

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

150 Years



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 28-February-2016

Third Sunday of Lent

Today's gospel is a reminder of the need for conversion, for a change of direction in our lives. We cannot presume forever on the mercy of God.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

The Promised Land

In our readings today God calls us to conversion and to repentance, both important aspects of our Lenten journey. In the first reading we hear of God's great care for his people. Having heard their cries and the suffering they were enduring, He chooses Moses to be a voice for them and to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians. He promises He will journey with them and Moses as they seek the 'Promised Land'. On that journey He will remain faithful, providing for them, even in spite of their sinfulness.

In the Gospel we hear the parable of the Barren Fig Tree, which hasn't produced fruit for three years, so the owner wants it cut down; but the 'Gardener' intercedes asking for a little longer time to nurture it before it meets its fate. If properly nurtured the barren tree may yet bear fruit. This parable describes God's Mercy and patience towards us. During Lent we are called to repent and to change. Perhaps, we can be like that tree by not producing the fruit of love and compassion God asks of us; by not living as we should, for God and for others. We often make wrong choices and mistakes, yet God always loves us and is ready to give us another chance. As we hear in today's Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and reach in Mercy.

In Pope Francis' Lenten message, he says: "God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbour and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged. For this reason, I express my hope that 'the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy'"

Sr. Colette

Parish Office Vacancy

Applications are invited for part time Secretary/Receptionist in the parish of Ballincollig. The role involves regular contact with parishioners on the phone and in person. Good interpersonal skills necessary and some I.T. skills an important requirement. Applications to Fr. George O'Mahony, The Presbytery, Station Road. Ballincollig on or before March 5th.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

The Lord is compassion and love. Let us now bring our petitions before him.

Reader

For all Christians: that they may produce the fruits of a good life.

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

For those in authority: that they may be compassionate towards those who fail.

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

For parents and teachers: that they may adopt a patient and encouraging attitude towards the young.

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

For those whose lives are barren and empty of the deeds of love.

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

For all gathered here: that during this Lent we may heed Jesus' call to repentance, and show the fruits of repentance by a new way of living.

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

For a moment, we remember in silence our own particular needs.

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

Priest

God of grace, you are that careful and patient gardener who can produce fruit from the most unpromising of trees. Help us to produce in our lives the fruits of true repentance. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord is compassion and love.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie or Facebook www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Michael Luby, Tuarain Glas/Roscommon.
Breda Cronin, Blackrock.
Kevin Fitzpatrick, Belfast.

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

Kevin Clarke, Ballincollig / Liverpool.
Paddy & Julia Murphy, Ovens.
Dec. members of O'Mahony family, Macroom.
Tim Cagney, Gardiners Hill.
Dan O'Connell, West Village.
Sean O'Sullivan, Togher.
Helen McNamara, Dingle.
Neil & Nellie Langan, Donegal.
Dan & Kathleen Dorgan, Powdermills.
Michael Buckley, Castlepark.
Con & Kitty McCarthy, Poulavone.
Bessie, Gerard Higgins, Pouladuff.
Paddy Cullinane, Magazine Road.
Ellen & John O'Sullivan, Glanmire.
Ellen Cronin, Mary Street.
Ken Murphy, Castleview.
Ahern, Boyce & O'Keefe families.
Denis Cremin, Bishopstown.
Richard & Eileen Walsh, Bishopstown.
Abbey O'Mahony, Main Road.
Willian O'Connor, Carrigrohane.
Annie Drohan, Charleville Cottages.
Jim Deasy, Aherla.
Paddy Buckley, Farranree.

Annual Pilgrimage to Knock

The annual pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday May 29th 2016.

Bus leaving at 7am at the bus stop outside Garda station.
Early booking advised.

For details contact: Sally 0214870954 or Cathleen 0214874730

Lourdes 2016 – Young Adult Helpers

The Diocese of Cork & Ross invites Young Adults 18-30 year olds to come to Lourdes as helpers from 11th – 16 June.

