

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 24-February-2008

Third Sunday of Lent

When Jesus asked the woman of Samaria for water to drink he had already prepared her for the gift of faith. In his thirst to receive her faith he awakened in her heart the fire of God's love. We pray for those who are preparing for this baptism.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

A Courageous Woman

This week's gospel story featuring the courage of the Samaritan Woman at the Well prompted me to share this forthright open letter, addressed to all Christians, written by a courageous mother. It gives a most compassionate insight into the pain that homophobia can cause. I found it to be a moving testimony, and a challenge for all who claim to be Christian.

"I am the mother of a gay son and I've taken enough menace from people claiming to have the moral high ground. I'm tired of your foolish rhetoric about the "homosexual agenda" and your allegations that accepting homosexuality is the same thing as advocating sex with children. You are cruel and ignorant. You have been robbing me of the joys of motherhood ever since my children were tiny.

My firstborn son started suffering at the hands of little thugs from Christian, upright families from the time he was in Primary school. He was physically and verbally bullied right through Secondary school, because he was perceived to be gay. He never professed to be gay or had any association with anything gay, but he was called "queer" incessantly, starting when he was 8.

In his teens, while your children were doing what others that age should be doing, mine labored over a suicide note, drafting and redrafting it to be sure his family knew how much he loved them. My sobbing 17-year-old tore the heart out of me as he choked out that he just couldn't bear to continue living any longer, that he didn't want to be gay. I don't know why my son is gay, but I do know that God didn't put him, and millions like him, on this Earth to give you someone to abuse. At the core of all your misguided beliefs is the belief that this could never happen to you, that there is some kind of subculture out there that people have chosen to join.

If you want to tout your own morality, you'd best come up with something more substantive than your heterosexuality. You did nothing to earn it; it was given to you. My own heterosexuality was a blessing I received with no effort whatsoever on my part, it is so woven into the very soul of me, that nothing could ever change it. For those of you who reduce sexual orientation to a simple choice, a character issue, a bad habit or something that can be changed by a 10-step program, I'm puzzled. Are you saying that your own sexual orientation is nothing more than something you have chosen, that you could change it at will? If that's not the case, then why would you suggest that someone else can?

Some of you can't bear the thought that as my son emerges from the hell that was his childhood he might like to find a lifelong companion and have a measure of happiness. It offends your sensibilities that he should request the right to visit that companion in the hospital, to make medical decisions for him or to benefit from tax laws governing inheritance. You claim that these very human and civil rights would threaten the very existence of your family and would undermine the sanctity of marriage! However there are vast numbers of religious people who find your attitudes repugnant. God knows my son has been honest in accepting himself as the beautiful human person God has created".

A Loving Mother.

Sean O'Driscoll

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

In the first reading we hear God responding to the cry of the people of Israel in the desert. We make our petitions before the Lord, ever confident that our prayers will be heard.

Reader

We pray for the Church, that its leaders may lead the faithful in the proclamation of the gospel.

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

We pray for those who have not heard the gospel of Christ.

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

We pray for peace, especially for people in those countries who have lived under the shadow of violence for a long time.

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

We pray for families, that homes may be a place of nurturing and love.

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

We pray for the lonely and those who feel cut off from society.

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

May this Lent see a new awakening of a spirit of compassion and service among all the baptised.

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

Priest

God our Father, listen to the prayers we make in this Lenten season. Help us to turn out hearts towards you. We make these, and all our prayers, through Christ, your beloved son.

Amen.

O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Karen Santo Maduchie, Aisling Close, Ballincollig.
 Harry James Deasy-Boyle, Heather Walk, Shanakiel.
 James Richard Good, Hawthorn Ave, Inniscarra View.
 Darragh Edwin Murphy, "Coolavon", Poulavone.
 Cormac Jeremiah O'Gorman.The Close, Coolroe Meadows.
 Statia Daly, Aylsbury Downs.
 Oliver Tom McGovern, Carriganarra.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Tim Coleman, Ballinahina.
 John Duffy, The Cloisters.
 Suzanne Crosby.
 Seamus Scriven, Ballingeary.
 Dan Murphy, Bray & Knockburden.

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

James & Kathleen Whooley, Glanmire.
 Charles Mehigan, Greenmount.
 Denis Hegarty, Poulavone.
 Mary Drinan, Waterfall.
 Eileen & Ann Feehily, Upton.
 Maureen Callanan, West Village.
 Jack Dennehy, Castle View.
 Tim Cagney, Gardiner's Hill.
 Irene White, Leemount, Carrigrohane.
 Maurice, Charles & Dan O'Connor, Castlegregory.
 John Kelly, Beech Park.
 Patrick O'Leary, Currahenn & Ballypnehane.
 Mary O'Leary, AGLISH, Farran.
 Edward O'Sullivan, Glenleigh, Kilcorney.
 Tim O'Leary, Inchigeela.
 Marie Quinn, Muskerry Estate.
 Joseph & Mary Kearney, Beech Park.
 Michael Buckley, Castlepark.
 Mary Condon, Model Farm Road.
 Bridget Hegarty, Carrignavar.
 Catherine & Patrick Howard, Ballinlough.
 Tim Lucey, Prosperity Square.
 Mary Ann Sheehan, Blarney Street.
 Trevor Phillips, England.
 Jerry & Ellen O'Sullivan, Glanmire.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week of Lent

