

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



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

**Sunday 14-December-2008**

**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**

## Joyful Sunday

There is a story told about a man who came home to find his little daughter crying bitterly. He asked her what the matter was. She said that she had been playing hide and seek with her friends. But when it was her turn to hide, she had hid so well that they had given up looking for her and had gone off to play another game. She waited and waited for them to find her but they failed to do so. When she finally came out of her hiding place she found herself all alone.

It is fair to say that God is often hidden in the complexities and joys of life. Some are unable to find God and eventually give up looking and go off in other directions.

Perhaps as we edge closer to Christmas we too can find God again. Jesus was born into a stable, in the most unlikely spot in the whole wide world. If it happened today Mary would have a splash of luxury laid on in Cork University Maternity hospital. Despite the downturn no expense would be spared. But God chose simplicity and the least expected spot for something very special to happen. God is to be found hidden in the down to earth moments of our every day lives. We often build our expectations of God really high. Our expectation of Christmas can be equally high. But the challenge is to find God at the heart of our everyday lives. This is easy when life is going well but when we're struggling and going through difficult moments it can be so difficult.

This third Sunday of Advent is called 'Joyful Sunday' and is marked with a pink candle on our Advent wreath. We are encouraged to thank God for all our blessings and joys today. With so much negative news hitting us each day this is another great challenge. There's nothing quite so puzzling as someone else's joys when we are feeling down or someone else's sadness when we are feeling on top of the world. Our scripture readings make no apology. We are encouraged to believe in the gentle presence of God to be found in our every day lives. This gentle presence is someone who cares for us, loves us deeply and gives us a deep sense of joy in the midst of our own stops and starts..

**James McSweeney**

## Society of St Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Collection

This weekend at all Masses  
Please give generously

## 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"



## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### Priest

Let us present our prayers with confidence to the Lord of mercy.

### Reader

We pray for the Church; that it will continue to provide witnesses to speak for the light in the world.

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

We pray for our parish community; that it may be a place where the Spirit of God is alive and active.

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

We pray for those in the world that are hungry; that they may be filled with good things.

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

We pray for those who are suffering from depression and other mental illnesses; that the Lord may remove their sadness and fill them with joy and hope.

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

We pray for those in prison; that they may experience the love of Christ in those who visit them.

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

We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith; that they may be received into the glory of the Lord.

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

### Priest

Heavenly Father, look with kindness upon us in our unworthiness. Hear the prayers we present to you this day in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.  
Amen.

Today is known as *Gaudete* (rejoice) Sunday. We rejoice in the anticipation of the impending birth of our Saviour.

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

**Visit Our Website: [www.ballincolligparish.ie](http://www.ballincolligparish.ie)**

**BAPTISMS**

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

Kian Michael Faulkner, Oaklands.  
 Karima Jamulia Ahamadi, An Caislean.  
 Tomasz Jan Cymerkiewicz An Caislean.  
 Luke Miah, Brett, Greenfield.  
 Mathew Anthony Moloney, Cranford Pines.  
 Joshua Joseph Bourke, Limeworth.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Frances Rafter, Mallow & Wicklow.  
 Mrs Roche, Kerry.

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

Muriel & Denis Bowen, Glasheen Road.  
 Aoibhin Power, Coolroe Meadows.  
 Billy Greene, Station Road.  
 Con O'Regan, Maglin.  
 Brother John Murphy, Coachford.  
 Maureen Cuddihy, Coolroe.  
 John & Josephine Cuddihy, Silvermines, Tipperary.  
 John & Mary O'Leary, Ovens.  
 Deceased members Cummins & O'Regan families.  
 George Harrington, Bonnane, Kenmare.  
 Pat, John, Nora & Ellen Sisk.  
 Mary, Joe, & Joe (Jnr) O'Driscoll.  
 Sheila Forde.  
 Bridget McNamara.  
 Joe Casey, Fiary Gardens.  
 Deceased Members of the Finnegan & Murphy Families.  
 Julia Hegarty, Rosewood.  
 Betty Hickey, Los Angeles.  
 Michael & Jennie Keohane, Mallow.  
 Marjorie O'Mahony, Bandon.  
 Mary Lucey, Carriganarra.  
 Mary Herlihy, Rosscarbery.  
 John, Joe & Margaret Hegarty, Ardfield.  
 James O'Donovan, Union Hall.  
 Kitty & Patrick Fitzgerald, Connolly Road.  
 Dan & Margaret Murphy, Knockburden.  
 Daniel Murphy (Jnr), Bray.  
 Deceased Members of the Aherne Family, Fr. Sexton Park.  
 Sean Coakley, "Hillview" Muskerry Est.  
 Nellie Murphy, Station Road.

