jimmy Sweeney, Church View & Ballydehob.
 Daniel Coomey, Carriganarra.
 Beatrice Shanahan, Fr Sexton Park.
 Dan Lucey, The Crescent.
 Timothy O'Connell and Deceased members of the O'Connell Family, Ballingully.
 James O'Donovan, Union Hall.
 Sean Coakley, Hill View, Muskerry Estate.
 Betty Hickey, Los Angeles.
 Matthew Murphy, Ovens.
 Kate O'Brien, Rosewood.
 Michael O'Leary, Inniscarra View.

St Dominic's Retreat Centre

Saturday 16th December - 10.00 am - 5.00 pm
 Rekindle the Wonder - Day Retreat
 Led by : Martina Lehane Sheehan
 €15 (Lunch or Soup/Rolls extra)

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can read
 Mark Twain

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Second Week Of Advent

- 10 Sunday Bar. 5:1-9. Ps 125. Phil. 1 :3-6,8-11. Lk. 3:1-6. Lect I: 30
- 11 Monday Is. 35:1-10. Ps. 84. Lk. 5:17-26. Lect I: 33
- 12 Tuesday Is. 40:1-11. Ps. 95. Mt. 18:12-14. Lect I: 35
- 13 Wednesday Is 40:25-31. Ps. 102. Mt. 11 :28-30. Lect I: 38
- 14 Thursday Is. 41:13-20. Ps. 144. Mt .11:11-15. Lect I: 40
- 15 Friday Is. 48:17-19. Ps. 1. Mt. 11:16-19. Lect I: 42
- 16 Saturday Eccles. (Sir) 48:1-4,9-11. Ps. 79. Mt. 17:10-13. Lect I: 44

Next Sunday's Readings 17-December-2006
 Zech. 3: 14-18. Ps. Is. 12. Phil. 4:4-7. Lk. 3: 10,18. Lect I: 51

***Ballincollig Parish
 Christmas Retreat.***

December 11th to 13th 2006.

*Three days of prayer and reflection,
 an opportunity to get in touch with the real
 meaning of Christmas*

St. Mary & St. John's Church

Morning Masses: 7 am & 9.30 am
 Evening Session: 7.30 pm
 (does not include mass)

Topics (at the evening sessions):

Monday Christ's Healing Presence
 Tuesday Christmas a Time of Hope
 Wednesday Forgiveness and Renewal.
 (The Sacrament of Reconciliation)

The Team will preach at all Masses in the Parish this weekend with a special blessing for babies and young children at the Children's liturgy at 11 am in Christ Our Light.

Ballincollig Country Market Ltd.

Every Friday
 10:00 to 11 30 am.
 In The Community Centre
All Local Produce
 Home Baking, Honey, Jam, Pickles,
 Eggs, Plants, Vegetables in season,
 and a variety of handcrafts.

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Bar. 5:1-9

In this reading, the city Jerusalem is addressed directly. Jerusalem, the principal city of Israel, is a symbol for God's people. God now makes known how he will save his people, how he will bring them back from exile, how they will be united in peace and joy.

Second Reading: Phil. 1:3-6. 8-11

Advent is a time of fulfilment. God has begun a good work in us; he will carry that work through to completion.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Luke was very thorough in placing the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry within a historical context. He set John's ministry in time by telling who the leaders were in the region. John's role was to prepare the way for Jesus and to proclaim a theme of repentance for those who would follow Jesus. Like a Roman corps of engineers filling in gullies and levelling mountains to make roads, John's job was to make the pathway smooth for those coming to Jesus.

Tax Rebates

Last week I wrote about the Tax rebate scheme available to charities that assures us there are several thousands of euros in the department of Finance waiting to be collected on annual basis? This scheme is not about asking people to increase their contributions to the offertory collection. This scheme is encouraging us as people of the parish to get our act together draw down this money in the department of Finance. Many parishes in dioceses throughout the country, including some in Cork, are already drawing down these funds. To draw down this money at the end of 2007, the parish will need to provide written evidence that individuals did contribute at least five euro a week or two hundred and fifty euro on an annual basis. I suggest that the more direct way to do this is to ask parishioners who are contributing or willing to contribute five euro a week to sign up to a direct debit (on a monthly basis) and contribute to the parish in this way.

Hopefully at least one hundred parishioners will contribute. Then on the first of January 2008 the parish will be able to claim at least €6,200.00 So now it is over to you the generous people of the parish, please let one of the priests know of your interest and we can then put the paper work in place Money coming to the parish from this scheme will be devoted to helping the young people of the parish to deepen their faith.
Fr George.

Carol Concert

Sunday 17th December 2006.

St. Mary & St. John Church

8.00 pm

Early Morning Prayer.

Morning Prayer of the Church is taking place during Advent In the Crying Room, Christ Our Light Church.