For further details contact Fr. Charlie Kiely 021 4537603
Pastoral Development Office, Parochial House, Ballypnehane,
Cork or email: Charles.kiely@corkandross.com.org

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week Of Lent

28 Sunday Ex. 3:1-8, 13-15. Ps. 102.1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12. Lk. 13:1-9. Lect I: 255

29 Monday 2 K. 5:1-15. Ps. 41. Lk. 4:24-30. Lect I: 262

01 Tuesday Dan. 3:25,34-43. Ps. 24. Mt. 18:21-35. Lect I: 264

02 Wednesday Deut 4:1, 5-9. Ps 147. Mt 5:17-19. Lect I: 267

03 Thursday Jer. 7:23-28. Ps. 94. Lk. 11:14-23. Lect I: 268

04 Friday Hos. 14:2-10. Ps. 80. Mk. 12:28-34. Lect I: 271

05 Saturday Has. 5:1 5-6:6. Ps. So. Lk. 18:9-14. Lect I: 273

Next Sunday's Readings 06-March-2016

Josh. 5:9-12. Ps. 33.2 Cor. 5:17-21. Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32. Lect I: 284

BAPTISMS

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

Niamh Frances Clerkin, Greenfields Road.
Tiernan Tomas Liam White, Terlton, Macroom.
Ella Philomena Crosse-O'Flaherty, Lisheen, Fields, Ovens.
James John William O'Brien, Oldcourt, Greenfields.

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

To Moses, God spoke in a burning bush. He gave Moses a message to preach. Moses was to tell his people that freedom was at hand, freedom and happiness.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Paul compares the Exodus story to Christian baptism. He reminds us again that God was not always pleased with His people. We are warned not to become complacent

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

God calls us to conversion, to turn to him, to reform. Moses once formed a people, but in the desert most of them sinned. Today, if we repent, God will again bring us out of captivity.

Bru Columbanus

Bag a Bargain Bru Columbanus
at our Pre-Loved Dress and Handbag Sale
Saturday 12th March in Bru Columbanus,
Cardinal Way, Wilton
10am -4pm

CROWLEY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

Email: michaelfd@eircom.net

www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie

Complete Funeral Arrangements

24 Hour Service Embalming Service

Member I.A.F.D.

Golden Charter Funeral

Pre-Planning Available

Parish Update from Aleppo Two Missiles on Ram

Dear friends,

I will try to tell you what is happening here in Aleppo, since the army's offensive to take back the city has begun. On the night between February 3rd and 4th, two missiles fired by the Jihadists shot the area of Soulaymanieh-Ram, where our pastoral center is located. Before I had heard the dreadful news, I had planned to gather all the friars in a local pastoral chapter in order to figure out how we could intensify our mission in the area of Soulaymanieh and of Midaan. The result of constant bombing is always the same: death and destruction. Two Christians have died; there are many injured people and a lot of damaged houses.



Scenes of Devastation from Soulaymanieh and Midaan

We are discouraged because we had just finished to repair the damage caused by the missiles shot on April 12th 2015, when these new bombs arrived, destroying again what we had just fixed. Our church hasn't been damaged so far, but the roof and the catechism classrooms have been hit and partially destroyed; shocks and explosions have ruined the walls and windows, which have been crushed down. The first missile that fell on our pastoral center pierced the roof, hitting the statue of the Virgin Mary, the bell tower and some water storage that have been recently installed. The statue of the Virgin Mary broke in thousand pieces and you can imagine our pain to see her face shattered throughout the street.



Father Ibrahim with the Bishop visiting Ram



Scenes of Utter Destruction

The other missile has fallen on the other street, damaging the center entry and killing two Christians, without sparing the buildings, which had been hit by many bombs and missiles in the past. We, Friars, have immediately visited the houses in the area where the two men have died and we have listened to the painful experience of mothers and fathers who have told us the events and how they have experienced, with their children, the fear and the shock. We are trying to stay close to our people who knock on our door seeking for help. Our center, indeed, hosts the families who live in the area, but also people from Midaan (who have sought help after the destruction of the church of Bicharat in Midaan). We are hosting also the Maronite Christian Community who often celebrates Holy Mass during the week, after the destruction of their churches nearby. It is a place where different parish groups meet for their weekly meetings and where there is also a school for deaf and mute people: it is one of the very few specialized centers still functioning in Aleppo. Besides from welcoming them and serving their human and spiritual needs, we distribute water from the well we have in the center.

The Christian district of Midaan

Jihadists continued to fire missiles also on the night between February 4th and 5th, as a counter-offensive to the advance of the governmental forces and their allies. We have been hit again to the core. The explosions have affected the Midaan district where the majority of the people are Christians. It has been a total destruction: the poor remaining inhabitants are now homeless. Try to imagine what it means for the families staying here, while, during the night, missiles fall, without knowing what will happen next.



More Scenes of Utter Destruction

An old woman cried, while she was telling that people, during that night, didn't know how to behave, what decision to take: "Is it better to run away from home and risk meeting 'sister death' on the road or to stay at home, waiting to be killed by the missiles?" Some families have decided to sleep in the cold, at the entry of their houses, others under the staircases. Once, a woman knocked on our door seeking help with her baby in her arms: she told me that there were still people under the rubble. She had been crying out for help, hoping that someone would have come to help those poor people, but no one had had the courage to answer to her call. The injured people remained there, as well as the corpses, for hours.

Why we remain

But we do not surrender. We are suffering but we are not defeated. We have immediately brought alimentary boxes to the damaged houses while visiting them with the engineers to fix them starting from the doors and the windows. For those who had their entire house damaged, we helped with money to pay the rent of other houses for three months, with the possibility to renew the payment. Lots and lots of scared people knock at our door, especially families with little children. The majority of them cannot even think to escape; they don't have any money, not even for transportation. In this situation there's nothing left for me to do except from welcoming and listening to them. After that we have to start doing something, we can't postpone it to tomorrow. But the work is huge and so are the necessities.



Father Ibrahim



Water and prohibitive prices

There is still the big problem of water. While rockets were flying it was shocking to see people wandering looking for water. People are desperate and they face rockets and rain in order to collect some water from the faucets installed on the roads, above the wells. The cost is now 410 dollars per litter, while yesterday it costed 400. This means that the price of food rises from one day to another, even of the cheaper things like vegetables. A lady told me that even monthly wages, for her who still is fortunate to still have a job, are not enough even for one portion of vegetables a day.

"How long, oh Lord, will you forget me?" (I.e. Psalm 12)

In the sorrow of these days it occurred to my mind the psalm that says "How long, oh Lord, will you forget me?" Sometimes this question comes to me: "Has the Lord left us? Where is the Lord?" This is a moment in which our faith is highly shaken, for all of us, little herd that is left in Aleppo. Christ asked to Saul: "Why do you persecute me?" leaving a firm proof of His union with every part of His Holy Body. He is here, suffering, on the cross and he does not "look away while His people are suffering". He is here in the middle of his people; He helps them and He assists them through the tender clemency and mercy of His pastors; even if many of them are weary and bitter as they see what is happening to their herd. This is how it is for us, Franciscan monks. And this is why we stay here.

Father Ibrahim 7th February 2016

The Matt Talbot Mass and Novena

The Matt Talbot Mass and Novena will continue this Friday, 4th March. at 7.30p.m. in Togher Church. The Celebrant and preacher will be Fr Charlie Davy, S.J., who comes to us from the Jesuit Community in Galway. Everybody is welcome as we pray for all who are carrying the cross of suffering at this time. There will be a cup of tea afterwards in the Parish Office.

Rediscovering Mercy

Four sessions to explore Mercy in a personal, local, global and prayerful context on Mondays 29th February, 7th and 14th March beginning with coffee 10:30am and session from 10:45am to 12:15pm at the Pastoral Development Office, Ballyphehane, Cork – located in the grounds of Ballyphehane Church, access from Friars Walk where free parking is available. Contact: Sr Karen 021 4537601

The Parents' Association in BCS

Are holding a talk on
Wednesday 2nd March at 7.30pm in the school.

The Talk is on:

POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH.

How to live happier and healthier lives in today's busy world.

Speaker; Dr. Paul Deasy.

Venue : Ballincollig Community School

All Welcome - Admission is free

Reflection for Parents

Some children worry whether or not their parents will live as long as the child needs them--basically forever! But often, parents worry more that they will someday be a burden to their children. Once in a while, parents know they only have a short period of time left with their children and they quickly take stock of what is truly important and act accordingly. Even without this notice, it would be good to evaluate each day with our children. How many nights do we fall into bed praying that this is not the last day our children remember with us! In today's First Reading we hear the story of the call of Moses and the revelation of the divine name. We pray for the grace to recognise the Lord and to answer when he calls.

Jubilee Year Confessions

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, The Holy Father has asked that we would make available continuous confession in a church in every diocese throughout the world on the 4th/5th March 2016. You may remember that this initiative also took place last year.

