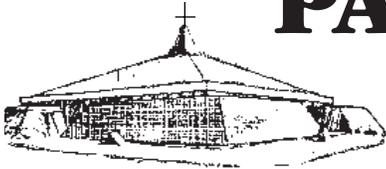


THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2001

TWENTYNINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MISSION SUNDAY

By its nature, the Church is missionary. Christ sent her to let her light shine to the whole human race. We cannot leave this task to the professionals. The prophets and the apostles were ordinary lay people when chosen to speak and act in God's name. As the result of our baptism, each of us has a duty to work for the missions in our own special way and in our own particular place.

MASS FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL - THEME: *Share Your Faith*

ON WISDOM!

For want of something to read during the summer I decided to turn my attention to the Bible. I have always been fascinated by the old gems of wisdom that I sometimes hear in conversation such as "there's no fool like an old fool", and "You can't suck blood from a turnip!", to mention but a few., so I turned my attention to the Bible and going to the book of proverbs I was quietly surprised when I found some of the following, you may not always agree with them but they are there.

In chapter 3, verse 27 to 35, I found,

"Refuse no kindness to those who have right to it, if it is in your power to perform it.

Do not say to your neighbour, 'Go away! Come back another time! I will give it to you tomorrow, if you can do it now. Do not envy the man of

violence, never model your conduct on his; for the wilful wrongdoer is abhorrent to Yahweh. Glory is the portion of the wise, all that fools inherit is contempt."

In Chapter 4:18 & 19, I found "The Path of the upright is like the light of dawn, its brightness growing to the fullness of day; the way of the wicked is dark as night, they cannot tell the obstacles they stumble over."

In 4:24 we find, "Turn your back on the mouth that misleads, keep your distance from your lips that deceive".

In chapter 5:15&16,

"Drink the water from your own storage well, fresh water from your own spring."

The above refers to ones own inner strength.

In chapter 6, the writer tells the idler to go to the ant, making the point that the ant is always busy, the Idler isn't.

Later in Chapter 6, the writer tells of 7 things that God hates, listing them as, A haughty look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that weaves and picks plots, feet that hurry to do evil, a false witness who lies with every breath, and one who sows dissension among brothers and sisters.

Next week I'll show you some more words of wisdom from the book of proverbs.

Fr. Pat

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST:

Wishing to share our gift of faith, let us ask God to hear our prayers that the Holy Spirit inspires us to make.

READER:

That no believer in Christ will avoid the supreme duty of bearing witness to the faith.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

That relations with non-Christians will be marked by mutual understanding and respect

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

That many will generously respond to the call to be missionaries.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

That those who work in mission territories will be supported by the prayers and sacrifices of believers.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

That those among us from other countries will experience true Christian kindness.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

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

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

PRIEST:

God of love, you want all people to be saved. As we thank you for the gift of knowing you as Father, we ask you to hear these prayers we make through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

THE NEED TO PRAY CONTINUALLY (GOSPEL)

St Thérèse is Patroness of the Missions because of her prayer for missionaries, especially for the two priests she 'adopted', in China and Malawi. Today's readings show the importance of continuous prayer.

The task that missionaries do is the task of every Christian - to make Christ known.

They deserve and need the support of our prayer.

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

Sunday 21st October 2001

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER**BAPTISMS**

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



Aaron Bullen, 43, Aylsbury
Aaron Tiernan Meade-O'Hanlon, 8, Whitethorn Dr.
Aisling Sheila Keane, 49 Daffodil Fields
Kellie O'Donovan, 37, Leeview
Dillon James Fitzgerald, 17 Innishmore Sq.

