

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2001

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



The coming of Christ brought joy to the world as He healed every sickness and overcame human deprivation. For those who suffer, the joy of Christ's first coming must be tempered by patience as they await their restoration at his Second Coming.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH WITH THE EURO

The truth of the saying that we are all creatures of habit is borne out by our behaviour in many areas of life where we tend to do the same things in the same places, whether it be where we sit in the church or where we do our shopping or which Mass we attend on Sundays. It also seems that people give the same amount in the collection Sunday after Sunday. Not only does the offertory collection remain practically the same each Sunday, give or take a few pounds, but the break down of the amount into pounds, 50p's, 2p's, and 1p's, scarcely varies by a percentage. For instance, approximately £14 in one penny pieces is lodged every Monday. This will only vary by 60p or 80p from week to week.

This would indicate that one's contribution is not a random selection of change that one might have in one's pocket but is the result of a conscious personal decision. Once someone has decided on a suitable contribution they tend to give exactly the same week in week out, year after year. In the years between 1994 and 2000 the collection varied, up or down, by about £3,000 each year. The variation seems to result not from any decision of those attending Mass but from the fact that some years one or two Holy Days fall on a Sunday. In such years the total will be down £2000 or £3000. On the other hand when all of the Holy Days fall on a weekday the collection will be up accordingly.

From next January the introduction of the euro will raise a question for each parishioner: "How many euro will I give at Mass?". By February the new pattern of giving will be established and in all probability that figure will continue for several years to come.

At the moment, thanks to your continued generosity, the Sunday collection is sufficient not only to fund the day to day running and maintenance of the parish and contributions to the parish schools but also to meet the weekly debt repayment of £1000. However we must also look to the future. Costs will certainly rise and a time may come when the present donations may not meet increasing costs of heating oil, electricity bills, insurance, et. So, perhaps, this may be an opportune time to decide for yourself that a slightly increased contribution may be in order.

Leonard O'Brien

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL PRIEST:

Let us bring our prayers before God, who raises up those who are bowed down.

READER:

For all Christians, that they may know joy as they prepare for the Lord's coming.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the blind, the lame, the diseased and the deaf of our world, that the Lord may bring them healing and strength.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For children who are in need this day, that the generosity of those with plenty may help them.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who live in fear, that courage may be God's gift to them.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who have died, that they may be raised up to glory, we pray.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For our own needs, for those who have asked our prayers.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

PRIEST:

O God, you keep faith with those in need of your kindness and justice, receive the prayers we make, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you for your very generous support.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

GOOD NEWS IS PROCLAIMED TO THE POOR (GOSPEL)

Advent preparation is not just a private thing. Preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ means preparing ourselves to share the everlasting joy on the faces of all those who are called along with us (First Reading). It means treating them as we would treat Christ himself: as often as we help or hurt them, we help or hurt him.

Come Lord, and save us.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS



WE WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY
ALL THOSE WHO WERE BAPTISED RECENTLY :
Emma Maria Murphy, Station Road.
Eric Bonita Vijay, 35a Cherry Walk.
Cormac James O' Doherty, 83 Old Burrin, Carlow
Callum Gerard Kearney, 98 Rosewood.



IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:
Biddy Kirby, Cappoquin
Michael Hannigan, Station Road
Michael Buckley, CastlePark
Lillie O' Sullivan, Inniscarra View Est.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

Lilly O' Sullivan, 21 Cork Rd. Skibbereen
Donal Ahern, fr Sexton Park
Mary Lucey
Noel Buckley, Carrigdena
William O' Mahoney, Tudor Grove
The Murphy & Finnegan Family's
Marjorie O' Mahoney, Bandon
Tom McAuliffe, The Square
Patrick O'Donoghue, The Square
Peter & Dan Harrington, Skibbereen
Michael Fouhy, East Gate
Nellie Murphy, Station Rd
Seamus O' Donovan, Muskerry Est
Denis Hayes, Bandon
Jim Prendeville, Castle Park
judge O' Connor, Friars Walk
Thomas & Ann Martin, Shandon Place
Con O'Sullivan, Whitethorn Drive
Lill O' Mahoney, Bandon
Michael, Julia, Frank, Jim Harrington,
Castletownbere
Mary Joe Fitzpatrick(Harrington)
julie O' Sullivan, Station Rd
Michael O'Leary, Sweetbriar Lane
James Kennedy
Michael Hickey, Greenfield
Denis Hallahan, Ballingulley
Denis & Catherine Coleman, Rosscarbery
Donal O'Conner, Coolree
Eric Scott
Sean Crowley, Polovone
John & Mary O' Leary, Brownhill
Bernard & Josephine Boylen
O'Brien Family
William Treacy, Castleknock
John & Josephine Cuddihy, Tipperary

THIRD WEEK IN ADVENT

16 Sunday Is. 35:1-6,10. Ps. 145. Jm. 5:7-10. Mt. 11:2-11. *Lect 1:46*
The joy of the kingdom is anticipated. The signs of the kingdom already come are given to the messengers of John the Baptist, and they are familiar with the prophecy of isaiah. Patient waiting for the fulfilment is our Christian duty. There should be no complaining, no giving up or losing heart. Joy, prayer and thanksgiving should characterise the christian community.

