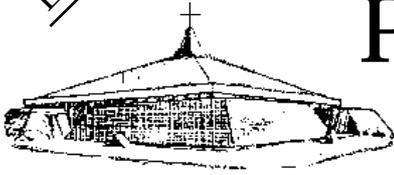


8 PAGE
EDITION

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



CHRIST OUR LIGHT
INNISHMORE



ST. MARY & ST. JOHN
STATION ROAD

SUNDAY 18TH MARCH 2001

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.

CARDINALS

The title "Cardinal" has been in use in the Christian Church since the time of Pope Marcellus in the year 300 A.D. Originally used to describe priests and deacons who held permanent parish appointments, the title came to describe some high ranking Bishops and priests. In the year 1059 a church council decreed that the cardinals should have a part in the election of the Pope. By the sixteenth century the number of Cardinals was fixed at about seventy.

The cardinals are appointed solely by the Pope. According to Church Law they should be "truly outstanding in doctrine, virtue, piety and prudence in practical matters". They assist the Pope in the day to day running of the church, and when the Pope dies they meet to elect the new Pope.

The Church is run by different Congregations which correspond roughly to Government Departments usually presided over by a Cardinal. Thus there is a Cardinal in charge of the Missions, another in charge of the preservation of the Faith, another Secretary of State for the Vatican. Historically, Cardinals have acted as ambassadors for the Vatican in attempts to bring peace and justice to the world. Cardinal Casseroli, for example, acted as peacemaker between two great Catholic nations, Argentina and Chile, in the 1980's in the dispute over the Beagle Canal.

The function of the Cardinals that is best known is the Conclave that elects a new Pope. This is a meeting of the Cardinals in the Sistine Chapel in Rome. They are locked into this compound within the Vatican. Deprived of all contact with the outside world and free from all outside intimidation they remain incarcerated until they agree by a two thirds majority plus one on the election of the Pope. After each ballot the voting papers are burned and the black smoke issuing from a small chimney indicates to the waiting world that no agreement has been reached. When agreement is finally reached the last ballots are placed in the fire place, straw is added and the resulting white smoke tells the world that a new pope has been elected.

With the Pope the Cardinals have care of 900 million Catholics throughout the whole world. Comparison with the Irish Republic gives us some idea of the immensity of this task. Ireland has less than four million people; the Church has a membership of over nine hundred million; Ireland covers an area 300 miles by 200 miles; the Church covers the entire globe; the Irish state has an 80 year history; the Church has a 2000 year history.

When you consider the numerical strength of the Catholic Church, its worldwide distribution and the fact that the college of Cardinals is limited to about one hundred members, the appointment of a Dublin man for the first time in over a century should be considered a special honour for Dublin and Ireland. Why then should many of the Dublin media people react to the appointment with savage attacks on both the Pope and the Archbishop himself? The frustration of impotence is probably the most reasonable explanation. Just as there are Irish novelists who are never published outside of Ireland, media people who remain trapped in Dublin by their own mediocrity must feel frustrated when a fellow Dublin man makes it to the world stage. Their 'provincial' influence is so limited that in the appointment of a Cardinal their opinions are neither sought nor considered. In fact, Dublin journalists and T.V. presenters are so insignificant in a worldwide dimension that the Pope and most of the Cardinals have never even heard of them and never will.

Leonard O'Brien

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

I mean to deliver them (First Reading)

Today's gospel reads at first sight like a warning, but it is also a promise. The barren tree is given another chance. The words of Jesus, "Unless you repent, you will likewise perish" imply that, if we do repent, we will not perish but will be healed and given new life.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRST

Let us bring our needs to our compassionate and loving God.

