Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King
Jesus, the Lord of all creation cared so much for those in his domain, that he was willing to die, in order to care for them. Those who will finally belong to him, will be those who have shared his care for the hungry, the naked, the lost, the crippled and the strays of this world.

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. The Readings challenge us to reflect on what the Kingship of Jesus really means and how it relates to our lives today. The first reading and the responsorial psalm show us an image of God leading his people as a caring shepherd. Is my trust in God like the trust that a shepherd has in its shepherd? In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that when he comes as King to judge the living and the dead, we will be judged on our actions of loving service. He himself gives us the example - he did not come into this world to be served but to serve - and gave his life for us.

On the day of Judgement Jesus will say to those who were faithful: “For I was hungry, and you gave me food; thirsty and you gave me drink; naked and you clothed me; a stranger and you welcomed me; ill and you cared for me: in prison and you visited me.” They will ask: “Lord, when did we do any of this for You?” And Jesus will reply, “Whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me!”

Who are the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, the stranger and the imprisoned among us today? We think of those who hunger not only for physical needs, but also for spiritual, psychological and emotional nourishment. Many today are thirsting for God; also for love, acceptance, friendship, a listening ear. The strangers in our midst can be people experiencing isolation, exclusion; or newcomers to our neighbourhood that we make welcome; there are people imprisoned within themselves, through loneliness, fear, rejection or loss of hope about the meaning of their lives.

While reflecting on this Gospel, I found these words of Jesus very challenging: “in so far as you neglected to ‘reach out to these brothers and sisters of mine’ you neglected to do it to me”. Christ our King is here today in this parish community standing before us in a very real and questioning way. There may not be anything majestic about his appearance, but do I recognize him disguised in all who are in need and who suffer in so many different ways?

We pray to recognize him under the human disguise of all our brothers and sisters and to find ways to be of help to those who need us. On our day of Judgement, we will then hope to hear those words of Jesus: “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world!”

Sr. Colette

Advent Retreat
The Ballincollig Advent Retreat will be held in the Church of Christ Our Light on 10th, 11th and 12th December, 2008 at 8.00 pm. The Retreat will be conducted by the Redemptorists who will speak at all Masses on Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th December.

Reflection for Parents
It is easy to see the meaning of this gospel through our actions toward our children. Never in true thirst or hunger would we deny them. If they were sick or cold we would take care of them ourselves or see to it that someone helped us. It's taking this gospel to the next level that will help our children see the meaning of love through our example. Not only will they witness love through our loving actions toward others, but there will be many opportunities along the way to have our children share in these actions of love.

Priest
We present our prayers to the Lord, our Shepherd, who will leave us want for nothing.

Reader
That the Church and its leaders follow the path of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

That those who are hungry and thirsty may be given food and drink.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may open our arms to receive the stranger and that those who leave this country may receive hospitality in other lands.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

That those who are sick may experience the Lord’s healing touch.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

That those who are in prison may see the Lord in those who visit and care for them.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

That those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith may be brought to life in Christ.

Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie
BAPTISMS

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

Jasmine Mary O’Sullivan, The Green, Coolroe Meadows.
Christopher White, Leeview.
Darragh Fionn Halpin, Williamson Meadows, Tower.
Wiktoria Klaudia, Willowgrove.
Kornelius Malka, The Avenue, Willowgrove.
Szymon Sliwiviski, Glincool Grove.
Cillian John O’Donovan, Willowgrove.

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Mary O’Sullivan, Kealkil, Bantry.
Charles O’Leary, Ministers Cross.
Dan Jo O’Leary, Doneraile.
Buzz Stephens, Pensylvania, U.S.A.

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

Hugh Collins, Dunmanway & Innishmore Drive.
William Berry.
Con & Kathleen O’Sullivan.
Teresa, Derry & Declan Lynch.
Maureen & Tadhg O’Callaghan, The Lough.
Willie Murphy, Kilmichael.
Tommy Daly, Leemount.
Timothy O’Callaghan, Carrigrohane Road.
John Hegarty, McCurtain Villas.
Kathleen O’Connor, Oaklands.
Margaret O’Connor, Dublin.
Con O’Brien, Lissarda.
Kevin McCarthy, Rosewood.
Michael & Johanna Hennigan, Woodbine Lawn.
Eileen O’Flynn, Lyras, Aherla.
Thomas Farrell, Beech Park.
Mary Kelleher, Castleknock.
Timmy Moynihan, England.
Paddy Forde, Castlepark.
William Vaughan, Kilnamatyr.
Brendan O’Sullivan, Glendower Court.
Henry & Nellie Thornhill, Skibbereen.
Denis O’Mahony, South Douglas Road.
John White, Inniscarra View.
Denis Carroll, Knockanroc, Cloughduv.
Kitty, Denis & William O’Mahony, Tudor Grove.
Nora Coughlan, Ballydehob.
Phil Coughlan, Tower Street.
Deceased Members of the Coughlan Family, Tower Street.
Mollie Casey & Family, Boston.
Teresa Devane, Annascaul, Co. Kerry.
Josie, Grace, & Nan Hallihan, Powdermills.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Last Week In Ordinary Time