24 Sunday Ex. 17:3-7. Ps. 94. Rom. 5: 1-2, 5-8. In. 4:5-42. Lect I: 245
 25 Monday 2 Kgs. 5:1-15. Ps. 41. Lk. 4:24-30. Lect I: 262
 26 Tuesday Dan. 3:25,34-43. Ps. 24. Mt. 18:21-35. Lect I: 264
 27 Wednesday Deut. 4:1, 5-9. Ps. 147. Mt. 5:17-19. Lect I: 267
 28 Thursday Jer. 7:23-28. Ps. 94. Lk. 11:14-23. Lect I: 268
 29 Friday Hos. 14:2-10. Ps. 80. Mk. 12:28-34. Lect I: 271
 01 Saturday Hos. 5: 15-6:6. Ps. 50. Lk. 18:9-14. Lect I: 273

Next Sunday's Readings 02-March-2008

1 Sam. 16:6-7, 10-13. Ps. 22. Eph. 58-14. Jn. 9:1-41. Lect I: 276

Third Sunday In Lent - Water

Trócaire's Lenten Campaign this year is focusing on climate change and the issue of water. The water that is around us today is the same water that formed when earth began. No more can be added. We drink the same water that dinosaurs once swam in – the same water that was in Jacob's well.. Please remember to pick up a Trocaire box at the back of the church or go online to www.trocaire.org to see what else you can do.

Second Annual Butterfly Ball

"Cancer is a disease that unfortunately touches all our lives, no matter who you are. It's a devastating disease and part of the ethos of our charity is providing the best support for cancer patients and their family. This ball is our way of raising money to help the Irish Cancer Society with the invaluable work they do. They provide a Night Nursing service for critically ill patients with cancer in their home. This service is vital to relieve the difficulties that families experience during this time. Night Nursing allows the patient to remain at home, thereby maintaining the continuity of care that the patient has experienced, surrounded by their family and supported by the home care team. Night Nurses sit with the patient through the night, providing nursing care, practical support and reassurance. The Night Nursing service has now been extended to cover patients with cancer during stages other than terminal illness e.g. respite care. This allows the family time to rest and take a break from their very demanding caring role. Last year over 1,000 families throughout Ireland availed of the Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing service. It is currently provided for seventy hours, between 11 pm and 7 am. The service is free of charge." The Ball will be held on Saturday 8th March at the Radisson Hotel, Little Island, Cork and coincides with Daffodil Day on 7th March. Tickets may be purchased from Trish and the committee by contacting them on the following number: 021 4814172. You can also email butterflyswing@gmail.com.

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Rosewood Gallery

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

The Israelites grumbled against Moses for leading them out of Egypt. They were thirsty, and there was no water in the desert, so Moses struck a rock with his staff, and water flowed out for the people to drink.

Second Reading: John 4:5-42

"The love of God has been poured out into our hearts," and that love is immeasurable; "While we were still sinners Christ died for us."

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Jesus approached a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well and asked her for a drink of water. This surprised the woman for several reasons. In the first place, it was unlikely that a man would ask a woman for anything and even more unbelievable that Jesus, a Jew, would ask something of a Samaritan, a great enemy of the Jewish people. Jesus explained to her that our thirst would return if we drank water from the well; but if we drank the water Jesus offered us, we would never thirst again. After Jesus told her many things about herself, she came to believe that he was the Son of God and called others to him.

Bulletin Board

Baptism Preparation.

The next Baptism preparation will take place on Saturday March 8th at 1.00 pm, and will be held in the Community Hall, Station Rd. 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.

Diocese of Cork and Ross

Church Directory 2008 is for sale in both Churches. It contains Mass times, phone numbers, list of various services and other items of interest. Price €6.

Mass Book

Diaries to book Mass Intentions for April, May & June will open in both Churches on Saturday 8th March at 9 am.

Lenten Retreat

Ballincollig Lenten Retreat in Church of Christ Our Light 10th, 11th & 12th March 2008. Retreat will be conducted by the Redeptorists.

New Sacristan

Geraldine Drohan has taken up appointment as sacristan in St Mary & St John's. She comes from a highly respected and well known Ballincollig family. We wish her well and many fruitful years serving our parish.

This Week's Calendar

- Monday 25** Weekday (3rd Week of Lent)
- Tuesday 26** Lenten Weekday
- Wednesday 27** Lenten Weekday
- Thursday 28** Lenten Weekday
- Friday 29** Lenten Weekday

Saturday, 1 March – St David, patron saint of Wales, where he was abbot and bishop in the 6th century. Several Irish saints were his pupils and he is said to have influenced monastic development in Ireland. He died around 601.

Fr. George

Dare To Trust?

Explore the Wonder and Mystery of God's love in your life.