READER

For the Pope and all the leaders of the Church, that they may preach God's forgiveness, and practise it.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For people preparing for baptism all over the world this Lent, that God may lead them through the waters of baptism to new life.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Jewish people, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that they may continue to grow in the love of his name.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For our neighbours, our families, our friends, especially those whom we remember now, that God will continue to show them his care and compassion

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For victims of natural disasters, and for all the dead, that they may enter the heavenly rest that all people seek.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

The Lord is compassion and love

BAPTISMS

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

Mary Claire Dorgan, 51, Fernwalk
James Jeremiah Cronin, 46, Castle Park
Jennifer Rea, 54, The Meadows, Classis Lake
Conor Daniel O'Callaghan, 18, Berryfield, Classis Lake
Eddy Ultan Brown, 77, Maple Lawn, Muskerry Est.



IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:
Mons. James o'Sullivan, Newcestown & England
Melissa Edwards-Heelan, Leevue
Neil James Gribbon, Dublin

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Denis Patrick O'Sullivan, Aghabullogue and
Sandra Murphy, 9, the Crescent



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

Jack Lucey, Station Cross
Sheila O'Donovan, Enniskeane
Eileen Noonan, Cathedral Road
Francis Casey, Carrigrohane
Kitty Barry, Hodders Villas
Ellen McSweeney, Model Farm Road
Patrick & Bridget O'Brien, Cashel
Eugene & Margaret Teahan
John McCarthy, Avondale Park, Ballintemple
Timothy Cronin, Abbey Feale
Con Conkewith, Cashel
Patrick King, Ballinskellig, Co. Kerry
Jimmy Langan, Donegal
Dan & Maurice O'Connor, Castlegregory, Co. Kerry
Helen Twohig, Kilcrea Park
Patrick McNamara, Inniscarra View Estate
Lill O'Mahony
Denis Lehane, Millstreet
Timothy Bolger, Bagnelstown
Padraig Kehoe, Gorey, Co. Wexford
Neil McGroarty, Cobh
Michael Hannigan, Woodbine Lawn
Tim Murphy
Jim Spencer, West Village
O'Connor Family
John & Adrian O'Connell, Killarney
Jenny & Kitty Hallahan, Kilmichael & Wales
Matthew Hayes, Clonakilty
Ellen & Denis O'Leary, Noonans Road
Mrs. Bridget Ann Hyland, Wexford
Higgins Family
John & Mary Boyde, Main Street
Agnes O'Donoghue
Jeremiah O'Leary, Innishmore
Daniel Hallahan, Greenfield
Marie Wade, Westcourt
Jim Garvey, Dingle
Norah Barry, Redemption Road

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

18 Sunday Ex. 3:1-8,13-15. Ps. 102. 1 Cor. 10:1-6,10-12. Lk. 13:1-9 *Lect I:255*
Jesus illustrates from the recent local news how uncertain life can be. Accidents and disasters continually remind us of that, we have indeed learnt that there is no such thing as an unsinkable ship. And so we are warned to work at our salvation. The image of the fruitless fig tree is used by Jesus to call us to repentance.

19 Monday 2 Sam 7:4-5,12-14,16. Ps. 88. Rom. 4:13,16-18,22. Mt. 1:1-16,18-21 or Lk. 2:41-51. *Lect I:970*

20 Tuesday Dan. 3:25, 34-43, Ps. 24. Mt. 18:21-35. *Lect I:264*
It is in the memory of past favours that Azariah has the confidence to pray to God. His prayer is suitable for all times. God is faithful to his covenant and Jesus Christ intercedes for us always.

21 Wednesday Deut. 4:1. 5-9. Ps. 147. Mt. 5:17-19. *Lect I:267*
The Law is a great treasure, to be safely guarded and to be handed on as a sacred trust. In the new Jerusalem, the Church, the laws of Christ are not to be seen as burdens or out of date. They are evidence of the love of Christ for us.

22 Thursday Jer. 7:23-28. Ps. 94. Lk. 11:14-23. *Lect I:268*
Hardness of heart is the characteristic of those who have refused to listen to God. Listening to the lies of Satan led human beings to disobey God in the beginning. Satan still acts in our world out of hatred of God and his kingdom in Jesus Christ.