17 Monday Gen. 49:2. 8-10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1-17. *Lect 1:76*
"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming." CCC,524. "Wisdom of the Most High, teach us the way of the truth."

18 Tuesday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. *Lect 1:79*
In the story of Christ's birth, Matthew now stresses the divinity of Christ. St. Joseph appears as a man of justice and integrity. Jeremiah prophesies that God will raise a virtuous branch for David, Ruler of the House of Israel, who gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai, come with outstretched arm."

19 Wednesday Jg. 13:2-7,24-25a. Ps. 70. Lk. 1:5-25. *Lect 1:81*
Samson and John are specially chosen messengers, whose births are announced by an angel. Each of us is a messenger, to tell the praise of God's glory every day. "Root of Jesse, do not delay to come and save us."

20 Thursday Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Mt. 1:26-38. *Lect 1:83*
"The faithful who carry the spirit of Advent from the liturgy into their own lives perceive the inexpressible love in the Virgin Mother's welcoming of her Son. Thus the Advent liturgy leads them to keep Mary before their own eyes as a model and to prepare the way for the coming Saviour, with wonder and praise" *Marialis Cultus*. "Key of David, come to liberate those who are captive in darkness."

21 Friday Song. 2:8-14. or Zeph. 3:14-18. Ps. 32. Lk. 1:39-45. *Lect 1:85*
Elizabeth is honoured by a visit from the mother of our Lord, and the child leaps for joy. Our Advent joy arises from Christ's coming among us. "Emmanuel, our king and our law-giver, come and save us, Lord our God."

22 Saturday 1 Sam 1:24-28. Ps 1 Sam. 2:1, 4-8. Lk. 1:46-56. *Lect 1:44*
The Almighty has done great things for me: both Hannah and Nary can sing this song to the Lord. So can all who have heard the good news of great joy. "Root of Jesse, set up as a sign to the peoples, delay no more."

SAINTS THIS WEEK

21 Friday - St. Peter Canisius, 1521-97, was born in Holland. He intended to become a lawyer but joined the Jesuits. His courtesy and learning earned him the respect of his protestant opponents. His greatest work was a catechism of 211 questions and answers, which was published in 1555.

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RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Church of Christ Our Light @ 6.30

Church of St. Mary & St. John @ 8.50

on Monday 17th December 2001

And then there was the little boy
who remarked to his companion:
"The people in heaven must think
I'm dead - I haven't said my prayers
for a week

Truth exists, only falsehood
has to be invented.

F. Robertson



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ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

Monthly meeting of the
St. Joseph's Young Priests Society will
be held in the Community Hall on
Monday 17th December at 8p.m.
Everyone welcome

*A very happy Christmas & every
blessing for the New Year to all our
collectors & subscribers*

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	EACH SUNDAY	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
<p>Masses</p> <p>Sunday: 8.30, 10.00, 12.00</p> <p>Mon-Fri: 9.30am</p> <p>Saturday: 10.00am, 6pm (Vigil)</p>	<p>ROSARY RECITED AT BOTH CHURCHES EACH SUNDAY 3.00P.M. <i>Everyone most welcome</i></p>	<p>Masses</p> <p>Sunday: 11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm</p> <p>Mon-Fri: 8.30am</p> <p>Saturday: 10.00am, 8.00pm (Vigil)</p>
<p>Confessions</p> <p>Saturday: after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass</p>	<p>MASS BOOKINGS THE MASS BOOK IN BOTH CHURCHES IS NOW OPEN FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2002</p>	<p>Confessions</p> <p>Saturday: after 10am Mass</p>
<p>Baptisms</p> <p>Saturday: 5.00pm</p> <p>Sunday: 12.45pm</p>		<p>Baptisms</p> <p>Saturday: 7.15pm</p>

PARISH CLERGY

CHURCH NO. ☎ 087-2479140
 Fr. L.O'Brien PP ☎ 021-4871206
 Fr. P. O'Donovan C.C. ☎ 021-4872808 Fax: 021-4872808
 Fr. Paul O'Donoghue ☎ 021-4876055
 Fr. John O'Donovan ☎ 021-4870434

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CHRISTMAS CARD

There is a list of folk I know,
 All written in a book,
 And every year at Christmas time
 I go and take a look,
 And that this is when I realise that
 these names are a part
 Not of the book they're written in
 but of our very heart.

