

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

150 Years



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 13-December-2015

Third Sunday of Advent

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



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Gaudete Sunday

During the past week and for some years now life is a constant and painful struggle for many families and individuals. We live at a time when many are burdened by massive debts and negative equity; others are living with the insecurity of unemployment and reduced wages. For many there is little or no relief from this long struggle. Christmas is even more difficult for families trying to make ends meet. John the Baptist in his time brought new hope to people. He cried out "prepare a way for the Lord, "make a straight path" "let every valley be filled in and mountain laid low". The St Vincent de Paul society depends on our generosity to help families, parents and children, to overcome the obstacles that many face on a daily basis. The generosity of many will go a long way to help. Please be as generous as you can to the collection next weekend. The collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend December 12th & 13th at the Our Father part of the Mass. Thanking you in anticipation.

George O'Mahony

Reflection for Parents

There is more work for parents to do in a day than will ever get done. Some of us work outside our homes while some stay at home. In either case there are always bills to pay, laundry to wash, meals to prepare, errands to run and things to fix. Unless we deliberately set aside time to prepare ourselves and our families for Jesus' return, we will continue with the busyness of everyday life like the people of Noah's time and the workers in the field and at the mill. Especially at this time of year, it is easy to get caught up in the demands centred on Jesus' birth rather than his return.

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



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Paul said to the Philippians, 'If there is anything you need, pray for it.' In obedience to these words, let us bring our needs to the Lord in prayer.

Reader

For all Christians: that they may put the Lord at the centre of their lives, and seek to imitate him in their concern for others.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For political leaders: that they may strive to rid the world of hatred and fear.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are suffering the effects of war, famine and persecution in particular the people of Aleppo.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For members of the army and police force: that they may never abuse their power, but be true keepers of peace.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all those who are suffering from depression, or who are grieving the loss of a loved one: that the Lord may turn their sorrow into joy.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all gathered here: that we may realise that the Lord is always close to us, in good times and in bad.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest

Lord, may the coming of your only Son, dispel the darkness of our hearts and help us to walk in the light of truth and goodness. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie or Facebook www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Pedar Cremin, Adare /Tralee.
 Rose Agnes Slowey, Adare/Donegal.
 Denis Field, Cobh.
 Nora Herlihy, Clonrohid.
 Josephine O’Kelly Lynch, Westgate.
 Eugene O’Sullivan, Castleknock.

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

Tommy Daly, Leemount.
 Aoibhin Power, Coolroe Meadows.
 Michael & Julia Healy, Cathedral Road.
 Robert, Sheila & Adriene Curling, Albert Road.
 John & Susan O’Driscoll, Carrigdena.
 Betty Hickey, Los Angeles.
 Eric Scott, Coolroe,
 Pat Holly, Maple Lawn & Milstreet.
 Seamus O’Donovan, Maple Lawn.
 Paddy Barry, Redemption Road.
 Pat Barry, Mayfield.
 Jim Cotter, Ballingearry.
 Jeremiah O’Neill, Castletownbere.
 Dec members of O’Sullivan & Dunne families.
 Dan Twomey, Clash Road.
 Daniel & Margaret Murphy, Knockburden.
 Dan Murphy, Bray.
 Dan & Anne Kenny, McCurtin Villas.
 Con Kerins, Castleknock.
 John & Shelia Linehan, Turner’s Cross.
 Sean Coakley, “Hillview” Muskerry Estate.
 Mary & Jack Manley, Limerick.
 Kitty, Denis & William O’Mahony, Tudor Grove.
 Eileen & John Murphy, South Douglas Road.
 Gillian Drinan, Church View.
 Mary Lucey, Carriganarra.
 Dr. Sean Crotty, Coolroe.
 Joan O’Reardon, Carriganarra.
 John Kelleher, Rosewood.
 Annie Curran, Kilbrittan.
 Beatrice Shanahan, Fr. Sexton Park.
 Nellie Murphy, Station Road.

Children’s Mass

The next Children’s Mass for children in second class preparing for their first Holy Communion will take place on Sunday December 20th, at 11.00am in Church of Christ Our Light. The Parents of children who are seven and eight are asked to bring them to this Mass. Preparation with the children commences in the main body of the church at 10.45am. The Children retire to the crying room where they celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in a child friendly fashion. They will return to the main church at the start of the offertory procession.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week Of Advent

13 Sunday Zech. 3: 14-18. Ps. Is. 12. Phil. 4:4-7. Lk. 3: 10.18. Lect I: 51
 14 Monday Num. 24:2-7, 15-17. Ps. 24. Mt. 21:23-27. Lect I: 53
 15 Tuesday Zeph. 3:1-2,9-13. Ps. 33. Mt. 21:28-32 Lect I: 56
 16 Wednesday Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-26. Ps 84. Lk 7:19-23. Lect I: 58
 17 Thursday Gen. 49:2,8-10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1 :17. Lect I: 76
 18 Friday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I: 79
 19 Saturday Jdg. 13:2-7, 24-25a. Ps. 70. Lk. 1 :5-25. Lect I: 81

Next Sunday’s Readings 20-December-2015

Mic. 5: 1-4. Ps 79. Heb. 10:5-10. Lk. 1 :39-45. Lect I: 73

BAPTISMS

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

Bethany Grace O’Donnell, Lisheen Fields.
 Jasper Anthony Defina, Leslies Arch, Old Quarter.
 Conor Noel Cronin, Citi West Mews.
 Gracie Mae O’Leary, Orchard Lane, Aherla.

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Zeph 3:14-18
 The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.

Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7
 God asks us all to be happy through prayer.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18
 The crowds approached John the Baptist and asked how they should live in order to be ready to follow the Messiah. John responded by telling them to share and to not take more than they are entitled to. The people wondered if John might be the Messiah for whom they had been waiting, but he cleared up any misunderstanding by saying that he was not. For sure, the Messiah would come after John, but John was not worthy even to be the Messiah's slave who would untie his sandal.

CROWLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork
 Tel: 021-4874777 Mobile: 087-2759254
 Email: michaelfd@eircom.net
www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie
 Complete Funeral Arrangements
 24 Hour Service Embalming Service
 Member I.A.F.D.
 Golden Charter Funeral
 Pre-Planning Available

A Christmas Sale

Will take place in Greenville, Carrigtwohill on Thursday December 17th from 10am-5pm. Greenville is a Cork Association for Autism (CAA) Service Centre, where 13 individuals avail of residential care and 10 attend day service. The CAA provides support services to 250 adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder with centres also located in Midleton, Mogeely and Raffeen. Their Asperger Syndrome Support Service runs from Penrose Wharf in Cork City.

The CAA's horticulture team organise this Christmas Sale every year and welcome members of the public to attend. There will be pottery pieces for sale which have been made by the CAA's clients along with plants which have been grown in Greenville. Christmas decorations and gifts will be on offer along with teas/coffees and treats. For directions to Greenville and for more information log onto www.corkautism.ie or telephone 021 453 3642.

Fund Raising in Aid of Aleppo

Fund raising has commenced in earnest to help our twin Parish of Aleppo in Syria. The generosity of the people of Ballincollig is wonderful and always a joy to experience. Many people have approached either myself or Fr. George with donations and so many people baked for the cake sale that we had at the 11 o'clock Mass last Sunday.

Between donations and the cake sale we will be in a position to send over €1,800.00 to Fr Ibrahim before Christmas.

I want to thank all of you so much, the needs of these people are great, and continue to grow. As important as the money is for the Parish in Aleppo, the photographs of our parish that are sent over to them are a great expression of solidarity with them. For example, last week I took some photos of the children's choir and Fr George with the message "though I am not with you in the flesh I am with you in spirit" I also took some pictures of the preparations being made for the cake sale and I sent these over to Fr. Ibrahim. The reply I got was as follows:-

"Dearest Ginny,

The foto (sic) are so beautiful.

I know how much it is difficult to organize such things like the cake sale. I appreciate what you are doing; the children of Aleppo will be so grateful to you. Greetings to all the children who participated in the "fond raising".

May God bless you all.

Fr. Ibrahim"

The reality is that arranging the cake sale really wasn't all that difficult but the reason for that is the kindness of this community and the willingness to help. We have been given a great opportunity to make positive contribution to the lives of people who are suffering greatly and to be united with them in spirit. Thank you so much for making this a reality. *Virginia*

Advent Retreat

Sincere thanks to all who took part in the retreat this week. Thanks to parish council members and others who planned and organised the retreat. Special thanks to Fr Derek for his inspiring words and scripture selections.

Bulletin Board

Carol Service

Sunday 20th December at 7pm
Church of St Mary & St. John

Penitential Service

Monday 21st December, 2015
Church of Christ Our Light at 8pm.

Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards using the scene from one of the glass stained windows in the church of St. Mary & St. John are available for sale after all masses. Proceeds for Aleppo.

Mass Diaries

Mass Diaries to book Mass intentions for January, February, & March 2016 now open in both churches
Priority will be given to 1st Anniversary Mass.

Offertory Collection Boxes

The boxes of envelopes for the Offertory Collection are available in both churches. Families are asked to take one box. Please use the envelopes for the Offertory Collection for the Vigil and Sunday Masses during the year. The Offertory Collection is solely for the upkeep, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches.

Parishioners, who avail of the Direct Debit system and who gave their name and offertory box number for Tax Rebate to the Church will have their boxes delivered to them.

Thanks for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year.

Coeliac Host

Coeliac Host available at all Masses in both churches. Generally the Priest celebrating the Mass has the Coeliac Host. To help the Celebrant you might please let him know before the Mass.

Tax Rebate

Is a system put in place to help registered charities increase their income. The tax rebate encourages registered charities to claim back tax paid by our donors. This parish being a registered charity is entitled to claim back money from the revenue. To do this we need help. Parishioners are asked to register their name, address and the no of their offertory envelope with the parish office as soon as possible. During the past few years 131 parishioners help the parish in this way.

This system was standardised in 2013 by Revenue. This means that for every tax payer recorded by the parish contributing at least five euro weekly a rebate of 112 euro can be received by the parish annually. Hopefully many others will sign up by adding their name and box no. in the parish office or with sacristans. Literally this is the goose that lays the golden egg please help us to gather up these nuggets of gold.

Fr. George

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-19 & Dec-20-2015

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Sandra Walsh / Brayden Peck
Emma O'Connor
8:30 am
Tom McDonagh
Riain Brennan
10:00 am
Shannon O'Brien
Erin Holmes
12:00 Noon
Roisin Crewe
Emer Wiseman

7:30 pm (Vigil)
Fiona Feely

11:00 am
Kristian Calvert
Amy Ni Chearbhaill
12:30 pm
Kay Carew
Jane O'Leary
5:30 pm
Tom Reck

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	7:30 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. Cian O'Sullivan C.C.	021-4876171

Funeral Pastoral Team Rota

Week 14th Dec to 20th Dec

Michael O'Leary
Kay O'Sullivan

Social / Coffee Mornings

Continue every Friday morning in parish house "Sonas" on Station Road at 10 am.
Everyone welcome as it is an ideal opportunity to get and know people from our community.

Age Action Volunteers to put up Christmas Decorations for Older People

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, but what if you are unable to put up Christmas decorations to give your home that festive feel? "Many older people, particularly those who live alone, cannot easily put up a Christmas tree or other decorations in their homes. Simply getting them down from the attic can be an impossible task" said Age Action Regional Manager John O'Mahony.

"Many older people who have decorated their home every Christmas now find themselves unable to do so. Often people will have relatives calling during the festive season and they would like their home to be decorated for the family visit. Our volunteers will put up Christmas decorations for older people and take them down again in January"

All year round volunteers from Age Action's Care & Repair programme do DIY jobs for older people free of charge. Jobs that volunteers can do include gardening, moving furniture, putting up smoke alarms, small repairs and small painting/decorating jobs.

Mr. O'Mahony continued "The aim of the Care & Repair programme is to help people with tasks around the home that can become difficult as we grow older. Ultimately we want to support people to remain living in their own homes for as long as they wish in increased safety and comfort."

If you would like assistance putting your Christmas decorations or with any other tasks around the home, simply call Age Action on 021-4536554.



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dec-19 & Dec-20-2015

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Steve Wills
Margaret O'Sullivan
Danny Farrell
Jim Walsh
Frances O'Brien
Eileen Coughlan

7:30 pm Anne O'Regan
Mairead Murphy
Finbarr Murray
Lettie Kelly
Mary Murphy

11:00 am Seamus & Mary O'Connell
Ciaran Kelleher
Alan O'Riordan
Geraldine Keohane
Gerard Murray

8:30 am Mary Buckley
Tom Butler
Denis Healy

12:30 pm Lucy O'Callaghan
Jackie Sheehan
Michael O'Leary
J.P.O'Leary

10:00 am Mary Collins
Christy Roche
Katie O'Shea
Joe Coughlan
Elaine Crowley
Ann Buckley

12 Noon Oliver O'Donovan
Sean Hennessy
Mary McLean
Eleanor Seymour
Nora Hennessy

5:30 pm Noelle Buckley
Mary Breen
Valerie Barry