23 Friday Hos. 14:2-10. Ps. 80. Mk. 12:28-34. *Lect I:271*
We are called to return in faithfulness to the God who made us. We are reminded not to have other Gods before him. "We will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands". Further we are to love the Lord with all our being.

24 Saturday Hos. 5:15-6:6. Ps. 50. Lk. 18:9-14. *Lect I:273*
"Only when we humbly acknowledge that 'we do not know how to pray as we ought' are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. 'Man is a beggar before God'". *CCC 2559*

SAINTS THIS WEEK

Monday 19th - St. Joseph, is seen as the natural protector of Christian families and of those whose daily bread is uncertain. His is the ordinary man's holiness. Patron of the Church, Canada, carpenters, manual workers.

Wednesday 21st - St. Enda, is considered to be one of the three great late vocations (athleach) of Ireland. His sister, Faenche, a nun, set his thoughts on a religious vocation. On Faenche's urging, he went to Aran. He died probably in 520 and is considered as one of the early models of ascetic monasticism in Ireland.

Friday 23rd - St. Turibius, 1538-1606, was a layman in Spain, when he was appointed Archbishop of Lima, Peru, by King Philip II. He combatted all the abuses of the conquerors in Peru, and built up the Church there. Patron of Peru and Latin American bishops.

Saturday 24th - St. Macartan is recognised as the first bishop of Clogher. A strong disciple of St. Patrick, he founded his monastery at what had been a pagan sanctuary.

ST. JOSEPHS YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

Monthly meeting of the
St. Joseph's Young Priests Society
will be held in the Community Hall
on Tuesday 19th March at 8p.m.
All members and subscribers welcome

MASS BOOKINGS

The Mass Book in
both Churches will open on
Saturday 17th March 2001
for the months of April, May & June



**LENT 2001:
IT'S TIME TO
ABOLISH SLAVERY.
AGAIN.**

In biblical times we know that people were often held in slavery. But slavery is not just a thing of the past.

Millions of women, men and children around the world are trapped in slavery today.

Today's slaves are held as bonded labourers in India, or forced to work as child soldiers in Sierre Leone, or taken captive and forced to work on large plantations in Brazil.

LENT IS WHAT YOU DO

**Ballincollig Lions Club
EASTER BAZAAR**

**Ballincollig Community Hall
on Sunday 8th April 2001 at 2.30p.m.**

Big Wheel, Tambola, Stalls, Raffles, Novelties, Cakes, Flowers, Toys, Electrical Goods, etc, etc.

GREAT VALUE!

Please Support

(p.s. We are also looking for unwanted/surplus quality goods for our Bazaar - check your garage/attic)

DROP TO COMMUNITY HALL OR

CONTACT FOR COLLECTION:

Statia @ 4870204 Elizabeth @ 4870354

Chris@ 70 Beech Park 4873614

SPRING DUES

Envelopes have now been distributed to each household. Please return it by placing it in the Basket at Mass. Spare envelopes are available from the back of the Church

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 24TH/25TH MAR

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN

CHRIST OUR LIGHT

6.00p.m. (Vigil) - Jennifer Murphy	8.00p.m. (Vigil) - Pauline Collins
8.30a.m. - Annette Collins	11.00a.m. - Noreen O'Riordan
10.00a.m. - Margot Twomey	12.30p.m. - Marlyn O'Connor
12 Noon - Brendan Daly	5.30p.m. - Michelle Beamish

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST 24th /25th March 2001
ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

SATURDAY 24TH

6p.m.
Helen Kelly
April Ryan
Eileen Murphy
Ted Nelligan
Angela Murphy
Ann O'Connell