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Trevor Brady, 90 Castlepark &
Martine Canning, 31, Leedale Drive
Patrick Dooley, Abbeyleix &
Pauline Dineen, 4, Carrigdena
Stephen Calnan, Poulavone &
Colette Scully, Ardfenane, Co. Tipperary



+

IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:

Margaret O'Leary, Ovens & Dripsey
Gene Galvin, Dunmanway
Frederick Joyce, Dublin
Nellie Hegarty, Ballinlough
Sean O'Brien, Wilton
Betty Kelleher, Wilton
Noreen Corcoran, Ballyphehane
Ciarán Murray, Killiney, Co. Dublin
John Hogan, Dunmore East & Ballinlough

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

Maurice O'Connor, Castlegregory
John Browne, North Mall
John O'Callaghan, Fr. Sexton Park
Patrick Lehane, Terelton
John Moynihan, Knockburden
Denis J. Callanan, Innishmore Court
Barbara Lambe, Wearby, England
Jack Foley, Waterfall
Eileen & Thomas Egan, Cork
Patrick Hayden, London
Bernard Gilleran, Roscommon
theresa & Michael Gilleran, Ballinlough
Eamonn Murphy, Co. Mayo
Mary Harrington, Douglas St.
Digby Daunt, 5, Leo Murphy Terrace
Maureen Burke, Southern Road
Michael O'Connor, Bishopstown
Joe Le Blanc, Main Street
Sean Keating, Cathedral Road & Lissarda
Bernie Creed, Ballyhooley
Jim Kavanagh, Powdermills
Tim Coakley, Castlehaven
Den O'Sullivan, Killorglin
Jeremiah & Mary Buttimer, Kilmichael
Michael Barry-Murphy
Pat & Mary Twomey, Ballyburden
Dan & Margaret Lynch, Ballydehob
John Leech
William O'Dwyer, Kilmichael
Pat & John Sheehan, Coachford
Maurice O'Connor, Castlegregory

SAINTS THIS WEEK

23 Tuesday - John of Capistrano, 1386-1456, studied civil and canon law and joined the Franciscan Order. Faithful servant of four popes. In a battle at Belgrade he contracted fever and died there. Patron saint of jurists and military chaplains.

24 Wednesday - St. Anthony Mary Claret, 1807-1870, founded the Claretians in Spain for missionary work. Was made Archbishop of Santiago, Cuba. Returned as chaplain to the Queen of Spain, and built schools and museums, before being exiled with the monarchy.

25 Thursday - Bl. Thaddeus MacCarthy, was born in 1455. His appointment as Bishop of Ross was opposed and Innocent VIII then appointed him Bishop of Cork and Cloyne. He set out as a humble pilgrim to Rome where he was confirmed as bishop of Cork and Cloyne. On his return journey in 1492 he died at Ivrea in Italy.

27 Saturday - St. Otteran, a descendant of Conall Gulban, is usually identified with Odhran who preceded Colum Cille in Iona. His death is recorded in 548 and his grave was greatly revered in Iona. He was chosen by the Vikings as patron of the city of Waterford in 1096 and later patron of the diocese.

TWENTY-NINTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**21 Sunday Deut. 10:17-19. Ps. 120. 2 Tim. 3:14-4:2.****Lk. 10:17-24. Mission Sunday - Theme : Share your faith.**

"A radical conversion in thinking is required in order to become a missionary, and this holds true both for individuals and entire communities. The Lord is always calling us to come out of ourselves and to share with others the goods we possess, starting with the most precious gift of all - our faith. The effectiveness of the Church's organisations, movements, parishes and apostolic works must be measured in the light of this missionary imperative." *Redemptoris Missio*, 49.

22 Monday Rom. 4:20-25. Ps. Lk. 12:13-21. Lect II:376

Abraham's faith in God's promise never wavered. It is a model for ours. We place our faith in the mighty saviour who would free us from our sins.

23 Tuesday Rom. 5:12,15,17-19. Ps. 39. Lk. 12:35-38. Lect II:378

Jesus Christ restores life to those who have inherited death through another man. The power of grace is greater than the inclination to sin.

24 Wednesday Rom. 6:12-18. Ps. 123. Lk. 12:39-48. Lect II:380

We are still subject to natural human inclinations that can lead to sin. But Christ has freed us from evil so as to restore us to God.

