

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 11-March-2007

Third Sunday Of Lent

Today's gospel is a reminder of the need for conversion, for a change of direction in our lives. We cannot presume forever on the mercy of God.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

“I didn't show love when.....”

The First Confession (also known as Penance/Reconciliation) season is in full swing with First Communions not far off. Do you remember the first time you faced the trial of First Confession? I recall with terror going into the dark box (akin to Frank O'Connor's celebrated short story), rattling the rote formula I had learned off, and emerged with a feeling of relief. Not relief because I had my sins forgiven, but relief that the ordeal was over.

I have been reflecting on the contemporary position of Confession/Reconciliation/Penance in the past week, as I was actively engaged in the preparation of the 2nd class children from Social Barra (Fab school, excellent teachers) for their first penance. I rather enjoyed discussing with the children what kind of penances would be appropriate for certain sins i.e. if the sin was taking something from your sibling, a penance based on the principals of restorative justice, might mean sharing some chocolate with the victim. The children were enthusiastic in suggesting other appropriate penances as suitable amends for their limited list of sinful activities.

With all this fuss and preparation for the First Confession, I wondered how many of them will ever make a second confession? Oh, am I getting onto thorny ground here by daring to ask this question? If you are ready to enter an honest debate on the whole confession issue and where we stand as adults please continue. If the reality is too unpalatable stop now!

There are individual rites of reconciliation/penance/confession as well as communal rites. The individual form is available each week in the parish, with numbers in no more than single digits accessing it. The communal Reconciliation services held during Lent and Advent attract a fair crowd, (but still no more than a few hundred people). However the numbers attending mass are much, much greater than the overall total annual numbers accessing the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is surely a message here for us. For many adults confession has lost relevance. They don't go, and probably don't feel any guilt at not going either. I am sure they are many reasons, not least of which, that the experience was never an uplifting or positive one for them in the past.

Others will claim that they can tell God directly they are sorry for their wrongdoings, so why do they need a third party involved? Or the more theologically adept will be aware that the Penitential Rite at the beginning of every mass, is in itself a general absolution, in everything but name. Some people will have experienced a formal General Absolution and wonder why it is not widely practiced. The reason for this anomaly is that the Irish Bishops haven't given permission for General absolution to be used, well, generally! So you may well ask what kind of clericalist power trip are they on? Does withholding the option of General Absolution do anything for the spiritual wellbeing of the community? The people have spoken with their feet when it comes to individual confession, so the option of general absolution would certainly encourage more people to access this sacrament.

So now can I raise that thorny question again and maybe attempt to answer it: How many of the children will ever make a second confession? Well if their parents are not attracted to individual confession and general absolution is denied them, is it no wonder that the sacrament as it stands today is an endangered species? If the Bishops think that there will be resurgence in individual confession they are flogging a dead horse. An honest examination of our collective consciences on the issue, would be a good starting point.

Sean O'Driscoll

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

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

Reader

We pray for Pope Benedict, for all bishops and church leaders, that they may be inspired and encouraged as they continue to serve the People of God.

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

We pray for those in public life and for those who make our laws, that they may wisely serve the common good of all.

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

We pray for children and young people, that they may grow in wisdom and grace.

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

We pray that the hungry and homeless peoples of our world may be assisted by our sacrifices during this Lent.

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

We pray for the sick and those who care for them, for those who manage and deliver our health services, for those who are recovering from injury or accident, and for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.

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

We pray for our beloved dead, especially those in our thoughts today, that they may have eternal life and happiness.

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

Priest

O God, we are yours and you care for our every need. Send us the help we need, we pray, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Lord Is Compassion And Love.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Abbie Laura Keane, 5, The Meadows, Classis Lake.
 Luke Eugene Madigan, 34, Bridgewater.
 Ben Gerard McGill, 7, Innishmore Lawn.
 Lorcan Con O'Leary, Kilnaglory.
 Karolina Dahi, 56, Old Court Greenfields.

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Harri Dahi, Finland & Ewa Brzezniakiewicz, Poland.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Nora O'Mahony, Buttevant.
 Nellie O'Leary, Glenville.
 Stephen Hickey, Ballydehob.
 Eileen Murphy, 5, Rosewood Estate.
 Eileen O'Sullivan, Willowfield.

