

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 25-December-2005

Christmas Day

A child is born for us, a son is given to us; dominion is laid on his shoulder, and he shall be called Wonderful-Counsellor.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Christmas 2005

We may be inclined to take it for granted that Christmas Day was always celebrated on December 25th but even a cursory look at history lets us know that settling a date for the birth of Christ took many centuries. At least in the Gospels, since Christ's Resurrection has taken place on the Jewish Sabbath, there was a clue for the Sunday dating, but there is no such information in the Gospels about Jesus' date of birth – the references to the time and date are in relation only to the Roman census.

The first known calendars were lunar calendars, since it was easier to observe the lunar cycle - some faiths work to this calendar to this day. In the fifth century BC, the Greek astronomer Meton tried to adjust the lunar calendar to the solar year, and in the fourth century AD the Jews used this as a basis for lunisolar calendar. In the mid sixth century, Pope John 1 appointed Denis, a monk, to update the 'Pascal Tables', to fix the date of Easter, but to also ensure a Christian-Roman based computation system, independent of Alexandria. It was Denis, the monk, who decided to date his revised tables from the Incarnation of Christ, as he put it "to better make known our hopes and to celebrate the redemption of humanity".

Some people question 'why didn't God send his son as a powerful King'. Jesus came into our midst as a helpless little baby, dependent on Mary and Joseph for love and affection, he depended on them also for food and clothing and they had to emigrate to ensure the baby's safety. Jesus came as a child for everyone rich or poor, big or small; he calls us to faith ('if your faith were the size of a mustard seed') and to trust in him and he enables us to reach our potential as humans. Christ did not depend on human power or influence, but rather on the power of faith and trust. Let us thank God that he gave us his son to be part of our human family. We might also pray for one another this Christmas.

Happy & Holy Christmas

George O'Mahony

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us bring our prayers with full confidence before the God of all goodness.

Reader

We pray for the church throughout the world, that it may be filled with joy on this Christmas Day.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for the governments of all nations and for all world leaders, that they may govern and lead wisely and well.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for the poor and voiceless people in our world, that their dignity may be respected and their rights upheld.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for peace in our homes, in our workplaces and among nations. May the Prince of Peace teach us constructive and non-violent ways of dealing with conflict.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who feel excluded from the Christian family, that they may be aware that all are welcome in God's house.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

At this Christmas time we remember all our loved ones, May they enter their heavenly inheritance with Mary and all the saints.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest

Filled with new hope by the coming of Jesus as Emmanuel, God-with-us, we present our prayers to you, God, Our Father, knowing that you will always give us what is best. We make these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus 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, John O'Donovan, Michael O'Mahony & Paul O'Donoghue

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Denis Cronin, Model Farm Road. Mourned by his wife Rose
John Doab, The Crescent. Mourned by his wife Mary
George Harrington, Leap, Bonane, Kenmare. Mourned by his son
George, Muskerry Estate.

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

Victims of 2004 Tsunami.
Sean Forbes.
John Cremin, Collyduff.
John & Mary Kelly, Kilmichael.
Catherine & James O'Sullivan.
Billy Greene, Station Road.
Ann Linehan, Pouladuff.
Sean & Geraldine Daly, Coolroe.
Margaret O'Connor, Ovens
Noelle Wrenne.
John O'Donnell, Inniscarra.
Ellen Murphy, Coachford.
Maureen Callanan, West Village.
Con O'Regan, Maglin.
Deceased members O'Connell & O'Leary families.
Nuala Harte, Rosscarbery.
John Barry Murphy, Farran.
Dan & Julia Desmond, Farran.
Deceased members Daly & Murray families.
Deceased members Wrenne & O'Shea families.
Marcella Callanan, Muskerry Estate.
Sean Crowley, Poulavone.
William O'Mahony, Drimoleague.
Deceased Staff of John A. Woods.
Teddy Roche, Inniscarra View.
Michael & Elizabeth Fouhy, East Gate.
Mary & Bridget Creed, Inniscarra View Estate.
Patrick Sheehan, Kilmurry.
Dermot & Barry Murphy, Carriganarra.
Bridget & Michael O'Regan, Carriganarra.
Cecily O'Sullivan, Beech Park.
Denis Murphy, Fr. Sexton Park.
Dermot, Owen & Jerry Healy, Waterfall.
Sheila Sexton, Farnanes & Ovens.
John O'Connell, Main Street.
Sheila Walsh, Castle Park.
Peggy O'Riordan, Kilnamartyra.
David O'Leary, Magazine Road.
William O'Dwyer, Kilmichael.
Denis & Mary Lucey, Ballingearry.
John & Eddie Murphy, Powdermills.
George Sutton, Rosewood.
Harry & Noreen Lane, Pouladuff.
Marjorie O'Mahony, Bandon.
James & Elizabeth Campbell and deceased family members from Wexford and Ballincollig.
Thomas & Anastatia Power and deceased family members from Wexford.
Paul Allen, Beech Park.
William O'Mahony, Drimoleague.
Mary Linehan, Inniscarra View.
Josephine Deady, Buttevant.
Anthony McCarthy, Castle Park.
Patrick John & Margaret O'Mahony, Carriganarra.
Nellie Murphy, Station Road.
Dan & Eileen Fehily, Upton.
Deceased members Hurley family, Friars St.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

25 Sunday Is 52:7-10. Ps 97. Heb 1:1-6. Jn 1:1-18. Lect 1: 109
26 Monday Acts 6:8-10, 7:54 - 9. Ps 30. Mt 10:17-22. Lect 1: 125
27 Tuesday 1 Jn 1:1-4. Ps 96. Jn 20:2-8. Lect 1: 127
28 Wednesday 1 Jn 1:5-2:2. Ps 123. Mt 2:13-18. Lect 1: 129
29 Thursday 1 Jn 2:3-11. Ps 95. Lk 2:22-35. Lect 1: 131
30 Friday Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3. Ps 104. Lk 2:22-40. Lect 1: 119
31 Saturday 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps95. Jn 1:1-18. Lect 1: 136

Next Sunday's Readings 01-January-2006

Reflection for Parents

The angels brought good news to the shepherds, a part of the population not well respected. As Christmas Day approaches parents often feel exhausted and stressed out. We too may feel low as the shepherd only because we have demanded so much of ourselves. Looking into the faces of our children, is it possible for us to see the true meaning of Christmas? Can their plea to "read one more story" or "play one more game" be a clue for us to enjoy the time we have with them? How hard it is for us to focus only on the joy of their company and not be leaping ahead to the many chores awaiting us after we tuck them in. For us to realize the peace that God has in mind this Christmas Day, we might first make peace in our own home. Maybe this is the year to do something totally daring, like spend more time in pyjamas playing all the new games found under the tree. Let Jesus truly come among you.

Rosary at the Crib

The Junior Presidium of the Legion of Mary will recite the Rosary at the Crib, near the Square on Christmas Eve at 12 noon.

All are welcome.

Fatima Apostolate - Rosary At The Crib

The Rosary will be recited in the Church of St. Mary & St. John (in front of The Crib) on Saturday 31st December, 2005 (New Year's Eve) at 2.00 pm.

"Come and Pray the Rosary with us"

ALL ARE WELCOME

CROWLEY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork
Tel: 021-4874777 Mobile: 087-2759254*

Email: michaelfd@eircom.net

*Complete Funeral Arrangements
24 Hour Service Embalming Service*

Member I.A.F.D.

*Golden Charter Funeral
Pre-Planning Available*

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah announces the future coming of the Messiah.

Second Reading:

St Paul reminds us that we are saved through the kindness and love of God.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

This portion of Luke's infancy narrative contains two distinct components. First we are given the setting. Decried by the rulers of the day, people were to journey to their hometown and be counted in the census. For Joseph, this meant taking his pregnant wife to Bethlehem. No sooner had they gotten to Bethlehem than the baby, Jesus, was born. Next, an angel visited shepherds in a nearby field. At first the shepherds were frightened but the angel calmed them with the good news of a saviour born in Bethlehem. This saviour has come to bring peace for all people.

Trocaire Tsunami Update

These days see the first anniversary of the tsunami disaster that affected so many of us last Christmas. Your response at that time to the suffering of others was both unprecedented and inspiring.

The monies collected were forwarded to Trocaire and they responded in the immediate aftermath providing food, water and sanitation, temporary shelter, trauma-healing and help throughout Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and India. In the year since then, the focus has shifted to more long term work - helping survivors secure jobs, get permanent houses, healthcare, re-building schools, providing boats, and helping communities to recover.

Trocaire have sent each parish a report on the use of these funds and would like to thank all of you who contributed so generously at a time of such suffering for so many people. As we enjoy this special time of Christmas, may we do so in the knowledge that many people are having a better Christmas this year as a result of our kindness.

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Happy Christmas

To all our readers and advertisers.

Parishioner Editorial Team

Next publication Sunday 8th January 2006

Christmas Collection

For The Priests of The Parish

The Christmas Day and Christmas Eve collection is for the Priests of the Parish. Please give generously. The income of the Priests depends on the dues collection in the spring and autumn and Christmas and Easter church collections. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thanking you in anticipation.

Fr. George O'Mahony, PP

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

We wish to thank all those people who contributed to our Toy Mass on 11th December 2005 and also our thanks to those who handed in toys before and after. *May God bless you all and shower his peace on your hearts and homes during the coming year.*

Thank you

The Priests of the Parish (Fr. George O'Mahony, Fr. Michael O'Mahony, Fr. John O'Donovan and Fr. Paul O'Donoghue) take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to all the members of the Parish community in Ballincollig. Your support, generosity and enthusiasm for matters of faith and Parish are very much appreciated. This year some initiatives commenced in the Parish, eg. a group of parishioners came together and initiated a pre-baptism preparation in Ballincollig. The initial preparation meeting with parents on the 3rd December was a great success. The RCIA Programme, led by Sr. Bridget is successful with adults who wish to be baptised. The recruiting and training of Minister of the Eucharist and Minister of the Word continued this year. Those who give their time and talents in Ministry to the Community deserve our support and encouragement. Ballincollig is lucky to have two Communities of Sisters in the Parish and their work with various Prayer and Lexio Groups in the Parish deserves the highest praise.

The Parish Office is also open now and deals with a host of tasks including giving information and dealing with bookings of Baptisms etc., making appointments, providing backup to the Parish Council and putting Parish records on a database.

Your generosity to the victims of the Tsunami and the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan as well as support for other good causes including the St. Vincent DePaul Christmas collection is an indication of the practical faith of so many in this Parish.

The list of those who contribute their time to Parish activity is too long to mention here and I hope that anyone that is unintentionally omitted is not offended. The Sacristans, Choirs, Alter Societies, Parish Council, "Parishioner", Offertory Collectors, Counters, Envelope Distributors, Legion, St. Vincent DePaul, Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, Alter Servers, Parish Organisations, Children's Mass Organisers, Folk Groups, Cantors, Musicians and Boards of Management etc. etc. are all volunteers who work for God and the Parish. You will not see their pictures in the newspapers. You may not know their names, but we do see the results of their contribution in the liturgical, education, cultural and social life of our community.

Our wish is that the Lord will reward you all with a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Years.

Fr. George O'Mahony, PP

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-31 & Jan-01-2006

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Sandra Walsh
8:30 am
Aisling Moore
10:00 am
Louise McCarthy
12:00 Noon
Niall Hartnett

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Pauline Collins
11:00 am
Chide Ebili
12:30 pm
Dick Beamish
5:30 pm
Tom Reck

MASS TIMES

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon	Sunday	11 am, 12:30 pm
9:30 am	Monday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Tuesday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Wednesday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Thursday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Friday	8:30 am
10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	9:00 am & 8 pm (Vigil)

CONFESSIONS

After 10:00 am Mass & before 6:00 pm Mass **Saturday** After 9:00 am Mass

BAPTISMS

5:00 pm **Saturday** 7:15 pm
12:45 pm **Sunday**

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dec-31 & Jan-01-2006



St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm	Steve Wills Margaret O'Sullivan Rita Aherne Rose Doyle Jim Walsh Frances O'Brien	8:00 pm	Anne O'Regan Mairead Healy Murphy Finbarr Murray
8:30 am	Mary Buckley Rita Murphy Mary O'Keefe	11:00 am	Seamus O'Connell Mary O'Connell Alan O'Riordan Geraldine Keohane
10:00 am	Christina Walsh Peter Reilly Mary Collins Christy Roche Katie O'Shea Claire Creedon	12:30 pm	Lucy O'Callaghan Jackie Sheehan Mary Green Michael O'Leary
12 Noon	Oliver O'Donovan Barbara Kelly John Jeffers Mary McLean Ellen Seymour Nora Hennessy	5:30 pm	Noelle Buckley Mary Breen Siobhan Burke

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty 087-2479140

Fr. George O'Mahony P.P. 021-4871206
Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C. 021-4877161
Fr. Paul O'Donoghue 021-4876055
Fr. John O'Donovan C.C. 021-4870434



Ballincollig Hardware

Key Cutting Service

While You Wait!

Also Shoe & Leather Repairs

Unit 1 Shopping Centre,
Next to Quish's Supervalu,
West Village.

Tel.: (021) 4872401



**Parish Office, The Presbytery, Ballincollig is open Monday - Thursday from 9 am - 3 pm.
Saturday 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206**



Ballincollig Credit Union Ltd.

Harrington St. Ballincollig, Co. Cork.

Tel: 021-4872305.

Fax: 021-4872532.

Harrington Street

Monday 26th	Closed
Tuesday 27th	Closed
Wednesday 28th	Closed
Thursday 29th	9.30 am – 5.00 pm
Friday 30th	9.30 am – 5.00 pm
Saturday 31st	9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Sunday 1st	Closed
Monday 2nd	Closed

Notice To Members

*Merry Christmas
&
A Happy New Year*

New Town Centre Office

Monday 26th	Closed
Tuesday 27th	Closed
Wednesday 28th	Closed
Thursday 29th	9.30 am – 7.30 pm
Friday 30th	9.30 am – 7.30 pm
Saturday 31st	9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Sunday 1st	Closed
Monday 2nd	Closed