

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 21-December-2014

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

*God's anointed was born by the power of God's Spirit. He is the Son of God and fulfills God's promise of an everlasting kingdom for his people.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

## ***The Holy Spirit will be with you***

During my first Friday visits last May, a parishioner offered to pray for me "that I might be able to accept the will of God." I found it difficult to be grateful for the good lady's offer of prayers especially for the intention she announced. This offer of prayer was a real test of faith for me; accepting the Lord's will can be very difficult. During March, April and May my prayer was for the most part hoping and wishing that God might somehow get his way to coincide with mine. I found it so difficult to make Mary's words my own; "I am the servant of the Lord, let what you have said be done."

Doing my own thing, fulfilling my own needs is the recommended way to discover happiness and contentment in life. What I want is what matters; I will do my own thing. However in doing my own things there can be lots of selfish motivation and very often can lead to taking the easiest option. However a loving acceptance of duty very often leads to happiness, the more difficult the task we devote ourselves out of love the greater the chance to find fulfilment.

Mary gives us a great example and encouragement. She had many questions and doubts, some she put words on "But how can this come about". She was told "The Holy Spirit will be with you, the power of God will keep you in its' shadow". Furthermore something wonderful is happening to your cousin the old woman Elizabeth she is expecting her first born. Mary got hope and courage and she said "let what God has said be done". Like Mary may we be aware of the presence and power of God in our world. May our faith be strengthened by the hope of others? Lord give us the faith to accept duty and the Lords' will in our lives and in this way achieve happiness and inner contentment. Happy and peaceful Christmas to all and also to your family and extended family.

*George O'Mahony*

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

### **Priest**

Let us pray that the world may be flooded with the grace of the Lord's coming.

### **Reader**

Lord come into our homes.

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

Lord come to those who are lonely.

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

Lord come to those who are sick.

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

Lord come to those who are poor and homeless.

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

Lord come to those in the grip of addiction.

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

Lord come to us all as we remember in silence our own particular needs.

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

### **Priest**

Lord our God, take pity on our weakness. May your Son at his coming dispel the darkness of our hearts and of the world. We make this pray through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ***Best Wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas***

The priests of the parish join in sending their Christmas greetings to all members of the parish and to all readers of the Ballincollig Parishioner. We thank you all for your help and co-operation during the past year.

**You will be remembered in our Christmas Masses.**

*George O'Mahony, Dave O'Connell & James McSweeney*

***I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.***

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

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

Joan Daly, Ballyburden.  
 Maureen Murphy, Whitehall, Dublin.  
 Teddy & Jeremiah Kehily, Newcestown.  
 Seamus O'Donovan, Clonakilty & Muskerry Estate.  
 Brian Reddy, Dripsey.  
 Eddie & Joan Murphy, Powdermills.  
 Timothy & Hannah Cronin, Abbeyfeale.  
 Frank & Ellen Kehily, Newcestown.  
 Bridget, Vincent & Frank Moran, Powdermills.  
 Peter O'Sullivan, Rosewood.  
 Flanagan Family, Castlepark.  
 Jeremiah Keohane, Rossmore, Clonakilty.  
 Noreen & Frank Keohane, Westcliffe.  
 John & Mary Lucey, Coolroe.  
 McGroaty Family, Cobh.  
 Neil McGroarty, Beech Park.  
 Kathleen Coakley, Pearse Road.  
 Thomas O'Driscoll, Clonakilty.  
 Joan Daly, Ballyburden.  
 Peter & Hannah Crowley, Leemount.  
 Martin Canny, Leesdale Drive.  
 Rita Kinsella, Carrigrohane.  
 Mai & William Murphy, Blarney.  
 Mary Ryan, Carrigrohane.  
 Paul, Margaret & William O'Connor, Carrigrohane.  
 Barry Kelly, The Crescent.  
 Anthony McCarthy, Castlepark.  
 Patrick & Margaret O'Mahony, Clash.  
 JohnJoe & Margaret Hegarty.  
 Michael & Terry Keohane.  
 Pat McCullagh, Coachford & Ballincollig.  
 Denis & Ellen Hallahan, Ballingully.  
 Pat & Mary Horgan, Upton.  
 William Treacy, Castleknock.  
 Daniel & Mary Coomey, Carriganarra.  
 Dr Sean Crotty, Coolroe.  
 Dec Members of Keohane family.  
 Bridie Sexton, Hillsboro.  
 Bridget & Michael O'Regan, Carriganarra.  
 John Kelleher, Rosewood.  
 Mary Murphy, Bishopstown.  
 William & Anne Cotter, Fr. Sexton Park.  
 Mathew & Bridie O'Leary, Macroom.  
 Joan O'Connor, Blackrock.  
 Con & Mary Kelly, Kilmichael.  
 John & Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane.  
 Dec members of the Gaffney family, Carrigrohane.  
 Dec members of the Twohig family, Farranree.  
 William Hayes, Limerick.  
 Dec members of the Radley family, Powdermills.  
 Margaret Coakley, Limerick.  
 Con Coakley, Shamrock Drive.  
 Tom, Margaret & Judy Enright, Nadd.  
 James Prendiville, Limerick.  
 Michael O'Brien, Ballincollig.  
 Nora Heelan, Inniscarra.  
 Alan Jordan, Model Farm Road.  
 Jeremiah Ring, Carriganarra.  
 Con Greaney, Station Road.  
 Chares & Mary Ross, Dublin.  
 Dan & Ina Murphy, Aherla.  
 Jerry Delaney, Maglin

