

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



**St. Mary & St. John
Station Road**

Sunday 26-December-2004

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Feast of the Holy Family: We are reminded today that a holy family will be a happy one because everything is based on God's will of love ...a love that shows itself in patience, forgiveness and sincere gratitude. The spirit of such a family will be the Spirit of God who brings peace.



**Christ Our Light
Innishmore**

The Holy Family

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and today, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast celebrates the union of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a family. Like most families, they had their trials and joys.

When Jesus left his immediate family to go to the Temple to teach, He didn't tell His parents. This concerned His parents like it would anyone's parents. Imagine your twelve year old missing! Mary and Joseph searched for Him for days and when He was found, Jesus, however, reminded them of His mission on Earth. He then also obeyed them and went home with them.

As Catholics, we can look to the Holy Family as a role model. They have qualities that make a family unit work. They also tell us that you don't need to be perfect to be a family. Joseph and Mary had faith in each other and love to build the family. For a family to work, there needs to be a few main characteristics. Love is, of course, the most important one. Love is the glue that keeps families together. The love between a husband and wife is just as important as parent to a child. Love embraces trust and safety. A family without love is not going to be happy.

Children should respect their parents. Mutual respect to others makes relationships comfortable and easier in the long run. Showing respect and love takes knowledge and experience. Children learn these skills in families by making mistakes along the way. It's a growing process that even Our Lord, Jesus, had to do.

Good family life is the foundation of stability in society. Family life is under pressure. Houses are bigger but families are smaller. Today's Psalm "O Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways" celebrates some of the qualities of family which belong to all times. May the Lord bless our families all the days of our lives.

Reflection for Parents

We may not always be as successful as we would like, but as parents we try to create some stability for our children. It must have been hard for Mary and Joseph to bring their child into the world in such a hurried and rustic environment. Barely had the child been born and visited by the magi, when the Holy Family made a late-night escape through unfamiliar territory to an even more unfamiliar land they would call home until Herod died. At the news of Herod's death, Joseph moved his young family back to Israel, but to a still different place from where he called home. The movement of our lives may not be as dramatic and life-threatening as that of the Holy Family, but it surely helps us to know that the presence of God is the one continuous thread that binds us together no matter where we are.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us bring our prayers to God, who shows compassion and love for us in the birth of Jesus.

Reader

For all who follow Christ, and for the entire Christian family, that this Christmas may bring them deep joy and true peace.

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

For the people for whom Christmas has little meaning, that they may hear the Good News of the Word made flesh.

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

For those with whom we celebrate this Christmas, that God may bless our families and all those we love.

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

For newly born babies and all our children, that they may know the friendship of Jesus through life

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

For those who have died, and for all from this community who have died since last Christmas, whom we remember now.

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

For our own needs and for all those we have wished well, and for all those who remembered us this Christmas time.

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

Priest

O God, you are always ready to help your people, hear the prayers we make, in faith and trust, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Best Wishes For A Happy New Year

The priests of the parish join in sending New Year greetings to all members of the parish and to all readers of the Ballincollig Parishioner.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

† IN SYMPATHY †
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :

Jerry Delaney, Station Road.
 John Kelly, 167 Beech Park.
 Sean Riordan, Millstreet.

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

David Brosnan, Beech Road.
 Dermot Barry-Murphy, Carriganarra.
 Marcella Callanan, Beech Road.
 Thomas Finnegan, Bishopstown.
 Deceased members of John A Wood Staff.
 Mary Bridget Creed, Inniscarra View Estate.
 Patrick Sheehan, Kilmurry.
 Noelle Wrenne, Parknamore.
 Neil McGroarty, Beech Park.
 John & Mary Lucey, Coolroe.
 Neil, Noreen & John McGroarty, Cobh.
 Pat O'Flynn, Holly Road.
 Billy Coomey, Coventry.
 Patrick Coomey, Model Farm Road.
 Sean Crowley, Poulavone.
 Ann Linehan, Pouladuff.
 Cecily O'Sullivan, Beech Park
 John & Mary Kelly, Kilmichael.
 Eric Scott, Coolroe.
 Ellen Healy, Tralee.
 Bernard Boylan, Maple Lawn.
 Denis Moroney, Crosshaven.
 Joe O'Leary, Ovens.
 Maureen Callanan.
 Máire & Fionbarra Ó Murchú, Carriganarra.
 Donal O'Keeffe, New York.
 Con O'Regan, Maglin.
 Deceased members of the Cummins & O'Regan families.
 Mary Flanagan, Co. Monaghan.
 John Barry-Murphy, Farran.
 Donal O'Shea.
 Deceased members of the O'Shea & Sullivan families.
 Paddy O'Donoghue, Bishopstown.
 Danny Doyle, Kenmare.
 Patrick Sheehan, Coachford.
 Denis Murphy, Fr. Sexton Park.
 Aidan & Maureen Burke, Southern Road.
 Daniel & Eileen Burke, Whitechurch.
 Michael Murphy, Windsor, Ovens.
 Betty Hickey, Los Angeles.
 Sheila Walsh, Castle Park.
 David O'Leary, Magazine Road.
 Deceased members of the Hickey family, Abbeyfeale.
 Sheila Walsh, Castle Park.
 Deceased members of the Dempsey family, Kinsale.
 Liam Walsh, Wolverhampton.
 Peggy & Roddy McDowall, Clonmel.
 Grace O'Connell, Dublin.
 Mona Horgan, Co. Limerick.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

26 Sunday Eccles. (Sir) 3:2-6, 12-14. Ps. 127. Col. 3:12-21. Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23. Lect 1:114
 27 Monday 1 Jn. 1 :1-4. Ps. 96. Jn. 20:2-8. Lect 1: 127
 28 Tuesday 1 Jn. 1 :5-2:2. Ps. 123. Mt. 2: 13-18. Lect 1: 129
 29 Wednesday 1 Jn. 2:3-11. Ps. 95. Lk. 2:22-35. Lect 1: 131
 30 Thursday 1 Jn. 2:12-17. Ps. 95. Lk. 2:36-40. Lect 1:134
 31 Friday 1 Jn. 2:18-21. Ps. 95. Jn. 1:1-18 Lect 1:136
 01 Saturday Num. 6:22-27. Ps. 66. Gal. 4:4-7. Lk. 2:16-21. Lect 1:139

Next Sunday's Readings 02-January-2005

Eccles. (Sir) 24: 1-2, 8-12. Ps. 147. Eph. 1 :3-6, 15-18. Jn. 1:1-18.

BAPTISMS

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

Isabelle Rose Jane Collins, 88 Shamrock Drive.
 Saoirse Níamh O'Mahony, Clash Road.
 Emma Gillian Cronin, 14 Rosewood.
 Danny Matthew Neville-McCarthy, 44 Greystones.
 Jack Denis Lucey, Ballyshoneen, Waterfall.
 Lucy Alexejevna Demensduna, An Caislean.
 Kieran Derry Twomey, 57 Wyndham Downs.
 Amy Anne O'Riordan, Ballyburden.
 Kira Rose Le Duff, Rosewood.
 Conor Joseph Brennan, 64 Fern Walk.

Christmas Collection For The Priests Of The Parish

Sincere Thanks From
 Fr. George, John, Michael

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection 2004

We would like to thank all those you gave so generously to our Christmas collection, taken up at all Masses over the weekend of the 11th/12th December, by kind permission of the Parish Priest.
 This year's total of €17,336 was a slight increase on last year's amount.
 Thank you for your wonderful generosity again this year.

CROWLEY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14
 The first Scripture reading represents the wisdom of the Old Testament regarding family life. We are told that he who honours his father and mother will be blest in this life and in the next. What was true in Old Testament times is true in our age also.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
 In the second reading, Paul tells us that Jesus shares our human nature. Because of that fact, we are his brothers and sisters. Therefore, with him, we are sons and daughters of God our Father.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23.
 When the magi left the Holy Family in Bethlehem, Joseph was warned in a dream to take Mary and Jesus into Egypt because Herod was looking to destroy the child. Following Herod's death, another angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and informed him that it was now safe to return to Israel. Joseph took his family to the Galilee area and settled in Nazareth.



Long Ago Festivals

ANCIENT EGYPT
 In ancient Egypt, New Year was celebrated at the time the River Nile flooded, which was near the end of September. The flooding of the Nile was very important because without it, the people would not have been able to grow crops in the dry desert. At New Year, statues of the God Amon and his wife and son were taken up the Nile by boat. Singing, dancing and feasting was done for a month, and then the statues were taken back to the temple.

BABYLONIA
 Babylonia lay in what is now the country of Iraq. Their New Year was in the Spring. During the festival, the king was stripped of his clothes and sent away, and for a few days everyone could do just what they liked. Then the king returned in a grand procession, dressed in fine robes. Then, everyone had to return to work and behave properly. Thus, each New Year, the people made a new start to their lives.

THE ROMANS
 For a long time the Romans celebrated New Year on the first of March. Then, in 46BC, the Emperor Julius Caesar began a new calendar. It was the calendar that we still use today, and thus the New Year date was changed to the first day of January. January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was always shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. The Roman New Year festival was called the Calends, and people decorated their homes and gave each other gifts. Slaves and their masters ate and drank together and people could do what they wanted to for a few days.

THE CELTS
 The Celts were the people who lived in Gaul, now called France, and parts of Britain before the Romans arrived there. Their New Year festival was called Samhain. It took place at the end of October, and Samhain means 'summer's end'. At Samhain, the Celts gathered mistletoe to keep ghosts away, because they believed this was the time when the ghosts of the dead returned to haunt the living

Auld Lang Syne

The song, "Auld Lang Syne", is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burn's death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago", or simply, "the good old days".

At The Gate of The Year

And I said to the man,
 who stood at the gate of the year:
 Give me a light that I may tread safely
 into the unknown.
 And he replied:
 Go out into the darkness,
 and put your hand into the hand of God.
 So I went forth and found the hand of God,
 trod gladly into the light.
 He led me towards the hills
 and the breaking of the day in the East.
 So heart, be still!
 What need our life to know,
 if God hath comprehension?
 In all the dizzy strife of things,
 both high and low.

Church Collection Envelopes

Boxes are available in both churches this weekend. Each box contains an envelope for each Sunday, plus a separate envelope for the special church collection. I am asking families to please take one box and be good enough to use one envelope weekly to make your family contribution to the offertory collection. The offertory collection goes exclusively towards the maintenance, heating, lighting, insurance and other running costs associated with buildings and a parish. Thanking you for your support.

Secular Franciscan Order

We wish to thank all those people who contributed to our Toy Mass on 12th December 2004 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.

A Christmas Star

May you always see more than reaches your eyes.
 May you never grow old before you are wise.

May your wisdom grow lovingly childlike and pure,
 And your strength grow with wisdom, your vision be sure.

May your vision be guided by seeing afar -
 Beyond earthly boundaries - A Christmas Star.

May you see shining in each human heart
 A starry reflection that sets it apart.

May each heart share with you what cannot be told,
 And bring you more beauty than eyes can behold.

May the beauty you find there - love, laughter, and tears -
 Make you childlike in wisdom the rest of your years.

Richard Marsh

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Jan-01 & Jan-02-2005

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Karen Sheehan
8:30 am
Elizabeth Daly
10:00 am
Dave Murphy
12:00 Noon
Tony Lynch

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Fiona Feely
11:00 am
Margaret Healy
12:30 pm
Marie Groarke
5:30 pm
Christine O'Brien

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	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

Jan-01 & Jan-02-2005



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	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	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	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



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Tuesday	9:45 - 5:00 pm
Wednesday	9:45 - 5:00 pm
Thursday	9:45 - 5:00 pm
Friday	9:45 - 7:00 pm
Saturday	9:45 - 12:00 pm

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