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

Jim Spencer, West Village.
 Pat & Kitty Sheehan, Coachford.
 Mary Lucey, Coolroe.
 Timothy & Helena O'Shea, Donoughmore.
 William, Margaret & Kathleen McNamara.
 Ann Kavanagh, Ivy Circle.
 Joe Butler, Inniscarra View.
 Tadhg & Ellen O'Donovan, Kilmurray.
 James Hourigan, Co Limerick.
 Deceased members McCarthy Family, Little Island.
 Paddy Fitzpatrick, Temple Hill.
 John O'Sullivan, Dingle.
 Bridget Punch, Glincool Park.
 Patrica Cooke, England.
 Sean & Elizabeth Crowley, Poulavone.
 Margaret O'Sullivan, Dingle.
 Fr. Eltin Griffin.
 Ellen, Dan & Hanah Dempsey.
 Eugene & Margaret Teahan, Killarney
 Michael O'Mahony, Castle Park.
 Eoin O'Dwyer, Ballyshoneen.
 Nora Vaughan, Kilnamartyra.
 Helen Keneally, Beech Park.
 Nora & Patrick Harrington.
 Daniel & Hannah O'Connor, Ballinagree.
 Dan & Hannah Dempsey, Leemount, Carrigrohane.
 Sabrina Pakuum, North Main Street.
 Louis Foulds, Capwell Road.
 Eileen & Thomas Egan, Evergreen Road.
 Ann O'Keeffe, Parklands.
 Edward O'Riordan, Carriganarra.
 Ritchie Cronin, Kilnamartyra.
 Daniel O'Sullivan, Donoughmore.
 Mabel Neenan, Millstreet.
 William & Helena Sheehan, High Street.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week Of Lent

11 Sunday Ex. 3:1-8, 13-15. Ps. 102.1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12. Lk. 13:1-9.
 lect I: 255

12 Monday 2 Kg. 5:1-15. Ps. 41. Lk. 4:24-30. Lect I: 262

13 Tuesday Dan. 3:25,34-43. Ps. 24. Mt. 18:21-35. Lect I: 264

14 Wednesday Deut 4:1,5-9. Ps 147. Mt 5:17-19. Lect I: 267

15 Thursday Jer. 7:23-28. Ps. 94. Lk. 11:14-23. Lect I: 268

16 Friday Hos 14:2-10. Ps 80. Mk 12:28-34. Lect I: 271

17 Saturday Jer 1:4-9. Ps 116. Acts 13:46-49. Lk 10:1-12, 17-20. Lect I:1015 or II: 1326

Next Sunday's Readings 18-March-2007

Josh. 5:9-12. Ps. 33.2 Cor. 5:17-21. Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32. Lect I: 284

**Ballincollig Parish
 Lent Retreat**

March 12th to 14th 2007

Three Days of prayer and reflection.
 Christ Our Light Church

Morning Masses: 7:00 am & 9:15 am

Evening Session: 7:30 pm
 (does not include Mass)

Topics (at the evening sessions):

Monday Celebrating our Journey together with Christ
 Tuesday Nourishment for our Journey
 Wednesday Light for our Journey
 (give up your ould sins)

Conducted by Fr's John P O'Riordan and Derek Meskell,
 And members of the Scala Team.

The Team will preach at all Masses in the Parish this weekend

All Are Welcome

During the evening session of the retreat on Monday 12th March, organisations and associations who contribute by their interest and work so much to the life of the community are invited to come along to this liturgy. The title of the evening is "Celebrating our journey together with Christ" and part of the evening is recognising and celebrating the contribution of everybody contributing to the quality of life in the Ballincollig community. Please bring some item that you think symbolises your work in the community. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Fr George

**CROWLEY
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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
 To Moses, God spoke in a burning bush. He gave Moses a message to preach. Moses was to tell his people that freedom was at hand, freedom and happiness.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
 Paul compares the Exodus story to Christian baptism. He reminds us again that God was not always pleased with His people. We are warned not to become complacent

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9
 God calls us to conversion, to turn to him, to reform. Moses once formed a people, but in the desert most of them sinned. Today, if we repent, God will again bring us out of captivity.

49th Cork Ballincollig Scout Group

The Scout troop at present is preparing the new Scouts to be invested. This is where they learn what the nitty gritty bits of scouting are and what makes it different from other Youth organisations. Scouting asks its members to make a Promise. In return, Scouting makes its members a Promise. It promises to help them achieve better personal values, better relationships with each other and the world around us and better skills in working together and in the out of doors. There are 25-40 million Scouts in more than 200 Countries. All of them are working together to achieve better values, better relationships and a better world. That's the Promise of scouting.

Fear of "getting wet" is a town-bred phobia. Your true countryman, hiker or scout takes it as it comes. That's why you never see a raised umbrella outside suburbia.

Bulletin Board

Mass Book

Diaries to book Mass intentions for April, May & June 2007 are open in both churches.

