

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 28-December-2008

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

2009 - Starting a New Journey

Hopefully Christmas went well for you. Maybe there is a sense of relief for you this weekend that it's all over and looking forward now to the New Year. Even though Christmas stretches to twelve days we will now be replacing 'Happy Christmas' with 'Happy New Year'. But one thing about Christmas is that its real message should never be lost. The invitation is to carry it with us every single day. The real message of Christmas evolves around love. It is the energy that brings meaning and life to all we do. We can begin to find God's love again in our lives and to share it with others no matter how small. These last few days of 2008 are indeed sacred and special. It is up to us to make the most of them in whatever way we can.

On Thursday we begin a new journey into 2009. The year just gone hasn't been the best for everyone. The word recession has brought waves of negativity and the weather all year has been pretty miserable as well. Closer to home we may have had to deal with a personal tragedy, bereavement, an illness, family trouble, mistakes made and much more. But we also acknowledge that the year just gone also brought good and happy moments too. As we say goodbye to the year just gone we thank God for all our blessings throughout 2008. We ask God's many blessings on us as we begin a New Year next Thursday..

James McSweeney (www.2u.ie)

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

Let us present our petitions to the Lord who remembers the covenant forever.

Reader

We pray for the Church throughout the world; that it may continue to support families in their needs both temporal and spiritual.

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

We pray for families; that they may unite in respect and love, inspired by the example of the Holy Family.

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

We pray for broken families; that they may experience healing and support in their time of need.

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

We pray for the gift of faith; that we, like Abram and Sarah, might place our trust wholeheartedly in the Lord.

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

We pray for missionaries and those who bring the gospel of the salvation prepared for all nations to the ends of the earth; that they may be guided by the Spirit.

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

We pray for those who have died; may they receive their eternal reward with the saints in heaven.

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

Priest

Heavenly Father, you sent your only son that we might be saved. Hear our prayers, which we make this day in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.

He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

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

Adrienne Curling, Ivy Circle.
 Sean Forbes, Blarney Street.
 Noreen Keohane, Westcliffe.
 Sean Crowley, Poulavone.
 Joe Foley, Farran.
 Bernard Boylan, Maple Lawn.
 Rita Kinsella, Blarney.
 Jack Kenneally.
 Jerry Ring, Carriganarra & Chester England.
 David Brosnan, Beech Rd, Muskerry Est.
 Dec Member of Linehan Family, Kanturk & England.
 Dermot Barry Murphy, Carriganarra.
 David & Mary O'Leary, Aglish, Farran.
 Mary O'Mahony, Castlepark.
 Mary Bridget Creed, Woodlands, Inniscarra View.
 Cecily O'Sullivan, Beech Park.
 Patrick Sheehan, Kilmurray.
 Eileen & John Murphy, South Douglas Road.
 Annie Deasy, Ownahincha.
 Aidan & Maureen Burke, Southern Road.
 Mary Sheehan, Douglas.
 Bridie Sexton, Hillsboro.
 Denis Fitton, Kilnaglory.
 Nellie Manning, Bantry.
 Noreen Green, Citi West Mews.
 Abina O'Regan, St Finbarrs Road.
 Pat O'Flynn, Holly Road.
 Nellie O'Flynn, Rosewood.
 Donal O'Flynn.

The Holy Family

We come together today to celebrate the Eucharist as a community gathered in unity around the table of the Lord. Today we also honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, who are a model for all who follow the Lord 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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

28 Sunday Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3. Ps 104. Lk 2:22-40. Lect I: 119
 29 Monday 1 Jn 2:3-11. Ps 95. Lk 2:22-35. Lect I: 131
 30 Tuesday 1 Jn 2:12-17. Ps 95. Lk 2:36-40. Lect I: 134
 31 Wednesday 1 Jn. 2:18-21. Ps. 95. Jn. 1:1-18 Lect I:136
 01 Thursday Num. 6:22-27. Ps. 66. Gal. 4:4-7. Lk. 2:16-21. Lect I:139
 02 Friday 1 Jn 2:22-28. Ps 97. Jn 1:19-28. Lect I: 146
 03 Saturday 1 Jn. 2:29-3:6. Ps. 97. Jn. 1 :29-34. Lect I: 148

Next Sunday's Readings 04-January-2009
 Eccles (Sir) 24:1-2, 8-12. Ps 147. Eph 1:3- 6, 15-18. Jn 1:1-18. Lect I: 141

Fr James McSweeney

Is a native of Millstreet, Co. Cork, where his parents Con and Nora still live. He has two brothers, two sisters, two nephews and one niece. James studied in Maynooth and was ordained a Priest for the Cork and Ross Diocese in 1995. He has served in Ballinlough Parish, Ballyvolane and now serves as school Chaplain in Ballincollig. He is a keen cyclist and a passionate photographer. James holds annual photo exhibitions and his photographs have appeared in many publications. James has produced a calendar each year for the past five years. He is a major fundraiser for a wide range of Cork charities through his calendar and his life animal crib at his house each Christmas.

For the past five years, James has run a "Thought For Today" website www.todayismygifttoyou.ie or www.2u.ie and he writes the daily "Thought For Today" in the Evening Echo newspaper. You can also link to from www.ballincolligparish.ie

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

In this section of the Book of Genesis we see Abram, who became Abraham, the father of many nations. In his and Sarah's old age they had a son, Isaac. The name Isaac means 'he laughs'. The story of the promise of Isaac is full of fun and laughter. Abraham laughs when he hears that he and Sarah will become parents in her nineties. Sarah also laughed when she heard the promise though she later tried to deny this (Gen 18:15). Yet a child was born to them on whom God's favour rested- Who had the last laugh?

Second Reading Hebrews 18:11-2, 17-19

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Chapter 11 tells us the story of our ancestors who lived 'by faith'. The repetition of the words 'by faith' reminds us of how they, in turn, struggled. The lines chosen for today's reading present the faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac, who lived by faith even though they could not see the future God had prepared. We too are called to live by faith. We are to look to Jesus 'who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection' (Heb 12:2).

Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40

The infancy narratives in Luke are the Gospel in miniature and the opening statement of themes that will be developed throughout the Gospel. Among the typical Lucan themes that appear in these scenes are the importance of God's redemptive purposes, the fulfilment of scripture, the role of the Spirit, the redemption of the poor and oppressed, the role of the temple, the atmosphere of joy and the praise of God. In the reading chosen today, Jesus is brought to the temple to fulfil the requirements of Jewish Law. Anna and Simeon repeat the hope of the prophets for the coming of God among God's people, especially the poor, though Simeon warns Mary that a sword will pierce her heart. Jesus will be rejected before his final triumph.

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.

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.

First Friday

Friday 3rd January 2009 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.

Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism preparation will take place **Saturday 17th January, 2009 at 1 pm** in the **Library Room, Community Hall, Station Road**. 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? Parents might book the baptism a few weeks in advance to give ample time to take part in the preparation.

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.

Feast of the Epiphany Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday 6th January, 2009

Masses

St Mary & St John

8.30 am, 10.00 am & 8.00 pm

Christ Our Light

Vigil: Monday 5th January @ 7.30 pm

12.30 pm. & 6.30 pm

St Mary & St. John

Parking is at a premium with the great number of cars used. We request church users to be careful not to obstruct exits in the car park adjacent to Church. Be extra careful when parking adjacent to Madonna House, be sure not to obstruct exit as this is the only point of entry for ambulance.

Catholic Paper

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

Fr. George

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Jan-03 & Jan-04-2009

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
 Mulireann Nelligan
 Brendan Collins
8:30 am
 Elizabeth Daly
10:00 am
 Eileen O'Connell
12:00 Noon
 Tomas Miller
 Niall Hartnett

7:30 pm (Vigil)
 Pauline Collins
 Niall Cronin
11:00 am
 Dave Murphy
12:30 pm
 Brian O'Donoghue
 Chide Ebili
5:30 pm
 Brian O'Donoghue

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 & 8 pm	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-03 & Jan-04-2009

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

12 Noon Joan Barrett
 Sheila Carroll
 Seamus O'Donovan
 Joe Coghlan
 Rose Moore
 Catherine Greene

5:30 pm Bernard Curran
 Clare Curran



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 Sat 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206, Office Secretary Catherine Crowley.



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