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week of Advent

21 Sunday 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88. Ram 16:25-27. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 70  
 22 Monday 1 Sam. 1 :24-28. Ps. 1 Sam. 2. Lk. 1 :46-56. Lect I: 88  
 23 Tuesday Mal. 3:1-4,23-24. Ps 24. Lk 1 :57-66. Lect I: 90  
 24 Wednesday Midnight Mass Is. 9: 1-6. Ps. 95. Tit. 2:11-14. Lk. 2: 1-14. Lect I: 104  
 25 Thursday Dawn Mass Is. 62:11-12. Ps. 96. Tit 3:4-7. Lk. 2:15-20. Lect I: 107  
 Mass during the Day Is. 52:7-10. Ps. 97. Heb. 1:1-6. In. 1:1-18. Lect I: 109  
 26 Friday Acts. 6:8-10,7:54-59. Ps. 30. Mt. 10:17-22. Lect I: 125  
 27 Saturday 1 Jn 1 :1-4. Ps 96. Jn 20:2-8. Lect I: 127

**Next Sunday's Readings 28/December/2014**

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3. Ps 104. Lk 2:22-40. Lect I: 119



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

We are about to take our final step in Preparation for our Christmas meeting with Christ.

In the Gospel we hear the words spoken to Mary: "Do not be afraid".

Let us place our trust in God, who is very near us. With open hearts may we embrace the grace of our Saviour.

**The 12 Days of Christmas**

Religious symbolism of The Twelve Days of Christmas

1. True Love refers to God
2. Turtle Doves refers to the Old and New Testaments
3. French Hens refers to Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
4. Calling Birds refers to the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
5. Golden Rings refers to the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
6. Geese A-laying refers to the six days of creation
7. Swans A-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
8. Maids A-milking refers to the eight beatitudes
9. Ladies Dancing refers to the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
10. Lords A-leaping refers to the ten commandments
11. Pipers Piping refers to the eleven faithful apostles
12. Drummers Drumming refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

**BAPTISMS**

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

Shaun Keriuki Muriithi, Westcourt.  
 Caoimhe Helen Mary Fouhy, Rivers Eedge, Fionn Laoi.  
 Christopher Isaac Connelly Garcia, Westgrove.

**† IN SYMPATHY †**

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

Br. Patrick Titus Coffey, Ballineen & Dublin.  
 Joan Scully, Bishopstown & Castlematyr.  
 Paddy Forde, Longrange Powdermills.  
 Mary O'Connell , Ballinora & Waterfall.  
 Paddy O'Driscoll, Skibbereen.  
 Mary O'Mahony, Magazine Road.

**THE SUNDAY READINGS**

First Reading: 2 Sam. 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16.  
 God's promise to David is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.

Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27  
 St Paul introduces us to the mystery of Christ, once a secret, but now made known to the whole world.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38  
 Jesus' birth is foretold in this gospel where Gabriel comes to Mary and announces that within her she has the king that Israel has long awaited. To have found favour with God surprises Mary, a woman with none of the qualities valued in her society. She was female, young, poor, and didn't even have a husband or child to give her existence credibility. Not only did this puzzle her, but she knew she was a virgin and carrying a child didn't logically fit. Her puzzlement gave Gabriel the opportunity to explain that the baby she carried was conceived through the Holy Spirit. Mary accepted what was told to her, and remained open to God's will. At the same time, she learned that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also pregnant. This pregnancy was miraculous as well, since Elizabeth had been thought to be barren and was now an old woman.

**Bulletin Board**

**Christmas Collection**

According to the Diocesan custom, the collection at Christmas Vigil / Day Masses is one of two occasions during the year when the offertory collection goes to the priests of the Parish.