For each name stands for someone
 who has touched my life sometime,
 and in that meeting they've become
 the 'Rhythm of the Rhyme'.
 I really feel I am composed
 of each remembered name,
 and while you may not be aware
 of feeling quite the same,
 my life is so much better
 than it was, before you came.

For once that you have known someone, the
 years cannot erase
 the memory of a of a pleasant word
 or of a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards
 are just a mere routine
 of names upon a list,
 forgotten in between

For when I send a Christmas card
 that is addressed to you,
 It is because you're on that list of folk, I am
 indebted to.

And whether I have known you
 for many years or few,
 In some way you have been a part
 in sharing things I do.
 So every year when Christmas comes
 I just realise anew,
 The biggest gift: that God can give
 is knowing folks like you.

NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS:
 Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Rom. 1:1-7. Mt. 1:18-24

**THE
 BALLINCOLLIG
 PARISHIONER**

Notices, articles, etc. for the publications
 of 23rd December & 30th December must
 be handed in to the sacristy, St. Mary & St.
 John by Tuesday next, 18th December.
 The deadline for the publication of 6th
 January 2002 is wednesday 2nd January.

*"The elevator which must
 raise me to heaven is
 your arms, O Jesus"*

MINISTERS OF THE WORD DEC. 22ND/23RD

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN

CHRIST OUR LIGHT

6.00P.M.(VIGIL) - JENNIFER MURPHY	8.00P.M.(VIGIL) - TADGH MURPHY
8.30A.M. - MARTHA BARRY	11.00A.M. - MAURA MCNAMAR
10.00A.M. - REBECCA LYNCH	12.30P.M. - MARGARET HEALY
12 NOON - OLIVER O'DONOVAN	5.30P.M. - MARY O'SULLIVAN

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

22nd /23rd December 2001

ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



SATURDAY 22ND
 6p.m.
 Patsy Murphy
 Breda Foley
 Geraldine Graham
 Jim Healy
 Geraldine Hegarty
 Cathy Horgan

SUNDAY 23RD
 8.30a.m.
 Theresa Lucey
 Rita Murphy

10a.m.
 Karina O'Mahony
 Rose Doyle
 Tadhg Murphy
 Mary Murphy

12.00 Noon
 Michael Crowley
 Breda Linehan
 Noel Hennessy
 Marie O'Callaghan
 Rena O'Connor
 Angela Roche

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

SATURDAY 22ND
 8p.m.
 Geraldine Lynch
 Charlie Vaughan
 Joan Stephenson

SUNDAY 23RD
 11a.m.
 Maura O'Cruaioi
 Neil Jeffries
 Eileen Byrne
 Mary Coleman
 Dan Coleman

12.30p.m.
 Con O'Connell
 Denis O'Mahony
 Christine O'Mahony
 Tom Murray
 Maura Lombard

5.30p.m.
 Patsy Galvin
 Bridie O'Donnell
 Phil O'Connell

FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION

Dear Jesus I walk in the valley of darkness for I suffer from depression. I feel unloved, rejected, useless to myself and useless to others. I feel lost in a world I no longer understand. At times, I want to sleep and never wake up again.

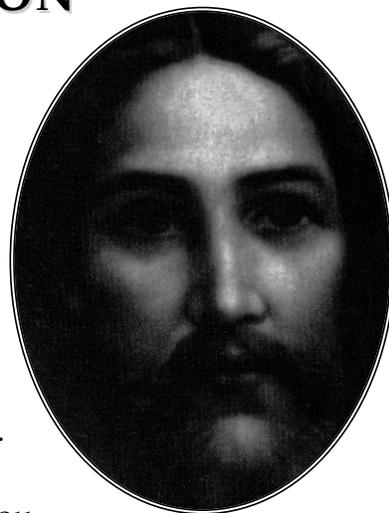
Lord, I believe that your love is a transforming love and that it can create a new heart in me. Jesus, Son of David have pity on me. Out of the depths, I cry to you.

Lord, even though I feel nothing, I will still praise you for the wonder of my being. You have formed me in my mother's womb and watched over me to this moment. I am precious in your eyes and you love me. On the Cross, you shed your blood for me. You have carved me on the palm of your hand. For all this I give you thanks and praise.

May your precious blood give new life to me and to all those who suffer as I do. Take each one of us and hold us close to your sacred heart. Through your glorious wounds may we all be healed.

Dear Jesus, when you fed the crowd in the desert, you told your disciples to gather up the fragments, lest anything be lost. As I wander through a desert and darkness of my own, I ask you to gather up the fragments of my shattered being, lest anything be lost.

Through the prophet, Joel, you promised to restore the harvest that the locusts had eaten. I ask you, lay your hands gently on my weary head and restore the lost years of life. Let your face shine upon me that I may be saved.



