

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



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

Sunday 11-December-2005

Third Sunday Of Advent

John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare for Christ's coming. His task was to make them attentive to the Spirit who would be fully present in God's anointed.



**Christ Our Light
Innishmore**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Christmas Appeal

For over 160 years, the SVP in Ireland has tried to respond to the call "He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor" (Luke 4: 19). Here in Ballincollig, the SVP has been active in our own community for over 25 years. Our members have consistently sought to bring support to those in need, offering financial assistance where necessary, food, clothing, educational support, advise and support in budgeting and so forth.

If indeed it is our belief that the SVP is responding to the call of our Church, where does this place you, the benefactors of the Society? To us, a good analogy might be that of a candle, where we the Society might call ourselves the wax. Without the ongoing generosity of those who contribute month after month, year after year in large and small amounts, the flame of that candle would never burn. Those of us who are privileged to serve directly in the Society have always known that without the wonderful and abundant support given to us by individuals and businesses, we would be totally unable to help our fellow brothers and sisters on your behalf. The fact that the flame burns brightly year after year is a direct tribute to you our benefactors. That is why, at this time of the year, along with the priests of our Church, we welcome this opportunity to thank each and every person who has contributed and, who continues to contribute to our Society in small and large ways. Traditionally, we are the only non Church-run organisation which has a Church door rather than a Church gate collection; we are also one of the very few that through the generosity of our Bishops and in particular, our Parish Priest and his clergy, is allowed an indoor collection at Christmas time. It is a measure of your faith and trust in us that we can support so many families in our midst throughout the year and particularly at Christmas time. As always, we are deeply indebted to each and every one of you.

Once again, in anticipation of your generous response, we thank all those who contribute so abundantly to us and again assure you, that every single cent of your donation goes to assist those less well off in our wonderful community that is Ballincollig. Remember the words of the Lord in His final judgement I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me". (Matt.25:35-40). We pray the Lords blessing and particularly the blessing of the Holy Family on each one of you this Christmas time and throughout the coming year.

"Our help gives honour when the poor are treated with respect, not only as equals, but also as our masters, because they suffer in a way in which we shall perhaps never suffer, and because they are sent as ambassadors from God to test our justice and our charity"
(Blessed Fredric Ozanam, Founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul)

Third Sunday of Advent

We are a step nearer to our celebration of His coming. As we approach Him we must bring Him everything! Our dreams, our successes, our rejoicing. If we have little to rejoice over, bring Him that little. If you feel you have only empty hands -bring Him those empty hands. IN HIS HANDS ALL ARE MADE GOOD! "Let us rejoice in the Lord"



Reflection for Parents

So often our identity is tied to another person. We are Jim's mom, Tom's wife, Sue's husband, or Mary's daughter. Like John did in today's gospel, we may even define ourselves by who we are not. John made it clear he was not the Messiah, a prophet, or Elijah returned. What John is, is the same thing we are, and that is a herald - the person who brings the Good News about Jesus Christ into the lives of others. In our families we do this by our faithful participation in worship, prayer, and actions.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us pray to God for the needs of the world in our time.

Reader

We pray for the Church throughout the world, as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Saviour.

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

We pray for a spirit of joy. May Christians, by their example, bring joy to the world.

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

We remember all who are in sorrow at this time, those who are grieving because of broken relationships or the loss of loved ones, those who suffer from depression and all who find life's burdens very difficult to bear.

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

We pray for people who live in fear, and for all who lack the basic necessities of life, that they may be helped according to their needs.

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

We pray for the intentions of all here present.

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

We remember those who have died, signed with the sign of faith. May they enter into the joy prepared for them.

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

Priest

Hear our prayer, O loving God, and grant us what we need. We make these and all our prayers through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

My soul rejoices in my God.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

David Denis Michael O'Sullivan, Carriganarra.
Bradley Séan Keane, 23, Leesdale, Ballincollig.
Jack Paul Murphy, 86, The Green, Coolroe Meadows.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Christy Callanan, Muskerry Estate. Mourned by his wife Breda and family.

Con McSweeney, Greystones. Mourned by his sons and daughters

Tony Crowley, Innishannon. Mourned by his nephew Michael Nuala Harte, Rosscarbery. Mourned by her sister Geraldine Keohane, Knockburden.

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

Tom Daly.

Paul Wall.

Patrick & Catherine Casey, Oola, Co. Limerick.

Con O'Regan.

Mary Drinan, Waterfall.

Conor Healy, Nettelville.

Ellen & William Cogan, The Lough.

Dec. members of the Coughlan family, Dripsey.

Dec. members of the Daly family, Ballinagree.

Eugene O'Callaghan, Main Road.

Denis Nolan, Glasheen Road.

Dec. members of the Aherne Family, Fr. Sexton Park

Dan Lucey, The Crescent.

Denis Carroll, Coughduv.

Brendan Whelan, 29, Elm Lawn.