Mass Envelope Collection

Irish Bishops' Commissions
 This Weekend 10th & 11th March

Tax Rebate

Thanks to all of you for your generosity to the offertory collection each Sunday. To date have signed on for the Tax Rebate scheme. Some parishioners have decided to pay by cheque on an annual or monthly basis; that is very acceptable also. Target is to reach one hundred by the end of March 2007

TRÓCAIRE

The Third Sunday of Lent

This year our Lenten time focuses on Gender Equality and on women in some of the poorest countries of the world. In the world we live in today, as much as 46% of girls in the world's poorest countries have no access to primary school. It is estimated that 70% of those living in poverty are women. Many women throughout the world continue to live in situations of slavery and oppression.

In today's first reading, God asks Moses to set his people free from slavery. In our world today we continue to see many forms of slavery that oppress people and take from them a dignity that all should have.

How can we, in Ireland, respond to God's call this Lent, to free his people and give children a future of hope?

In today's world many of us are focused on material things and we forget about the things that God wants us to do. A simple way to remember Jesus' message is to help Trócaire during Lent so that they can use the money to help people in the world who live with slavery, oppression and poverty

Reflection for Parents

Some children worry whether or not their parents will live as long as the child needs them--basically forever! But often, parents worry more that they will someday be a burden to their children. Once in a while, parents know they only have a short period of time left with their children and they quickly take stock of what is truly important and act accordingly. Even without this notice, it would be good to evaluate each day with our children. How many nights do we fall into bed praying that this is not the last day our children remember with us!

Cork's Lifelong Learning Festival

Monday March 26 – Sunday April 1, 2007

'Over 200 events promoting learning of all kinds across all ages, interests and abilities in a city-wide celebration - Nothing like the Lifelong Learning Festival takes place anywhere in Ireland. The idea that learning is for everyone and can be fun is illustrated through events taking place right across the city in a variety of venues including shopping centres, libraries, community centres, schools and museums, and all events in the festival are free. The Cork Lifelong Learning Festival is organised by the Cork City Learning Forum, a group set up under the Cork City Development Board to promote the culture of learning across the city. The full brochure will be available from mid-March from libraries and community groups or online from www.corkcity.ie/learningfestival

**The Pyke Theatre Group
 Ballincollig**

Monthly Social
 Tuesday 13th March
 8.30 sharp in

The Rugby Club, Tanner Park.

Music by
 Ger Donoghue
 The Man From Valentia
 A Great Night Assured.

Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches and Cakes served during the interval.
 Admission €5

Table Quiz

In Aid of Ballincollig
 Youth Initiative
 Wednesday March 21st

Starting at 8.30 pm
 Venue: Ballincollig
 GAA Pavilion
 Tables of 4 People
 Cost: €20 per Table
 Raffle also on the Night
 Supporting a Very Good
 Cause
 Contact: 086 0570695

ISANDS

'Support Group for bereaved Parents & Families whose baby has died'

Service of Remembrance

To remember all babies who have died
 St. Joseph's SMA
 Wilton, Cork
 Sunday 25th March 2007 @ 3 pm
Everyone Welcome

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Mar-17 & Mar-18-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Michael Fitton
Paul Kearns
8:30 am
Niamh Gallagher
10:00 am
Louise McCarthy
Robert Noonan
12:00 Noon
Oliver O'Donovan

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Rosarie Cotter
Louise McGrath
11:00 am
Cormac Manning
Marie Ni Niada
12:30 pm
Kay Carew
5:30 pm
Brian O'Donoghue



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Mar-17 & Mar-18-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Eileen Murphy
Ted Nelligan
Angela Murphy
Ann O'Connell
Sheila Walshe
Betty Sheehan

8:30 am Helen Kelly
Annette Murphy
Mary O'Connor

10:00 am Miriam Maunsell
Mary Buckley
Breda Ring
Mary O'Regan
John Henchy
Martin O'Leary

12 Noon John Walshe
Pat Kelleher
Irene O'Brien
Ellen O'Sullivan
Chris Cotter
Sally Crowley

8:00 pm John O'Donoghue
Mary Dineen
Kathleen Daly
Mairead Keenan

11:00 am Mary O'Mahony
Mona Bowen
Billy Barry
Mary Aylward
Pauline Baston

12:30 pm Mary Twomey
Maura O'Driscoll
Mary Lehane
Dympna Byrne

5:30 pm Garreth Irish
Sheila O'Connor
Eliza
Elizabeth O'Sullivan

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 & 8 pm	Monday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Tuesday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Wednesday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Thursday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm (Vigil)	Friday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm (Vigil)
8:30 am, 10 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	12:30 pm & 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



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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