**Offertory Collection Boxes 2015**

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, families who avail of the Direct Debit system are not expected to take one. The Offertory Collection is solely for the upkeep, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches. Thanks for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year.

**Tax Rebate**

Sincere thanks to parishioners who have made contact with Catherine in the parish office to give your name and no. of your offertory box as a first step in the parish claiming back some Tax from the Dept of finance next year. This can be done by all tax payers, everything helps.

**Fr. George**

**Saint Vincent De Paul**

Collection last weekend amounted to €17,561.00. Sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously. This generosity will make big difference to many families struggling.

**Legion of Mary**

Rosary at The Crib (Near AIB)  
 Christmas Eve at 12 Noon  
**All are welcome to participate**

**Ballincollig Parish Christmas Programme**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation for Christmas**

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	8 pm	Christ Our Light	Penitential Service
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	7 pm - 8 pm	St Mary & St John	Confessions
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve	11.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	St Mary & St John	
	12.00 noon - 1.00 p.m.	Christ Our Light	



**Mass Times**



Church of St Mary & St John	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Eve</b>	6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		10.00 p.m.	Christmas Mass
	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Day</b>	8.30 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
10.00 a.m.			
12.00 noon			
Church of Christ Our Light	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Eve</b>	6.00 p.m.	Children's Mass
		8.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		12.00 Midnight	Midnight Mass
	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Day</b>	11.00 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
		12.30 p.m.	
<b>No 5.30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day</b>			

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Dec/27 & Dec/28/2014

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Sean Collins

**8:30 am**  
Triona Downey  
Riain Brennan

**10:00 am**  
Lauree Hegarty  
Mary O'Driscoll  
**12:00 Noon**  
Tony Lynch  
Shane Tully

**7:30 pm (Vigil)**  
Nonyi Ebili

Jennifer Nyagaya

**11:00 am**  
Chide Ebili

Kristian Calvert

**12:30 pm**

Joseph Manning

Niamh Murray

**5:30 pm**

Liam Tuohy

**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, 6 pm & 10 pm

**Wednesday**

8:30 am, 6 pm, 8 pm, Mid-night

8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon

**Thursday**

11 am, 12:30 pm

9:30 am

**Friday**

No Mass

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  
Except First Saturday of Month

**Saturday**

4:30 pm  
First Saturday of Month

12:45 pm

**Sunday**

**PARISH CLERGY**

Priest on Duty

087-2479140

Fr. George O'Mahony P.P.

021-4871206

Fr. Dave O'Connell C.C.

021-4876171

or frdaveoconnell@gmail.com

Fr. James McSweeney

021-4873308

**To all our Readers & Parishioners**

Happy Christmas

Nollaig Shona Dhuit

Feliz Navidad

Boas Festas

Sretan Bozic

Ruumsaid juulup | hi

Hyvaa joulua

Joyeux Noel

Buone Feste Natalizie

Priecigus Ziemas Svetkus

Linksmu Kaledu

Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia

Sarbatori vesele

Cestitamo Bozic

May the Child Jesus and His Mother

watch over you this Christmas and

throughout the coming year.

As once they came to the stable of

Bethlehem, may they come to you

and bring you all the desires of your heart.

**Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year**

from The Parishioner Editorial Team

Con, Tom, Pat, Karen & Diarmuid

Next publication Sunday 11th January 2015

*May the Child Jesus rest at the inn of  
your heart this Christmas*



**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Dec/27 & Dec/28/2014

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6.00 pm**

Michael Maher  
Bernadette Bell  
Betty Casey  
Frank Riordan  
Siobhan Riordan  
Pauline Quane

**7:30 pm**

Geraldine Lynch  
Charlie Vaughan  
Joan Stephenson  
Bernie Bowen

**8:30 am**

Mary Buckley  
Theresa Lucey / Triona  
Collins  
Mary B. Murphy

**11:00 am**

Neil Jeffers  
Eileen O'Donoghue  
Bridie Hanrahan  
Catherine Moran  
Hugh Moran

**10:00 am**

Cathy Horgan  
Claudine Tiendioh  
Betty Flavin  
Anne Spillane  
Betty Sheehan

**12:30 pm**

Denis O' Mahony  
Christine O'Mahony  
Tom Murray  
John O'Regan  
Gerard Dunne

**12 Noon**

Seamus O'Donovan  
Eleanor Knowles  
Catherine Greene  
Joan Barrett  
Frances Hogan  
Geraldine Lynch

**5:30 pm**

Bernard Curran  
John Canty

**MARY'S DREAM**

'I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes.

They'd gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the presents weren't for our son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornament. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree. Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our son. I don't think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name. I had the strangest feeling if our Jesus had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real!