Susan O'Driscoll, Carrigdena.

Betty Hickey, Los Angeles.

Anthony McCarthy, Castle Park.

Mary Lucey, Carriganarra.

John & Mary O'Driscoll, Upton.

Denis & Mary Lucey, Ballingearry.

Nancy Hogan, The Crescent.

Thomas Farrell, Beach Park.

Jack & Clarie Horgan, Gurranabraher.

Margaret O'Connor, Carrigrohane.

Paddy Barry, Redemption Road.

Jamsie Cotter, Ballingearry.

Pat Barry, Mayfield.

Martin deNogla, Wyndham Downs.

The Lucey & O'Shea, Station Road.

Jeremiah & Mary Keohane, Rossmore.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week Of Advent

11 Sunday Is 61:1-2, 10-11. Ps Lk 1:46-50, 53-54. 1 Thess 5:16-24. Jn 1:6-8, 19-28. Lect 1: 48

12 Monday Num 24:2-7, 15-17. Ps 24. Mt 21:23-27. Lect 1: 53

13 Tuesday Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13. Ps 33. Mt 21:28-32. Lect 1: 56

14 Wednesday Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-26. Ps 84. Lk 7:19-23. Lect 1: 58

15 Thursday Is 54:1-10. Ps29. Lk 7:24-30. Lect 1: 61

16 Friday 16 Friday Is 56:1-3, 6-8. Ps 66. Jn 5:33-36. Lect 1: 63

17 Saturday Gen 49:2, 8-10. Ps 7. Mt 1:1-17 Lect 1: 76

Next Sunday's Readings 18-December-2005
2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88. Ram 16:25-27. Lk 1:26-38. Lect 1:

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service will take place on Sunday 18th December at 8.00 pm in the church of St. Mary & St. John. The Parish Choir, Cantoiri Muscraí, Scoil Mhuire Choir and Comhaltas Ceolteoirí as well as readings and reflections will take part in this celebration.

Preparation for Baptism

Preparation of Baptism began also on Saturday 3rd at 2.00 pm. A group of parishioners had been preparing for this for several weeks. Their effort to help parents prepare for their child's baptism was greatly appreciated. The next preparation session will be on the first Saturday 4th at 2.00 pm.

Fr. George O'Mahony, PP

Offertory Collection Envelopes

The boxes of envelopes for the offertory collections for 2006 are available in both churches from this weekend. There is one envelope for each Sunday in every box and it is an opportunity for every member of the family to contribute. The offertory collection is solely for the upkeep and maintenance of both churches, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses. Thank for your generosity and looking forward to your support for the coming year

Diary to book Masses

Is now open in both Churches Masses may be booked for January, February and March of 2006

CROWLEY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork
Tel: 021-4874777 Mobile: 087-2759254

Email: michaelfd@eircom.net

Complete Funeral Arrangements

24 Hour Service Embalming Service

Member I.A.F.D.

Golden Charter Funeral

Pre-Planning Available

Fr. Finbarr O'Halloran's

Talk on the Eucharist

Thanks to Anne O'Connell and Mary Coleman for organising the visit of Fr. Finbarr O'Halloran on Saturday 3rd December to give a talk on the Eucharist to the Ministers of the Eucharist in Ballincollig. There was a very good attendance and many of those present had positive comments on his presentation

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Is. 61:1-2. 10-11

The first reading from Isaiah the Prophet is the reading proclaimed by Jesus as he began his public ministry. It is a message of joy.

Second Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24

St Paul calls us to be people of joy and thanksgiving.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Jewish leaders questioned John the Baptist asking who he was. They even took a few guesses themselves suggesting that he was the Messiah, Elijah, or a prophet. John had his own following who would have been glad to acknowledge him in any of these three categories, but John made it clear that he was simply announcing the one to come who would be much greater than himself.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. John of the Cross 14-December-2005

Born in 1542 at Fontiveros, a wind-swept Spanish village in Old Castile, he joined the Carmelite Order in 1563, but was persuaded by St. Teresa of Avila, who discerned his spiritual gifts, to join her reform (the 'Discalced' or barefoot Carmelites) as a chaplain. Externally his life then consisted of hastening from one impoverished new foundation to another, punctuated by an interlude when he was 'captured' by the unreformed Carmelites in 1575 and imprisoned at Toledo (where allegedly he was placed under the table during meetings of the friars' Chapter in order to be kicked by all the members). After St. Teresa's death in 1582 he met with almost as much hostile treatment from the superior of the reform, and died in virtual exile in Úbeda (northern Andalusia) in 1591. His body was taken to Segovia, where it is enshrined; in "Don Quixote" there is an incident where the spindly knight and his fat squire Sancho Panza are frightened by witnessing a ghostly procession passing them in the night, and it is believed that this is a description of the translation of St. John's remains.