A series of Saturdays for Single Adults

Venue: Holy Trinity, Fr. Matthew Quay, Cork (Gathering in Third Order Chapel)

March 1st 10:45 am – 2:00 pm

April 5th 10:45 am – 2:00 pm

May 10th 10:45 am – 2:00 pm

Further information Sr. Bridget 0874167126

World Day of Prayer Service

This years service will take place in St. Mary & St. John's church on Friday March 7th at 10:30 am. Title of the service is "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding". It was prepared by the women of Guyana.

The speaker is Rev. Hazel Mihibh.

All are very welcome to this service.

Scout Notes

Last Sunday the Scout Troop climbed Torc Mountain in Kerry. The weather could not have been better, as the sun shone all the way up and down. Twenty Scouts and two leaders went on the trip; we parked the bus at the upper car park over Muckcross waterfalls and started climbing. We took our time, as not all of us were all that fit, but stopping so often had the advantage of looking around us and seeing how beautiful a place we were in. Having reached the top the scouts set up our mountain stoves and fried up sausages, some were quite crispy while others were black. After resting we headed back down, which is always easier. The trip back on the bus was a lot quieter with a lot of the lads taking a quick nap.

As our Scouts won the County Quiz, they went to the National Quiz, which was held in Larch Hill in Dublin, (which is Scouting Ireland's National Campsite). After a gruelling day of questions and scouting skills they came in 11th, well-done lads.

Young people of today have the disadvantage of having too many advantages.

Ballincollig Parish Bereavement Support

The next Parish Bereavement Programme will commence on Tuesday, 1st April. This is an eight-week programme and is open to all who are bereaved. It is held in a small group setting one night each week. If you have experienced loss and would like further information,

please contact

Sr Colette O'Leary: 086.3557375 or the Parish Office: 4871206.

Gala Concert

A unique opportunity can be had to hear the renowned Cork soprano, Mary Hegarty, in concert in her home parish of Ballinlough. Mary is performing with the Wilcollane Singers and other guests on Thursday 6th March at 8 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Ballinlough.

The concert is in aid of the Ursuline Kenyan Programme. Tickets cost €25 and are available in the Ursuline Secondary School, Blackrock, Our Lady of Lourdes N.S. and Church, Ballinlough and in Pro Musica, Oliver Plunkett Street.

Please support a worthy cause!

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Mar-01 & Mar-02-2008

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Aine Sheehan
Margaret Kearney
8:30 am
Niamh Gallagher
10:00 am
Sinead O'Connor
Eileen O'Connell
12:00 Noon
Miriam Maunsell
Evan Smith

7:30 pm (Vigil)
Rebecca Feely
Jessica Lingard
11:00 am
Chide Ebili
Karen Flavin
12:30 pm
Margaret Healy
5:30 pm
Phil O'Connell

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 & 8 pm
9:30 am	Tuesday	8:30 am & 8 pm
9:30 am	Wednesday	8:30 am & 8 pm
9:30 am	Thursday	8:30 am & 8 pm
9:30 am	Friday	8:30 am & 8 pm
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	Saturday	4:30 pm
Except First Saturday of Month		First Saturday of Month
12:45 pm	Sunday	



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Mar-01 & Mar-02-2008

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Michael Maher
Ber Bell
Betty Casey
Frank Riordan
Siobhan Riordan
Sr. Martha

7:30 pm Geraldine Lynch
Charlie Vaughan
Joan Stephenson

11:00 am Marie Ui Chrualaof
Neil Jeffers
Eileen O'Donoghue
Bridie O'Donnell
Bridie Hanrahan

8:30 am Mary Buckley
Theresa Lucey
Triona Collins

10:00 am Anne Cahill
Pat Lee
May Delaney
Cathy Horgan
John O'Donovan
Betty Flavin

12:30 pm Con O'Connell
Denis O' Mahony
Christine O'Mahony
Tom Murray
John O'Regan

12 Noon Joan Barrett
Sheila Carroll
Seamus O'Donovan
Joe Coghlan
Geraldine Graham
Catherine Greene

5:30 pm Patsy Galvin
Bernard Curran
Clare Curran

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty 087-2479140

Fr. George O'Mahony P.P. 021-4871206
Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C. 021-4877161
Fr. Sean O'Driscoll C.C. 021-4870434
Fr. Ted Sheehan 021-4876171



Ballincollig Hardware

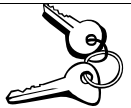
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Parish Office, The Presbytery, Ballincollig is open Mon - Wed from 9 am - 1 pm & 2 pm - 3 pm. Sat 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206, Office Secretary Catherine Crowley.

Ballincollig Credit Union Ltd.

Harrington Street

Tel: 021-4872305

Fax: 021-4872532



New Town Centre Office

Tel: 021-4208300

Fax: 021-4872532

Monday Closed

Tuesday 9.30 - 5.00 pm
Wednesday 10.30 - 5.00 pm
Thursday 9.30 - 5.00 pm
Friday 9.30 - 5.00 pm
Saturday 9.30 - 12.30 pm

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Tuesday 9.30 - 5.00 pm
Wednesday 10.30 - 5.00 pm
Thursday 9.30 - 7.30 pm
Friday 9.30 - 7.30 pm
Saturday 9.30 - 5.00 pm