25 Thursday Rom. 6:19-23. Ps. 1. Lk. 12:49-53. Lect II:382

The sinner earns death as the wages of sin. The Christian has been given new life, has been sanctified, but has to live out this holiness in practice, and grow in sanctity.

26 Friday Rom. 7:18-25. Ps. 118. Lk. 12:54-59. Lect II:384

The powerful force of sin is such that the Christian can be torn between what is known to be the right thing and the attraction of sin. Personal responsibility for evil and good still remain, but the Spirit can transform the body into the likeness of the Risen Christ in a new life of uprightness and holiness.

27 Saturday Rom. 8:1-11. Ps. 23. Lk. 13:1-9. Lect II:386

The Christian is enabled to live for God by the vitalising power of the Holy Spirit. Through this power the follower of Christ will bring forth much fruit.

CROWLEY'S FUNERAL HOME

BALLINCOLLIG

Telephone: 021-4874777

Mobile: 087-2759254

**FLORAL TRIBUTES,
FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING
REMOVALS TO ALL CHURCHES
CREMATION AND
REPATRIATION ARRANGED**

*For personal attention contact
Michael or Patricia*

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

Sunday 21st October 2001

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER**BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB****MENS RESULTS**

The Div. 2 Men's Team started off their week well with a good win over the Garda Team last Tuesday night. In a hard fought and evenly matched game, the score line changed frequently, however, Ballincollig proved to be the stronger of the two teams and put in a great finish to swing the score in their favour and win the game.

Thursday night in Neptune Stadium was a very successful night for four out of our five teams. First up were our Un-11 and Un-13 Teams. The Un-11 Ballincollig Boys had the first win of the night. They took an early lead against Neptune who came back well in the second half, but, despite some strong play by their opponents, the Ballincollig lads held onto their comfortable lead for the win.

There is some great new talent coming through to this team from the nursery and they look to have a bright future.

Our Un-13 Team had a slightly shaky start to their match when they let their Neptune counterparts get ahead. However as the second half commenced, Ballincollig really knuckled down and by the last quarter of the game were after pulling ahead by a good margin for the win.

The Un-15 Boys had a tough match against Neptune which saw the score line see-saw between the two teams. As both teams were evenly matched they were giving very little away, and it was due to Ballincollig's determination that they found that bit extra in the last quarter to pull ahead by those vital points and win the game.

Our Un-17 Men's Team was not as lucky in their game as they were up against a very strong Neptune Team. Although Ballincollig did begin to get back into the game in the second half, they had left it too late and the win went to Neptune.

The Div. 2 Men's Team had another very close and hard fought game with some good performances all round, but Ballincollig's more accurate throwing resulted in them pulling away from Neptune in the last minutes of the game for a well deserved win.

Our Un-17 Team were again lacking the experience needed when they played Blue Demons last Saturday in Parochial Hall. After an enthusiastic start, our lads just could not keep up the pace and left the way open for Demons to win the game.

LADIES RESULTS

This week our Ladies teams did not fare well in any of their home games against their three Skibbreen counterparts. Both the Un-15 and Un-16 Girls did their best in their games but on the night Skibb seemed to have the upper hand and won all three games. They took advantage of the fact that several of the Un-15 Girls also play on the Un-16 Team and were obviously tired from their first game. The Intermediate Ladies had a better game, playing well in the second half but they were unable to catch up with Skibb's lead.

BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB TRAINING TIMES

Mondays:	6.00 - 7.00pm U15 Boys	Saturdays:	11.00 - 12.00 Nursery/Beginners Girls
	7.30 - 8.30pm Intermediate Ladies		12.00 - 1.00pm U12 Girls
	8.30 - 10.00pm U17 Boys		
Tuesdays:	6.00 - 7.00pm U13Boys	Sundays:	10.00 - 11.00 Nursery/Beginners Boys
Wednesdays:	6.00 - 7.00pm U19 Boys		11.00 - 12.00 U18 Girls
Fridays:	6.00 - 7.00pm U11 Boys		12.00 - 1.00pm Junior Ladies (U19)
	7.00 - 8.00pm U15/U16 Girls		
	8.00 - 9.00pm U14 Girls		

MENS FIXTURES

Tuesday October 23rd - Mallow Youth Club	
7.00pm Mallow v Ballincollig	Un-13
Friday October 26th - Parochial Hall	
6.30pm Iona v Ballincollig	Un-17
Saturday October 27th - Parochial Hall	
11.00am Glanmire v Ballincollig	Un-13

LADIES FIXTURES

Thursday October 18th - Parochial Hall	
7.30pm Glanmire v Ballincollig	Inter
Monday October 22nd - Donoughmore	
8pm Donoughmore v Ballincollig	Jun I
Thursday October 25th - Parochial Hall	
6.30pm Brunell v Ballincollig	Un-12
Saturday October 27th - B.C.S., Ballincollig	
2.30pm Ballincollig v Glanmire	Un-12
3.30pm Ballincollig v Glanmire	Un-14
4.30pm Ballincollig v Glanmire	Un-15
5.30pm Ballincollig v Glanmire	Un-16

Sunday 21st October 2001

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

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: 10.00, 6pm (Vigil)</p>	<p>ROSARY RECITED AT BOTH CHURCHES EACH SUNDAY 3.00P.M.</p> <p><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>SACRISTY SERVICES <i>Before and after all Masses Sundays & Weekdays</i></p> <p><u>CHURCH OF ST. MARY & ST. JOHN</u></p> <p>- Mass Card Signing - Requests for Baptism/Marriage Certs, etc.</p> <p><u>CHRIST OUR LIGHT</u></p> <p>- Mass Card Signing -</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 P.P. 021-4871206

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

Fr. Paul O'Donoghue 021-4876055

Fr. John O'Donovan

**ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG
PRIESTS SOCIETY**

Monthly meeting of the
St. Joseph's Young Priests Society
will be held in the
Community Hall (upstairs) on
Monday 22nd October at 8p.m.

*All members and
subscribers welcome*

AUTUMN DUES

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

**SUTTONS OIL**
HOME HEATING OIL

- Commercial
- Agricultural

Centre Park Road, Cork

Tel: 021-4911700

Fax: 021-4911701

*Home Heating Budget**Payment Plan*

Sunday 21st October 2001

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

TASTE AND SEE

The praise of the Lord is always on my lips.
 Come and rejoice with me,
 For he is ever gracious and kind,
 All who are discouraged take heart!
 I cried out to the Lord in my anguish
 and he responded.
 I shed tears in vexation over the hassle
 I went through,
 But he was near me, my firm support.
 What the Lord has accomplished for me,
 he can fulfil in you.
 He is close to the broken-hearted.
 Those whose spirits are crushed he will save.
 Enter into his presence,
 He will fill your emptiness with abundance,
 Strengthen your weakness with his power.
 Taste and prove it; the Lord is good.
 He is very near to those who suffer,
 He reaches out to rescue those
 battered down by despair.
 'Why do the faithful ones have to suffer?'
 the anxious query of innocent souls.
 'Taste and see that the Lord is good.
 They are happy who seek refuge in him.'

Reflection from Psalm No. 34

INVITATION TO JESUS

Lord Jesus you welcomed me
 saying "Knock and the door
 will be opened unto you"
 Tonight Lord Jesus
 I welcome you
 into the home of my heart
 Help me wash its windows
 until they shine like crystal
 so through them
 you can point the way
 Help me to dust down things
 so I can bring into my heart
 and see their beauty and
 you can show me the truth
 When all seems dull, stay
 and be the light
 in the home of my heart
 So that by your light
 your truth and your way
 cannot be hidden