Mon - Fri at 6:25a m.

All are welcome.

Pyke Theatre Group

Christmas Social.

At The Rugby Club, Tanner Park

Tuesday December the 12th @ 8:45 pm sharp.

Music by Fergal Doody.

Fancy Dress optional.

Surprises and Spots

A Cead Mile Failte to Everyone

So why not come join us for a great evening.

Gaelscoil Ui Riada; Cuimhni 21 Bliain

A Photographic Celebration of 21 years

at a Social Night on Thursday, 14th December 2006

in The Club House, Bishopstown GAA

at 8.30 p.m. The book, to be launched by the Lord Mayor, Michael Ahern, will contain photographs of all past & present pupils together with articles & achievements etc.

Penitential Service

Christ Our Light, Monday 18th @ 6.30 pm

Theme: Reflecting on the real me inside

A multi media thought provoking service to focus on connecting with our true selves.

Ballincollig Secular Franciscan Order

The monthly Mass and meeting will be held

on Thursday 14th December at 11.00 am

in St. Mary & St. John Church

Rosary will be recited at 10.40 am (Sharp)

You do not have to be member to attend this Mass

Msza św.

Mass in Polish

w języku polskim

w

Ballincollig

16 Grudnia - 16 December

Sobota – 20:00 - Saturday 20:00

Zapraszamy

Powiadom znajomych

Diary for Mass Intentions

The diary to book mass intentions for January, February

March 2007 will be open in the Sacristy of St. Mary

John and the Sacristy of Christ Our Light on

Saturday 9th December at 9 am.

Church Collection Envelopes

Boxes are available in both churches this weekend. Each box contains an envelope for each Sunday, plus a separate envelope for the special church collection. I am asking families to please take one box and be good enough to use one envelope weekly to make your family contribution to the offertory collection. The offertory collection goes exclusively towards the maintenance, heating, lighting, insurance and other running costs associated with buildings and a parish. Thanking you for your support.

Fr. George

Bookshop – Christ Our Light

Now in stock Christmas cards, candles, cribs, rosary beads, crucifixes, CD's, tapes, children's bibles, books and a variety of religious objects. Why not give a religious gift this Christmas! Shop open weekends before and after all masses.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-16 & Dec-17-2006

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Sandra Walsh
8:30 am
Susan Fennell
10:00 am
Tony Hegarty
12:00 Noon
Tomas Miller
Niall Hartnett

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Murigen Ni Mhathuna
11:00 am
Chide Ebili
Karen Flavin
12:30 pm
Bernard Vallely
5:30 pm
Phil O'Connell

MASS TIMES

St. Mary & St. John		Christ Our Light
8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon	Sunday	11 am, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm
7 am & 9:30 am	Monday	8:30 am
7 am & 9:30 am	Tuesday	8:30 am
7 am & 9:30 am	Wednesday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Thursday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Friday	8:30 am
10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	8 pm (Vigil)

CONFESSIONS

After 10:00 am Mass & before 6:00 pm Mass **Saturday**

BAPTISMS

4:30 pm **Saturday** 4:30 pm
Except First Saturday of Month First Saturday of Month
12:45 pm **Sunday**

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty 087-2479140
Fr. George O'Mahony P.P. 021-4871206
Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C. 021-4877161
Fr. Sean O'Driscoll C.C. 021-4870434
Fr. Anthony O'Mahony



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dec-16 & Dec-17-2006

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6.00 pm	Patsie Murphy Breda Foley Mary Walsh Finbarr Lehane Margaret Kearney Nora Barry	8:00 pm	Jim Cahill Kit Cahill Sheila O'Connor
8:30 am	Theresa Lucey Rita Murphy Mona Holland	11:00 am	Brid Healy-Harris Angela Cunningham Laurence Cunningham Eileen Byrne
10:00 am	Tadgh Murphy Mary Murphy Joan Tobin Tony O'Leary Phil Kennedy Claire McCarthy	12:30 pm	Eileen Garvey Sally Power Breda Callanan Marie O'Brien
12 Noon	Michael Crowley Breda Lenihan Noel Hennessey Marie O'Callaghan Rena O'Connor Sean Farrell	5:30 pm	Neil O'Donoghue Phil O'Connell Maire McCullagh



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**Parish Office, The Presbytery, Ballincollig is open Monday - Thursday from 9 am - 3 pm.
Saturday 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206**

Ballincollig Credit Union Ltd.

Harrington Street
Tel: 021-4872305
Fax: 021-4872532



New Town Centre Office
Tel: 021-4208300
Fax: 021-4872532

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.30 – 5.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Friday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Saturday	9.30 – 12.30 pm

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Monday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Tuesday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.30 – 5.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 – 7.30 pm
Friday	9.30 – 7.30 pm
Saturday	9.30 – 5.00 pm