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Third Week Of Advent**

14 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 I: 48

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

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

17 Wednesday Is. 49:2, 8-10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:17 Lect I: 76

18 Thursday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I: 79

19 Friday Judg 13:2-7, 24-25. Ps 70. Lk 1:5-25. Lect I: 81

20 Saturday Is 7:10-14. Ps 23. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 83

**Next Sunday's Readings** 21-December-2008  
 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88. Ram 16:25-27. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 70

***Advent Early Morning Prayer***

Begin your day and preparation for Christmas the best way possible with the **Morning Prayer of the Church**.  
 Taking place during Advent in St. Mark's Centre (opposite Christ Our Light Church) Mon—Fri. at 6 am.  
 Everyone Welcome

***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.

***Recovery International***

Recovery International offers self help techniques for people suffering from depression, sleeplessness, anxiety, panic attacks, fear and phobias. Your local group meets on Wednesday's at 7:30 pm in the Capuchin Friary, Holy Trinity Church, Father Matthew Quay, Cork

***Family Hairdressing***

3A Sunningdale, Station Road, Ballincollig  
 Marika would like to take this opportunity to wish all her clients a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.  
 Also a big thank you for your custom during 2008.  
 Tel 4826565, open Tue to Sat, 9 am to 6 pm

**CROWLEY**

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**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.

**Christmas Safety**

**Christmas Trees**

Place real Christmas trees securely in a sturdy base filled with water - metal stands cause trees to dry out and become flammable. Check the water level daily. If choosing an artificial tree, make sure it has been pre-treated to increase flame resistance. Keep the tree away from candles, heaters, fire places or other heat sources. Dispose of the tree properly. Never burn a real tree in the fire place.

**Christmas Lights**

**Indoors:** Only buy Christmas lights marked with a safety standard. Check all connections on Christmas lights, and ensure that all electrical work (plugs, etc) are carried out by a competent person. If you are using lights from previous years examine the wiring to ensure they are not worn. If in doubt throw them out. Don't overload sockets. Unplug all Christmas lights and electrical appliances before leaving your home or going to bed at night.

**Outdoors:** If using lights outdoors ensure they are suitable for outdoor use. If reusing outdoor lights check all wiring and throw them out if worn. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing outdoor lights. Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up. Never use indoor extension leads outside. Keep outdoor electrical connections above ground and out of puddles and snow. If you have to replace a light bulb unplug the light string beforehand. Ensure trees hung with Christmas lights are not touching power lines.

**Muskerry Local History Society**

**December Lecture**

Subject:- "A Vanishing Village"  
 Recollections of Ballincollig in Times Past.  
 Speaker:- Dermot O Donovan.  
 Editor of book on Subject, just published.  
 Venue:- Ballincollig Rugby Club Function Hall  
 Date & Time: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008 @ 8 pm  
 Admission:- €2.00 for non members  
 Everyone most welcome.

**Christ Our Light Church - Book Shop**

From Sunday 14th December the shop will open each Sunday before and after the 11 am. Mass  
 Among the items on sale are beautiful selections of Christmas Cards; Nativity Sets and Candles

**Bulletin Board**

**Mass Book**

Diaries to book Mass Intentions for January, February & March 2009 are now open in both Churches .

**Penitential Service**

Will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2008 at 7.30 pm in St Mary & St John Church. This is an opportunity to come as a community to celebrate the Lord's love and respond to his call to forgiveness and a change of heart.