MINISTERS OF THE WORD OCT. 27TH/28TH

GOD MAY BE CALLING

Buds tightly closed remind us of childhood.
 Petals half-open remind us of youth.
 Petals in full bloom remind us of middle age.
 Petals gently falling remind us
 God may soon be calling
 -Sr. Mary Michael

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN

CHRIST OUR LIGHT

6.00p.m. (Vigil) - Muireann Nelligan	8.00p.m. (Vigil) - Jacinta Jeffers
8.30a.m. - Annette Collins	11.00a.m. - Jack Dorgan
10.00a.m. - Rebecca Lynch	12.30p.m. - Margaret Healy
12 Noon - Oliver O'Donovan	5.30p.m. - Margaret Murphy

E N
X S
T N

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

27th /28th October 2001

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



SATURDAY 27TH
 6p.m.
 Patsy Murphy
 Breda Foley
 Geraldine Graham
 Jim Healy
 Geraldine Hegarty
 Cathy Horgan

SUNDAY 28TH
 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 27TH
 8p.m.
 John O'Donoghue
 Eleanor O'Donoghue
 Kathleen Daly

SUNDAY 28TH
 11a.m.
 Robert Wade
 Mary O'Mahony
 Margaret Brown
 Rose Cotter

12.30p.m.
 Brid Dolan
 Peggy Sheehan
 Pat Manning
 Terry O'Driscoll
 Bernie O'Driscoll

5.30p.m.
 Garreth Irish
 Shelia Curran
 Statia O'Callaghan

Sunday 21st October 2001

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

People with Disabilities in Ireland Ltd

41, Penrose Wharf, Penrose Quay, Cork. Tel: 021-4551986 Fax: 021-4551696 E-mail: corkcity@pwdi.org

A DISCUSSION ON THE PROMISED DISABILITY BILL

*Will the Promised Disability Bill
Give Equality to all People with Disabilities?*

Cork Networks of People with Disabilities in Ireland
invite you to attend an

OPEN DAY

at Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork
on Sunday 21st October at 2.00p.m.

Everybody Welcome

Special Bus leaves Bus Station at 1.00p.m.

Returns from Rochestown Park at 5.30p.m.

Ballincollig Adult Learners Group



The Ballincollig Adult Learners Group provides free and confidential tuition for adults experiencing literacy difficulties.

We are now recruiting Volunteer Tutors to help us meet the increasing needs of our Learners.

Would you like to help?

Each Volunteer Tutor works with a learner for 1.5-2 hours weekly.
Full Training is provided.

We are beginning another Tutor Training Course on Monday 22nd October. It will continue for 8 Mondays (7.30pm-9.30pm)
The Course is certified by the Cork County Vocational Education Committee.

To enrol as a Volunteer Tutor, please phone Alan at 7334539
or Phil at 4295144

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

Sunday 21st October 2001

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

THE HOLY FATHER'S MESSAGE FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY OCTOBER 21ST 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

1. With intimate joy we celebrated the Great Jubilee of salvation, a time of grace for the whole Church. Divine mercy, experienced by each of the faithful, prompts us to "put into the deep", remembering with gratitude the past, living with passion the present and looking forward with confidence to the future, convinced that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever" (Heb 13,8) (cf. Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio ineunte*, n. 1). This tending towards the future, illuminated by hope, must be the basis of all Church activity in the new millennium. This is the message that I wish to address to every Catholic on the occasion of Mission Sunday, which will be celebrated on 21 October.

2. It is time, indeed, to look forward, keeping our eyes set on the face of Jesus (cf. Heb. 12,2). The Spirit calls us to "direct our thoughts to the future which lies before us" (*Novo Millennio ineunte*, n. 3), to witness and to proclaim Christ, giving thanks "for the 'marvels' the Lord has worked for us: 'Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo' (Ps 89,2)" (ibid., n. 2). On the occasion of Mission Sunday last year, I reminded you that missionary commitment is born of ardent contemplation of Jesus. A Christian who has contemplated Jesus Christ cannot fail to be captivated by his radiance (cf. *Vita consecrata*, n. 14) and to commit himself to bearing witness to his faith in Christ, the only Saviour of mankind.