SUNDAY 25TH

8.30a.m.
Mary Buckley
Josie Halligan

10a.m.
Miriam Maunsell
Mary McLean
Breda Ring
Jerry O'Connor

12.00 Noon
Louie O'Leary
Mary Buckley
Will Casey
Rose Doyle
Anne O'Sullivan
Ellen O'Sullivan



CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

SATURDAY 24TH

8p.m.
Maura Uí Crualaoui
Marion O'Sullivan
Ann O'Connell

SUNDAY 25TH

11a.m.
Seamus O'Connell
Mary O'Connell
Finbarr Murray
Alan O'Riordan

12.30p.m.
Eileen O'Donoghue
Jackie Sheehan
Anne Burke
Mary Green
Michael O'Leary

5.30p.m.
Catherine Green
Mary Breen
Siobhan Burke

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	EACH SUNDAY	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
<p>Masses Sunday: 8.30, 10.00, 12.00 Mon-Fri: 9.30am 8.00pm Saturday: 10.00, 6pm, (Vigil)</p>	<p>ROSARY RECITED AT BOTH CHURCHES EACH SUNDAY 3.00P.M. <i>Everyone most welcome</i></p>	<p>Masses Sunday: 11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm Mon-Fri: 8.30am 6.30pm Saturday: 10.00am, 8.00pm (Vigil)</p>
<p>Confessions Saturday: after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass</p>	<p>STUDENT MASS FOR LENT <u>COLAISTE CHOILM</u> EACH SCHOOLDAY AT 8.35A.M.</p>	<p>Confessions Saturday: after 10am Mass</p>
<p>Baptisms Saturday: 5.00pm Sunday: 12.45pm</p>		<p>Baptisms Saturday: 7.15pm</p>

PARISH CLERGY

CHURCH NO.  087-2479140

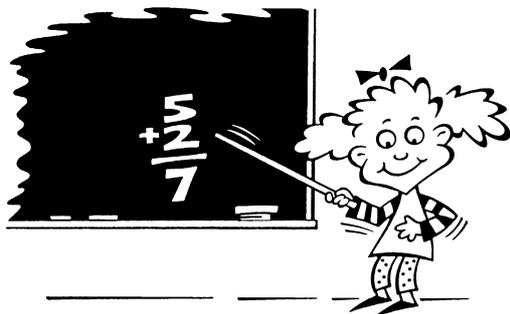
Fr. L.O'Brien P.P.  021-4871206

Fr. E. Crowley C.C.  021-4870434

Fr. P. O'Donovan C.C.  021-4872808 Fax: 021-4872808 Fr. Paul O'Donoghue  021-4876055



ENROLMENT WEEK
 20th-23rd March 2001



Open Evening

at Scoil Eoin and Scoil Mhuire on Tuesday
 March 20th from 7.00p.m. to 8.30p.m. for the
 Parents of Children wishing to attend these
 Primary Schools

Bring the Children along...

BEIDH FÁILTE ROMPU

BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB

Due to the on-going threat of
Foot and Mouth disease,
 last week's games were temporarily
 suspended and the same will apply
 for this week. We would ask all members
 to keep in contact with their coaches
 as to the resumption of matches



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Fax: 021-4911701



Home Heating Budget Payment Plan

NOELLE WRENNE FUND

Noelle, an 8 year-old Ballincollig girl, is seriously ill and undergoing treatment in a Dublin hospital.

A FUND HAS BEEN SET UP TO ASSIST THE WRENNE FAMILY
*Donations to the fund should be directed to: AIB Ballincollig branch
Account No. 20695083
Sort Code 93-40-11*

FINAL REMINDER

Ballincollig Parish's week of guided prayer will commence on next Sunday 25th March 2001 in Christ Our Light Church at 7pm sharp. This will be a unique chance to get to know Christ through praying the Scriptures. No previous knowledge of the Bible is necessary. If you have not filled in the application form, there's still time. Additional forms available in the sacristy of both churches (See page 6)
We ask those of you who are unable to attend, to please pray for the team and those on Retreat.

REPENTANCE

All my heart goes out to you,
Don't fail me Lord, for I am trusting you.
After the degradation of defeat
I look to you for kindness and support.