St. John is above all a mystic poet, seeking God in the nada, the 'nothing'. In his 'Spiritual Canticle', 'Ascent of Mount Carmel', and 'Dark Night of the Soul', he seeks to find God beyond the outer limits of human experience; it is a quest, which can seem morbid or frighteningly lonely until we realise that it is the ultimate search for the companionship of God. 'In order to arrive at having pleasure in everything, desire to have pleasure in nothing'. St. John, diminutive in stature and vast in spirit, he was canonised in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.

Winner in the Tidy Towns Competition

Congratulations to all associated with Christ Our Light Church on winning the overall award for public buildings in Ballinacollig. Many hands contributed to the cleanup of the grounds and the building itself. Well done to all involved.

Fr. George O'Mahony, PP

Annual Toy Mass

organised by

Secular Franciscan Order

Sunday 11th December 2005

at 11.00 am. in Christ Our Light Church

Do you have any new or nearly new toys you could do without? If so, we ask you to be generous this Christmas and bring them along to our Mass. Thank You.

Trocaire

Christmas time is time where we should think of others amidst the rush and the bustle. It is a time when we celebrate the birth of Our Lord in a stable and a chance for us to think of those who will not get to share in the Christmas cheer.

Global Gift is an alternative and ethical Christmas Gift idea where you can buy a range of practical, life-changing gifts to be delivered to the most vulnerable families in the developing world in the name of your friends and family.

This year there are eight inspiring and life-changing gifts available. Choose from animals, mosquito nets, midwives kits, clean water and houses. To order this special gift for Christmas phone Trocaire on **1850 408 408 (ROI)** or **0800 912 1200 (NI)** to order your gifts now. Or order it from their web site at www.trocaire.org

Youth 2000 National Christmas Retreat

Youth 2000 will be hosting its Christmas Retreat in St. Mel's College, Longford 16-18th December. An attendance of over 250 (aged 16-35) from all over Ireland is anticipated at this donation only event, with newcomers very welcome. Youth 2000 have arranged a bus to Longford departing from Cork city opera house at approx. 4.00 pm on 16th December and returning from Longford on the 18th of December. Residential – so please bring a sleeping bag!

For more information contact

Dave: 085-7167904/ Sean 086-1651219 or check out www.youth2000.ie

Wish as you pray and Pray as you wish

Offer a **Prayer of Peace** through the infant Jesus. At the back of each of the churches you will find a stack of note lets on which you can write your very own private message or prayer for Christmas. Write your message and fold it over and then place it in the transparent box on the Alter. There they will remain during the Christmas Season.

You may wish to make a very private prayer or pray perhaps for somebody who can't be with you this Christmas Season. Maybe say thanks for something or somebody!

It is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body.
Colossians 3:15

The Penitential Service for Christmas

Christ Our Light St. Mary & St. John

Monday 19th December
6.30 pm

Monday 19th December
8.00 pm

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-17 & Dec-18-2005

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Ailish O'Reilly
8:30 am
Triona Collins
10:00 am
Sinead O'Connor
12:00 Noon
Tomas Miller

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Michael Greene
11:00 am
Joseph Manning
12:30 pm
Orlaith McVeigh
5:30 pm
Christine O'Brien

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 |
| 9:30 am | Monday | 8:30 am |
| 9:30 am | Tuesday | 8:30 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 | 9:00 am & 8 pm (Vigil) |

CONFESSIONS

After 10:00 am Mass & before 6:00 pm Mass **Saturday** After 9:00 am Mass

BAPTISMS

5:00 pm **Saturday** 7:15 pm
12:45 pm **Sunday**

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dec-17 & Dec-18-2005



St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Patsie Murphy
 Breda Foley
 Mary Walsh
 Geraldine Hegarty
 Finbarr Lehane

8:00 pm Jim Cahill, Kit Cahill
 Sheila O'Connor
 John Canty

8:30 am Theresa Lucey
 Rita Murphy

11:00 am Brid Healy-Harris
 Angela Cunningham
 Laurence Cunningham
 Eileen Byrne

10:00 am Tadgh Murphy
 Mary Murphy
 Joan Tobin
 Tony O'Leary
 Betty Sheehan

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
 Angela Roche

5:30 pm Neil O'Donoghue
 Phil O'Connell
 Maire McCullagh

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty 087-2479140

Fr. George O'Mahony P.P. 021-4871206
Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C. 021-4877161
Fr. Paul O'Donoghue 021-4876055
Fr. John O'Donovan C.C. 021-4870434



Ballincollig Hardware

Key Cutting Service

While You Wait!

Also Shoe & Leather Repairs

Unit 1 Shopping Centre,
Next to Quish's Supervalu,
West Village.

Tel.: (021) 4872401



**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 St. Ballincollig, Co. Cork.

Tel: 021-4872305.

Fax: 021-4872532.

Notice To Members

Our new Sub Office in the Town Centre

Is now open

The hours of business in our offices will be

Harrington Street

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

New Town Centre Office

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