Contemplation of the face of the Lord leads the disciples to contemplate the faces of the men and women of today: the Lord identifies himself in fact with "the least of my brothers" (cf. Mt 25,40.45). Contemplation of Jesus "the first and greatest evangelizer" (*Evangelii nuntiandi*, n. 7) transforms us into evangelizers. It makes us aware of his desire to give eternal life to those entrusted to him by the Father (cf. Jn 17,2). God wants "all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tm 2,4) and Jesus knew that the Father's will for him was that he should announce the Kingdom of God to other towns: "for I was sent for this purpose" (Lk 4,43).

The fruit of contemplating the "least of his brothers" is the discovery that every person, although in a way which is mysterious for us, is in search of God, by whom he or she is created and loved. His first disciples discovered this: "[Lord], everyone is searching for you" (Mk 1,37). And the "Greeks", on behalf of future generations, exclaim: "We wish to see Jesus" (Jn 12,21). Yes, Christ is the true light that illuminates every person who comes into this world (cf. Jn 1,9): mankind searches for him, "feeling after him" (Acts 17,27), drawn by an inner attraction the origin of which they themselves do not know. It is hidden in the heart of God, where there beats a desire for universal salvation. Of this, God makes us witnesses and heralds. For this purpose he fills us, like in a new Pentecost, with the fire of his Spirit, with his love and with his presence: "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28,20).

3. Another fruit of the Great Jubilee is the attitude that the Lord asks of every Christian, to look ahead with faith and with hope. The Lord does us the honour of placing his confidence in us and calling us to the ministry, showing us his mercy (cf. 1 Tm 1,12.13). This call is not reserved for a few, it is for everyone, each in his own state of life. In the Apostolic letter *Novo Millennio ineunte* I wrote in this regard: "This passion will not fail to stir in the Church a new sense of mission, which cannot be left to a group of 'specialists' but must involve the responsibility of all the members of the People of God. Those who have come into genuine contact with Christ cannot keep him for themselves, they must proclaim him. A new apostolic outreach is needed, which will be lived as the everyday commitment of Christian communities and groups.... Christ must be presented to all people with confidence. We shall address adults, families, young people, children, without ever hiding the most radical demands of the Gospel message, but taking into account each person's needs in regard to their sensitivity and language, after the example of Paul who declared: 'I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some' (1 Cor 9,22)" (n. 40).

The call to mission acquires a singular urgency, particularly if we look at that part of humanity which still does not know Christ or recognize him. Yes, brothers and sisters, mission *ad gentes* is today more than ever valid. I hold impressed on my heart the face of humanity that I have been able to contemplate during my pilgrimages: this is the face of Christ reflected in that of the poor and the suffering; the face of Christ mirrored in those who live like "sheep without a shepherd" (Mk 6,34). Every man and woman has the right to be taught "many things" (ibid.).

Faced with the evidence of human fragility and insufficiency, the human temptation, for the apostle too, is to send people away. Instead, it is at this very moment that, contemplating the face of the Beloved, each of us must listen again to the words of Jesus: "There is no need for them to disperse.

Give them something to eat yourselves" (cf. Mt 14,16; Mk 6,37). In this way we will experience at the same time both human weakness and the Lord's grace. Aware of the inevitable fragility which marks us profoundly, we feel the need to render thanks to God for what he has done in us and for all that, in his grace, he will still do.

Sunday 21st October 2001

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

4. How can we fail to recall, in these circumstances, all the missionaries, priests, religious and laity who have made mission ad gentes and ad vitam their reason for living? With their very life they proclaim "without end the graces of the Lord" (Ps 89). Not rarely this "without end" has come to the point of bloodshed: how numerous were the "witnesses to the faith" in the last century! It is also thanks to their generous giving of self that the Kingdom of God was able to grow. To them goes our grateful remembrance, accompanied by our prayer. Their example gives stimulus and support to all the faithful who can take courage seeing themselves "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Heb 12,1) who with their deeds and words made and continue to make the Gospel resound on every continent.

Yes, brothers and sisters, we cannot remain silent about what we have seen and heard (cf. Acts 4,20). We have seen the work of the Spirit and the glory of God show themselves in weakness (cf. II Cor 12; I Cor 1). Still today numerous men and women with their dedication and their sacrifice are for us eloquent manifestations of God's love. From them we receive the faith and we, in turn, are urged on to be announcers and witnesses of the Mystery.

5. Mission is "the joyful proclamation of a gift meant for all, and to be offered to all with the greatest respect for the freedom of each one: the gift of the revelation of the God who is Love, the God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son' (Jn 3,16).... The Church therefore cannot forgo her missionary activity among the peoples of the world. It is the primary task of the missio ad gentes to announce that it is in Christ, "the Way, and the Truth, and the Life' (Jn 14,6), that people find salvation" (Novo Millennio ineunte, n. 56). This is an invitation to all, it is an urgent call that deserves an immediate and generous answer. We must set out! We must set out without delay, like Mary, the Mother of Jesus; like the shepherds, stirred by the first announcement of the Angel; like Mary Magdalene at the sight of the Risen Lord. "At the beginning of this new century, our steps must quicken as we travel the highways of the world.... The Risen Christ asks us to meet him as it were once more in the Upper Room where, on the evening of "the first day of the week' (Jn 20,19) he appeared to his disciples in order to "breathe' on them his life-giving Spirit and launch them on the great adventure of proclaiming the Gospel" (ibid., n. 58).

6. Dear brothers and sisters! Mission demands prayer and concrete commitment. Many are the needs for a capillary diffusion of the Gospel.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the institution of Mission Sunday by Pope Pius XI, who accepted a request by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith to "establish "a day of prayer and propaganda for the missions' to be celebrated on the same day in every diocese, parish and institute of the Catholic world ... and to encourage offerings for the missions" (Sacred Congregation of Rites: Institution of Mission Sunday, 14 April 1926. AAS 19 (1927), p. 23 ff.). Since then Mission Sunday has been a special occasion to remind the whole People of God of the permanent validity of the missionary mandate, since "missionary activity is a matter for all Christians, for all dioceses and parishes, Church institutions and associations" (Encyclical Letter Redemptoris Missio, n. 2). It is at the same time an opportune circumstance to reaffirm that "the missions ask not only for a contribution but for a sharing in the work of preaching and charity towards the poor. All that we have received from God life itself as well as material goods does not belong to us" (ibid., n. 81). This Day is important in the life of the Church "because it teaches how to give: as an offering made to God in the Eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world" (ibid.). May this anniversary be then an opportune occasion to reflect on the need for greater, common effort to promote the missionary spirit and collect the necessary material aid which missionaries need.

7. In the homily for the closing of the Great Jubilee, on 6 January 2001, I said: "We need to set out anew from Christ with the zeal of Pentecost, with renewed enthusiasm. To set out from him above all in a daily commitment to holiness, with an attitude of prayer and listening to his word. To set out from him in order to testify to his Love" (n. 8).

Therefore:

Set out anew from Christ, you who have found mercy.

Set out anew from Christ, you who have forgiven and been forgiven.

Set out anew from Christ, you who have known pain and suffering.

Set out anew from Christ, you who are tempted by tepidity: the year of grace is endless.

Set out anew from Christ, Church of the new millennium.

Sing as you go! (cf. Closing rite of the Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord 2001).

May Mary, Mother of the Church, Star of Evangelization, accompany us on our journey, as she remained with the disciplines on the day of Pentecost. To her we turn with confidence. Through her intercession may the Lord grant us the gift of perseverance in our missionary duty, which is a matter for the entire Church community.

With these sentiments I bless you.

JOHN PAUL II