23 Sunday Ez. 34:11-12, 15-17. Ps. 22. 1 Car. 15:20-26, 28. Mt. 25:31-46. Lect I: 729

Next Sunday’s Readings 30-November-2008

Talk by Fr. Sean O’Sullivan

Date: Tuesday 25th November
Time: 8 pm.
Place: The Scout Hall.
The new Church year will begin on the First Sunday of Advent (30th Nov.)
The Sunday gospel readings throughout the year will be those of Year B, which is the Year of Mark.
Fr. Sean’s talk will be centered on the background and composition of Mark’s gospel.
All are welcome

Cork Simon Community

Will hold their Annual Flag Day Collections in Cork City and Suburbs on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th of November. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated. If you could assist with our collections please contact Niamh @ 021-4377643 or email: niamh@corksimoncommunity.ie

Cork Domestic Violence Interagency Group

Are hosting an Exhibition highlighting the issue of Violence Against Women During the “16 Days Against Violence Against Women” “In Her Shoes”
In The Cork Vision Centre at Saint Peters, North Main Street
Cork: 4th - 13th December
10 am to 5 pm Tuesday to Saturday
Cuanlee Refuge - 4277698
Court Services Domestic Violence Social Work Service
Edel House Gardai
Legal Aid Board Mná Feasa O.S.S.
Cork Sophia Housing Association

Festival of Flowers

Ballincollig Flower and Garden Club festival of flowers ‘The Magnificat’ at the Church of St Mary and St John concludes today Viewing time 1 pm to 6 pm, followed by the closing ceremony. Admission is €10 which will include a souvenir programme. All proceeds of the festival will go towards the National Council for the Blind, COPE Foundation, and restoration of the Magnificat Script in the Church of St Mary and St John.

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Ezek. 34:11-12, 15-17
The divine shepherd keeps all of the flock in view and cares especially for those who stray.

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 28
Christ our Saviour is Lord of the universe. Everything is subject to him.

On this final Sunday of the Church year, the feast of Christ the King, we learn most definitely how our lives will be measured. They will be measured by the love we show. Whenever we offer a drink of water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, or whenever we visit the sick or imprisoned, or take in the stranger, we show our love to God. Through our actions toward the poor, vulnerable, estranged and discouraged we show our love of God. If we ignore these people, we also ignore God.

A Winter Road Safety Message

Primary Road Safety Winter Hazards
- Reduced visibility
- Glare of sun due being lower in the skyline
- Shorter days/ lower levels of daylight,
- Fallen leaves, rain and ice creating wet and slippery surfaces.

Pedestrians & Cyclists
- Be Seen - Light Up
- Wear Bright Reflective Clothing
- Stay on designated cycle and pedestrian pathways where possible
- Take extra care crossing at road junctions

Driver Safety
- Allow more Time for your Trip
- Reduce Speed / Slow Down
- Check and Switch on Lights (even during day time)
- Check Your Tyre Grip & Air Pressure
- Carry De-Icing Materials

Open Public

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
Friday 28th November, 2008
Venue: Gresham Metropole Hotel, MacCurtain Street
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Format: Members sharing their stories of recovery (followed by Tea / Coffee)
Please come along - you will be most welcome, whether you, yourself, have an eating disorder or if you feel you know someone who has.

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The next Baptism preparation will take place on Saturday December 6th in the Library Room, Community Hall, Station Road at 1 pm. The presentation lasts for approximately forty minutes. The following questions are addressed, what is Baptism? What are the symbols used in the Sacrament of Baptism? How can the family become involved in the ceremony? We recommend parents book baptisms a few weeks in advance in order to give ample time to take part in the preparation.

Children's Mass
The Children's Mass continues every Sunday at 11 am in Christ Our Light. The Children of 2nd class retire to the crying room at the beginning of Mass where they celebrate Liturgy of the Word in child friendly fashion, do word, colouring and maze searches. Volunteers are welcome to help. Training and practice will be given. Parents are welcome to join their Children, especially Parents of Children who are now preparing for their First Holy Communion.

Envelope Collection
Marriage Counselling Services
CMCC provides a range of marriage-care services including pre-marriage courses and marriage counselling in Cork city. Accord Bantry meets the needs of people in that area. This collection helps fund these services. CMCC is an agency of CRSS Ltd. Accord is an agency of the Irish Bishops' Conference. This Weekend 22nd & 23rd November 2008

Mass Book
Diaries to book Mass Intentions for January, February & March will open in both Churches on Saturday 13th December at 9 am (Please note date change)

Autumn Dues
The Priests of the Parish would like to thank you for returning the Autumn Dues Envelopes. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Christmas Cards
Christmas Cards are available for sale in the Parish Office.

St. Oliver’s Cemetery
The new extension to St Oliver’s Cemetery is now open. The Co. Council are now selling plots, anybody interested please contact Mr. Lane the caretaker at St Oliver’s phone 021 4873709

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

Fr. George

Muskerry Local History Society
November LECTURE
A Journey of Remembrance.
A talk on the need for remembrance of the Irish Soldiers from the Island of Ireland who fought in Great War “At the going down of the sun and in the morning we shall remember Them”.

Speaker:- Jerry Conroy, Military Historian.
Venue:- Ballincollig Rugby Club, Function Hall
Date & Time:- Tuesday 25th November @ 8 pm
Please note date change.
Admission:- €2.00 for non members
Everyone most welcome.
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Call in and discuss your options with our friendly staff or call us on (01) 4872305

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.