Don't let my sinfulness triumph,
My failures gain the victory over me.
Bring light to the darkness in my heart,
Some reason for my very being.

Have you kept a record of my misdeeds?
Then overlook my youthful sins, how many they are!
Oh, forgive them for the honour of your name.

Look upon my emptiness and loneliness,
Consider kindly my afflictions and despair.
Remember the never ending presence,
Of human fragility, unwholesome passion.

Relieve this heart of mine of its burden,
Deliver me from my distress.
Look kindly in judgment on my sin, my grievous sin.

O Lord of mercy, I realise my guilt is great,
Heal those who humbly reach out to you.

See my sorrows. Feel my pain.

Forgive my sins. Restore me to yourself.

Watch over me lest I fall again.

'Remember, O Lord, your mercy and faithful love,
For they are from the beginning of the world.

Reflection from Psalm 25

JESUS WAS MY NAME

I have lived all my life in Northern Ireland and have known thirty years of violence. I am a mother of five and a grandmother. I believe, as a famous mystic once preached, that there is a spark of God in everybody.

Behind the scenes in the North, the ordinary people do not want the violence but are not listened to. They have been under threat from the paramilitary faction for many years, so much so that their children have been damaged in many ways. In this poem I have tried to show something of the real Jesus in today's world living in Northern Ireland.

Ann Slevin

A group of clergy gathered, within a synod hall.
To discuss an application, regarding a religious call.
The young man in question, aged about thirty-three.
Had requested recognition, to set his people free.
As his reference was read aloud, those godly men did frown.
The speaker rather nervously, adjusted his purple gown.
I see we have a problem, which will leave us duty-bound
With a character so unsavoury we'll have to turn him down.

This Immanuel, is unacceptable, I am sure you will agree.
His mind must be unbalanced. From the facts 'tis plain to see.
At the age of twelve, absconded, without parental guide.

A juvenile delinquent, finding rules hard to abide.
Hanging out with terrorists, and women of disrepute.

For him, priesthood does not suit.

Was it only yesterday, he racked the Cathedral stall?
Displaying such a temper, showing no restraint at all.
The police have been notified, in connection with his crime.
Their intention to arrest him was only a matter of time.
So, my learned gentlemen, this man is just no good.
I'd even go so far to say, he's just another hood.

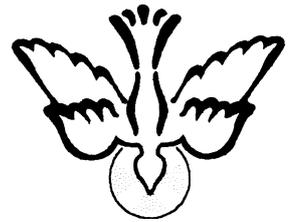
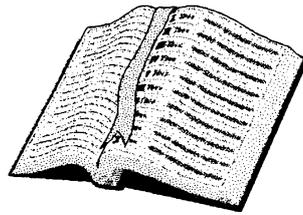
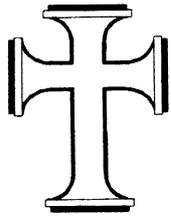
Just then the door burst open, as a messenger hurried in.
His Eminence looking shattered, by this obtrusive sin.
'What on earth's the matter? What's your business here?'
The messenger was quite shaken, deadly white with fear.
It's about that man Immanuel, been beaten black and blue.
Paramilitaries have admitted it. I swear to God it's true.
Now he's gone and disappeared, as silently he came.
Except for his written statement. "Jesus is my name."

BALLINCOLLIG SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

The annual Half-Day Retreat will be held in
St. Mary and St. John Church on Sunday
25th March 3pm to 5.30pm.

The Retreat will be conducted
by Fr. Maurice Dowling, OFM.

*Everybody is very welcome to this
afternoon of prayer and reflection*



WEEK OF DIRECTED PRAYER

On the 25th March, 2001, we will again host a week of Directed Prayer. This week gives participants an opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the Bible, and their own prayer life. A team of trained guides from outside the Parish will direct the week. Each director will, on an individual and private basis, help the participant to pray, and to reflect on what God is saying to them in their lives.