BALLINCOLLIG SCOUTS NEWS

- Bazaar Report -

Our annual bazaar on Sunday December 2nd was a great success. We wish to extend our thanks to the traders of Ballincollig and district for their generosity, our parents and friends for their help and the members of the public who supported us on the day.

Hamper Prize	1st. Margaret Barry, Innismore
	2nd Pauline Dineen, Carrigdena
	3rd Mary Twomey, Farren

There was 1,333 milk caps in the bottle and nearest guess was 1332 from Marie Horgan of Ballinhassig.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BRINGING THE LIGHT

Like a spark in Mary's heart
Her joy burst into song.
Kindle, Lord, that spark in us
To praise You all day long.

REFLECTION

God is supremely great. Yet He is happy to reach out humbly towards the little ones. Thus in His plan for His Son, He willed but also that He should become a little child.

-Nicolas Barre-



BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB

-NOTES-

This week, several games were cancelled due to various reasons, so there are only two games to report on. The first is the ladies Junior 1 team who met Brunell last Thursday. Even though they did not win, there is a great credit due to Ballincollig for keeping the score as close as it was, considering that they had just the minimum 5 players for the game. Brunell threw everything they had at our girls but Ballincollig still managed to match them basket for basket. In the end, Brunell only just managed to sneak two baskets past our girls for a 4pt win. Well done to Ballincollig for their spirited play.

Our under 15 boys also suffered from a shortage of players in their game against St. Colms of Limerick and it showed in the end results as St. Colms lost no time in building up a substantial lead that left Ballincollig with no chance of getting back into the game.

The Saturday and Sunday Nursery will finish this coming week-end Dec 15th and 16th and will resume on January 4th and 5th.

All other players and members are asked to contact their respective coaches about their Christmas times.

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AMAZING GRACE

One of the best loved hymns in the Church for many years has been the hymn Amazing Grace. And amazing too is the story of the man who wrote it.

He was John Newton, who was born in London in 1726. And if ever a man could say "I once was lost, but now am found" it was John Newton.

His father was in the Navy and seldom at home. Which was just as well, because whenever he was there he was a tyrant in the house and made life a misery for his wife and young John.

the mother was a devout woman, who taught John the only decent things he ever learned, including prayers and hymns.

His father however, decided that what John needed was not prayers and hymns but tough discipline. He sent him to boarding school, which was in fact a reformatory. John learned very little there except quite a few vices. Eventually he had to be expelled.

The father now decided that what the boy needed was the harsh discipline of sea life, and got him apprenticed to the Navy. The Navy in those days was a rough place., where John only picked up whatever vices he hadn't learned before. But even the Navy decided it had had enough of John Newton and threw him out for "bad conduct".

He drifted for a while. Later he was to write: "I don't think I was ever more than half an hour in any company without trying to corrupt them".

He then decided to join a slave ship, which was at that time the lowest thing in the maritime world. Its cargo of male and female slaves made it a den of vice. "From this time onwards", he wrote later, "I was exceedingly vile".

He now decided to go ashore in Africa to engage in the slave trade from there. And there he continued his dissolute ways. John Newton was well and truly "lost". But then, miraculously, he was found. His father was sufficiently interested to ask a friendly ship's captain to look for him on the African coast. He located him in Sierra Leone. John Newton, old in vice, was barely 22 years of age. The captain persuaded him to board his ship for England.

On the way the ship ran into a violent storm - so violent that experienced sailors on board said nothing could save the ship. John Newton was terrified and prayed as he had never prayed before. The ship survived the storm and for the rest of the voyage he continued to pray. He read the New Testament and the Imitation of Christ, which had a profound effect on him.

When he came ashore in Liverpool he was a changed man. He got a job as a clerk in a Navy Office, spending his spare time reading religious books and praying. After a few years he applied and was accepted for training for the ministry in the Anglican Church. In due course he became a minister.

In his sermons he spoke movingly about his seafaring life, his past sinfulness and, above all, God's mercy and forgiveness.

He engaged in a public campaign for the abolition of slavery, lobbying Parliament and pressuring the Prime Minister, William Pitt. Together with William Wilberforce he was instrumental in putting an end to the slave trade.

In the Church of St. Mary Woolnoth in London, where he spent his final years, he is buried. A tablet over his grave has this inscription: obviously written by himself:

JOHN NEWTON
CLERK IN HOLY ORDERS
ONCE A SINNER AND SLAVE OF
SINNERS IN AFRICA
WAS BY THE GRACE
AND MERCY OF GOD
PARDONED AND RESTORED
TO THE FAITH
WHICH HE HAD
SO LONG DISGRACED.

And his Church still resounds to the strains of his famous hymn:

AMAZING GRACE,
HOW SWEET THE SOUND,
THAT SAVED
A WRETCH LIKE ME.
I ONCE WAS LOST
BUT NOW AM FOUND,
WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE.