

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 27-December-2009

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

2010 - Making a New Beginning

Christmas Day 2009 is already part of history yet the Christmas spirit continues. Many enjoy Christmas, but for others it is also a very difficult period of the year - for those grieving, trying to make ends meet; families trying to cope with sickness and especially for families where there is tension and disharmony. Christmas is the season of goodwill but some people, especially in family settings don't even try to bring goodwill not to mention peace to their home. However, I hope that the message of Christmas, "God among us will give strength and hope to each of us."

Christmas season is also a time for fresh beginnings, families unite around the Christmas table, young couples get engaged and others make plans for their marriage; whatever the fresh start is, may those making them be encouraged by the child Jesus in our midst. The past year has also been difficult for many people; the fear of loss of jobs, homes, dignity. The loss of hope has haunted many individuals and their families. The past twelve has also brought its share of happy moments.

As we prepare to say good-bye to 2009 we thank God for his many blessings. Whilst preparing for 2010 may we know that God's blessing and graces accompany us?

May all our readers have a very peaceful and pleasant New Year.

George O'Mahony

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.

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
Fathers George, Michael, Billy & James*

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

In the First Letter of John we read: 'whatever we ask him, we shall receive'. With confidence we present our needs to the Lord.

Reader

For all who bear the name Christian; that they may teach the world of the sanctity of human love.

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

We pray for families everywhere; that they may model their lives on the Holy Family and create loving, nurturing environments where each member of the family can flourish.

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

We pray for married couples; that they may be united in respect and love for each other.

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

We pray that we may become more and more a community that cares for and protects the most vulnerable members of our society.

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

For those who are sick; that they may experience the healing touch of the Lord.

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

We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith; that they may share in the life of the Lord forever.

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

Priest

Father in heaven, you ordered the earth to bring forth life. Hear our prayers today, which we make, as always, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

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

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Kacper Pawel Kaszwiak , Pine Walk, Muskerry Estate.
Fionn Geoffrey Walsh, Elm Lawn, Muskerry Estate.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Sean Bell, Maglin.
Thomas Wilkinson, Wicklow.
Pat McCullagh, Coachford & Ballincollig.
Joan O'Reardon, Carriganarra Estate.

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

Bridget, Vincent & Frankie Moran, Mayo & London.
Farrell Dunne, Thurles.
Catherine O'Sullivan, Kilmichael.
Cecily O'Sullivan, Beech Park.
Dan & Eva Spillane, Westcourt Heights.
Dan & Ina Hickey.
Charles & Marie Ross, Dublin.
Joe Foley, Farran.
Bernard Boylan, Maple Lawn.
David Brosnan, Beech Road, Muskerry Estate.
Sean Crowley, Poulavone.
Tim & Rosemary O'Donovan, Hawkes Road.
Dermot Barry Murphy, Carriganarra.
Daniel & Mary O'Leary, Aglish, Farran.
Mary O'Mahony, Castlepark.
Deceased members of John A Wood Workforce.
Hannah & Dan Dempsey, Leemount.
Patrick Sheehan, Kilmurray.
Mattie, Johanna, & Paudie Twomey, Coolea, Macroom.
Con Greany, Station Road.
Denis O'Riordan, Kilmichael.
William & Annie Cotter, Fr. Sexton Park.
Matthew & Bridie O'Leary, Macroom.

Trócaire - Thank You

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the New Year Trócaire would like to sincerely thank everyone in this parish who supported us over Christmas. The challenges we face are still tough but there are many stories of hope. Thousands of individuals, families and communities will receive the Christmas Global Gifts you bought which will help them support themselves and provide for their children. Your help is truly appreciated so on behalf of everyone Trócaire works with around the world we thank you once more and wish you a peaceful 2010.

Justin Kilcullen, Director of Trócaire.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- 27 Sunday Eccles. (Sir) 3:2-6, 12-14. Ps. 127. Col. 3:12-21. Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23. Lect I:114
- 28 Monday 1 Jn. 1 :5-2:2. Ps. 123. Mt. 2: 13-18. Lect I: 129
- 29 Tuesday 1 Jn. 2:3-11. Ps. 95. Lk. 2:22-35. Lect I: 131
- 30 Wednesday 1 Jn. 2:12-17. Ps. 95. Lk. 2:36-40. Lect I:134
- 31 Thursday 1 Jn. 2:18-21. Ps. 95. Jn. 1:1-18 Lect I:136
- 01 Friday Num. 6:22-27. Ps. 66. Gal. 4:4-7. Lk. 2:16-21. Lect I:139
- 02 Saturday 1 Jn 2:22-28. Ps 97. Jn 1:19-28. Lect I: 146

Next Sunday's Readings 03-January-2010
Eccles. (Sir) 24: 1-2, 8-12. Ps. 147. Eph. 1 :3-6, 15-18. Jn. 1:1-18. Lect I:141

The 12 Days of Christmas

Religious symbolism of The Twelve Days of Christmas

1. True Love refers to God
2. Turtle Doves refers to the Old and New Testaments
3. French Hens refers to Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
4. Calling Birds refers to the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
5. Golden Rings refers to the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
6. Geese A-laying refers to the six days of creation
7. Swans A-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
8. Maids A-milking refers to the eight beatitudes
9. Ladies Dancing refers to the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
10. Lords A-leaping refers to the ten commandments
11. Pipers Piping refers to the eleven faithful apostles
12. Drummers Drumming refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

May the Child Jesus and His Mother watch over you this Christmas and throughout the coming year. As once they came to the stable of Bethlehem, may they come to you and bring you all the desires of your heart.

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.

Your Safety this Christmas?

Fire Safety

- Check and replace batteries in smoke alarms.
- Unplug all Christmas lights and electrical appliances before leaving your home or going to bed.
- Use a fire guard in front of an open fire at all times.

Candle Safety

- Place candles on non-flammable holders on a stable, heat-resistant surface and out of children's reach.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Ensure candles are kept away from combustible materials.

Electrical Safety

- Do not over load sockets. Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension lead.
- Never use indoor extension leads outdoors.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to ensure they have been certified for outdoor use.

Toy Safety

- Follow recommended age ranges specified on toy packaging.
- All toys for sale in Ireland must have the CE safety mark
- Pay special attention to toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies and children.

Winter Road Safety

- De-ice and clear your windscreen and all windows before driving in frost conditions.
- Plan your journey. Allow yourself extra time when travelling in snow or frost. Travel in daylight if possible.
- Maintain a safe distance and avoid sudden braking.

Bulletin Board

Christmas Collection

With Thanks, The Priests of the Parish, Fr. George, Fr. Michael and Fr. Billy would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in the Christmas Day and Christmas Eve collection for the Priests of the Parish. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank You

Sincere thanks to the many people who gave their time throughout the year - Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Society, Altar Servers, Choir, Cantors, Folk Group, Collectors, Cleaners, The Parishioner, Parish Council and Parish Council Sub Groups, Volunteers who distributed dues envelopes and the various flyers throughout the year. The Sacristans in both Churches, Geraldine and Siobhan. Thanks to Parishioners for your generous support to the Priests of the Parish during the past year. Your support is much appreciated.

We wish you and your families a happy New Year

First Friday

Friday 1st January 2010 is the first Friday of the month. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St Mary & St John from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm, you are invited to come and spend some time with the Lord. There is Mass in St Mary & St John on Friday evening at 8.00 pm. The priests of the parish visit the sick of the parish on the first Friday of each month; please let us know if you have a family member or neighbour who is sick or housebound.

**Feast of the Epiphany Holy Day of Obligation
 Wednesday 6th January, 2010**

Masses

St Mary & St John

8.30 am, 10.00 am & 8.00 pm

Christ Our Light

Vigil: Tuesday 5th January @ 7.30 pm
 12.30 pm. & 6.30 pm

Diocesan Flood Appeal

A total of €4,100 has been collected to help victims of the recent flood.
 Many thanks for your support and generosity.

Fr. George.

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.



Happy New Year

Please visit our website
www.ijs.ie

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Jan-02 & Jan-03-2010

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)

Sandra Walsh
Brian Hennessy

8:30 am

Triona Collins

10:00 am

Sean Collins
Katie Collins

12:00 Noon

Oliver O'Donovan
David Drohan

7:30 pm (Vigil)

Pauline Collins
Niall Cronin

11:00 am

Jack Dorgan

12:30 pm

Brian O'Donoghue
Chide Ebili

5:30 pm

Emily Hardman

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

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

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty

087-2479140

Fr. George O'Mahony P.P.

021-4871206

Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C.

021-4877161

Fr. Billy O'Sullivan C.C.

021-4876171

Fr. James McSweeney

021-4873308

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Jan-02 & Jan-03-2010



St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm

Michael Maher
Ber Bell
Betty Casey
Frank Riordan
Siobhan Riordan
Pauline Quane

7:30 pm

Geraldine Lynch
Charlie Vaughan
Joan Stephenson
Bernie Bowen

8:30 am

Mary Buckley
Theresa Lucey
Triona Collins

11:00 am

Neil Jeffers
Eileen O'Donoghue
Bridie O'Donnell
Bridie Hanrahan
Cath / Hugh Moran

10:00 am

Anne Cahill
Pat Lee
May Delaney
Cathy Horgan
John O'Donovan
Betty Flavin

12:30 pm

Denis O' Mahony
Christine O'Mahony
Tom Murray
John O'Regan
Gerard Dunne

12 Noon

Helen Plunkett
Sheila Carroll
Seamus O'Donovan
Joe Coghlan
Rose Moore
Catherine Greene

5:30 pm

Bernard Curran
Siobhan Burke



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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.**

The Origin of 'Silent Night'

A holy night, a silent night, with Mother and child, all is calm, all is bright. This inspiring hymn came to us because an organ in Germany broke down about one hundred years ago.

Without an organ the parish priest in a small country church said it would be a 'Silent Night'. The organist would compose a melody. The priest would write the lyrics and the choir would just sing the soft praises of this hymn for Midnight Mass. That is all it was meant to be, just a simple hymn sung once and forgotten.

Then a snowstorm prevented the man who fixed the organ from coming until the snow melted in the spring. After he finished he noticed the music left on the organ since Christmas night and took it back to Munich. The rest is history.

"Silent Night" has reverberated throughout the ages. With its quiet sounds of love and peace it has inspired millions and millions, touching the lives of countless people.