All parishioners and prayer groups are asked to please pray for all those taking part in this week.

WHO CAN COME?

Anyone who would like help in prayer and anyone who can give the time
- 30 minutes each day for the week

WHERE?

Christ Our Light Church, meeting rooms, and private areas of the Church.

WHEN?

25th to the 31st March, 2001, inclusive.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Complete the section below and drop it into the Sacristy of either Church, before the 18th March.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Bernadette 4873839 - Clare 4871364
Angela 4873364 - Sr. Elizabeth 4870625

Please complete and return this portion as soon as possible to facilitate booking of sufficient prayer guides.

I would be interested in taking part in the Week of Prayer

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone No.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Saturday 17th March 2001



St. Patrick was set apart by God to bring his word to the end of the earth. He brought faith in Christ to our land and the message of peace for those who accept that faith. Today we thank God for Patrick who was true to his vocation and so made it possible for our names to be written in heaven.

ST. PATRICK

Patrick was born in Roman Britain, possibly in the region of the lower Severn, where his father and grandfather had been officials of the Roman Empire as well as devout Christians. At sixteen he was taken captive by Irish raiders. Such attacks on Roman Britain can be traced back to 350A.D. when Emperor Theodosius had to erect fortifications as defences against the Irish. For the sixteen year-old it was a cruel blow to lose home, family and friends at one blow. Six years of slavery in cold and wet conditions followed, on the side of Sliabh Mish in Antrim.

After his escape Patrick walked to the Wexford region where he persuaded a reluctant ship's Captain to take him on board a ship carrying a cargo of hunting dogs (probably Irish wolfhounds) to be sold to the hunting aristocracy of Gaul (present-day France). Three days sailing brought them to Brittany where Patrick left the company, a free man at last.

But even in his newly found freedom, he still remembered the pagan Irish and wondered why no-one had brought them the true Faith. He later described how he was troubled by a dream in which he saw "the vision of a man coming as it were with countless letters from Ireland; and as he read he thought he heard a voice saying: 'We ask you, boy, come and walk among us once more'".

There followed many years of study during which Patrick had to make up the school years lost in slavery. Even though he never reached heights of scholarship either as a student or a priest he still had one advantage that qualified him for the Irish mission: his first-hand knowledge of the Irish people and command of their language.

Around 429, Pope Celestine I decided that an attempt should be made to convert the Irish. A Roman Bishop, Palladius, led the missionary expedition to Ireland. He soon returned to Britain and died. Then Patrick was ordained a Bishop and sent to Ireland. Colourful legends surround every phase of St. Patrick's mission to Ireland. Two documents, "The Confessions of St. Patrick" and "Letter to Coroticus" are attributed to him. In these short pieces there is nothing but humility and simplicity. They reveal a character that had no pretensions to fame or scholarship. He frequently apologises for his bad Latin and lack of learning. These documents are accepted by experts as authentic because forgeries by admirers would certainly have taken a different line. The portrait that emerges from "The Confession" is that of a gentle and spiritual man. He spoke not of himself but as God's messenger. Through deep suffering he brought to birth a new world, giving it his own spirit. This world, the Irish Church, still lives on in spite of centuries of incredible humiliation. It was founded on Patrick's humility. It should never fear humiliation.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

In our celebration of Saint Patrick's Day,
today we praise God the creator, who sustained Patrick
and who sustains the Church, in good times and bad.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST

Let us bring our needs to
the God of all nations.

READER

That the people of God in
Ireland may keep alive the faith
that Patrick preached
Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

That reconciliation may
take root in our land.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

That Irish people the world over
may enjoy the continuing
support of our prayers.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

That those in need may
experience care and
compassion.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

That our people who have died
may have the light of heaven.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may have the divine
assistance in all our own needs.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all our readers.

Lá Fhéile Phadraig faoi mhaise dhuit.

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News