**Offertory Collection**

Envelopes for the offertory collections for 2009 are now available in both churches. 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, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches. Thank for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year.

**Christmas Cards**

Christmas Cards are available for sale in the Parish Office.

**Catholic Paper**

Copies of the Catholic Paper -**The Universe** - are available in both Churches every week.

Fr. George

**Long Ago Festivals**

**Ancient Egypt**

In ancient Egypt, New Year was celebrated at the time the River Nile flooded, which was near the end of September. The flooding of the Nile was very important because without it, the people would not have been able to grow crops in the dry desert. At New Year, statues of the God Amon and his wife and son were taken up the Nile by boat. Singing, dancing and feasting was done for a month, and then the statues were taken back to the temple.

**Babylonia**

Babylonia lay in what is now the country of Iraq. Their New Year was in the Spring. During the festival, the king was stripped of his clothes and sent away, and for a few days everyone could do just what they liked. Then the king returned in a grand procession, dressed in fine robes. Then, everyone had to return to work and behave properly. Thus, each New Year, the people made a new start to their lives.

**The Romans**

For a long time the Romans celebrated New Year on the first of March. Then, in 46BC, the Emperor Julius Caesar began a new calendar. It was the calendar that we still use today, and thus the New Year date was changed to the first day of January. January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was always shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. The Roman New Year festival was called the Calends, and people decorated their homes and gave each other gifts. Slaves and their masters ate and drank together and people could do what they wanted to for a few days.

**The Celts**

The Celts were the people who lived in Gaul, now called France, and parts of Britain before the Romans arrived there. Their New Year festival was called Samhain. It took place at the end of October, and Samhain means 'summer's end'. At Samhain, the Celts gathered mistletoe to keep ghosts away, because they believed this was the time when the ghosts of the dead returned to haunt the living

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Dec-20 & Dec-21-2008

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Aine Sheehan  
Mark Prendergast  
**8:30 am**  
Triona Collins  
**10:00 am**  
Ciaran Noonan  
Shannon O'Brien  
**12:00 Noon**  
Miriam Maunsell  
Even Smith

**7:30 pm (Vigil)**  
Fiona Feely  
**11:00 am**  
Meabh Nic Mheanmain  
**12:30 pm**  
Kay Carew  
Jane O'Leary  
**5:30 pm**  
Phil O'Connell

**MASS TIMES**

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon	<b>Sunday</b>	11 am, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm
9:30 am	<b>Monday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Friday</b>	8:30 am
10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	<b>Saturday</b>	7:30 pm (Vigil)

**CONFESSIONS**

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

**BAPTISMS**

4:30 pm	<b>Saturday</b>	4:30 pm
Except First Saturday of Month		First Saturday of Month
12:45 pm	<b>Sunday</b>	

**PARISH CLERGY**

**Priest on Duty 087-2479140**

<b>Fr. George O'Mahony P.P.</b>	<b>021-4871206</b>
<b>Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C.</b>	<b>021-4877161</b>
<b>Fr. Billy O'Sullivan C.C.</b>	<b>021-4876171</b>
<b>Fr. James McSweeney</b>	<b>021-4873308</b>



**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Dec-20 & Dec-21-2008

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6.00 pm** Eileen Murphy  
Ted Nelligan  
Angela Murphy  
Ann O'Connell  
Sheila Walshe  
Rita Hodge

**8:30 am** Helen Kelly  
Breeda Feehily  
Mary O'Connor

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

**12 Noon** Joy Daly  
Pat Kelleher  
Helen Plunkett  
Ellen O'Sullivan  
Ursula McAuliffe  
Sally Crowley

**7:30 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  
Suzanne Leetch

**5:30 pm** Shelia Curran  
Elizabeth O'Sullivan



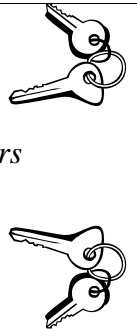
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Parish Office, The Presbytery, Ballincollig is open Mon - Wed from 9 am - 1 pm & 2 pm - 3 pm.  
Sat 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206, Office Secretary Catherine Crowley.



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