In this Diocese, given the location of the Holy Door for the Year of Mercy, the designated church is St. Francis, a church associated with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We will begin at 10am on Friday the 4th of March and continue until 10am on Saturday the 5th March at St Francis Church, at which stage the Franciscans will take over again

Newsflash

Best seller coming on the market title "Life of a Priest by Fr. Gerry. Signing and sale after 10am mass Sunday March 13th.

Bulletin Board

Masses during Lent for coming week.

Church of Christ Our Light

8.30am & 6:30 pm

Church of St. Mary & John

9.30am No evening Mass

First Friday

Friday March 4th is the first Friday of the month. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St Mary & St John from 6.30pm to 7.45pm, you are invited to come and spend some time with the Lord. There is Mass in St Mary & St John on Friday evening at 8.00pm. 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.

Children's Mass

The next Children's Mass for children in second class preparing for their first Holy Communion will take place on Sunday March 6th at 11.00am in Church of Christ Our Light. The Parents of children who are seven and eight are asked to bring them to this Mass. Preparation with the children commences in the main body of the church at 10.45am. The Children retire to the crying room where they celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in a child friendly fashion. They return to the main body of the church for the offertory of the Mass

Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism preparation will take place on Saturday April 2nd at 12.00 noon in the Annex, 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.

Mass Diaries

Mass Diaries to book Mass intentions for April, May, & June 2016 will open in both churches on Saturday March 12th at 8.30am

Priority will be given to 1st Anniversary Mass.

Passover Meal

The Passover Meal will be celebrated on Tuesday 22nd March in the Library, Community Hall. Limited number, names please to the Parish Office 021 487 1206, if interested.

Coeliac Hosts

The Coeliac Association of Ireland have advised that the low gluten hosts are suitable for Coeliacs

Fr. George

Thanks Giving Mass January 10th

The Mass of thanks-giving celebrated by The Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Charles Brown was recorded by Captured Occasions Video Productions. This was a very special and memorable occasion for the people of Ballincollig. DVD's are available at €15 each, if you wish to purchase please give your name and address to the parish office or sacristy

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Mar-05 & Mar-06-2016

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Laura O'Keeffe

8:30 am
Pat Fennell
Kate Healy

10:00 am
Maria Bunyan
Amy O'Driscoll

12:00 Noon
Chloe Dalton O'Connor
Katie Tobin / Kate Sheehy

7:30 pm (Vigil)
Fiona Feely

11:00 am
Jacob Derham
Ciara Healy

12:30 pm
Kay Carew
Jane O'Leary

5:30 pm
Marlyn O'Connor

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 & 6:30 pm

9:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am & 6:30 pm

9:30 am

Wednesday

8:30 am & 6:30 pm

9:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am & 6:30 pm

9:30 am

Friday

8:30 am & 6:30 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

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty 087-2479140
Fr. George O'Mahony P.P. 021-4871206
Fr. Cian O'Sullivan C.C. 021-4876171

Funeral Pastoral Team Rota

Week 29th Feb to 6th Mar

Brid Dunne
Sr. Colette O'Leary

Social / Coffee Mornings

Continue every Friday morning in parish house "Sonas"
on Station Road at 10 am.

Everyone welcome as it is an ideal opportunity to get
and know people from our community.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Mar-05 & Mar-06-2016

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Eileen Murphy
Ted Nelligan
Maurice Bunyan
Sheila Walshe
Katie Collins
Aisling Leahy

7:30 pm John O'Donoghue
Mary Dineen
Mairead Keenan
Kay O'Sullivan

8:30 am Helen Kelly
Michael Crowley
Eileen Corkery

11:00 am Mona Bowen
Diarmuid Horgan
Bill Barry / Sylvia Man-
ley
Mary Aylward
Pauline Baston

10:00 am Fionnuala McDonagh
Mary Buckley
Fiona Kelly
Mary O'Regan
Martin O'Leary
Andrej Janukowicz

12:30 pm Maura O'Driscoll
Mary Lehane
Dympna Byrne
Suzanne Leech

12 Noon Ann-Marie Cosgrove
Phil Kennedy
Ellen O'Sullivan
Ursula McAuliffe
Sally Crowley
Helen Plunkett

5:30 pm Shelia Curran
Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2016

Resulting from Ballincollig's excellent performance in last year's National Tidy Towns Competition, the town has qualified to participate in Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition for 2016 under the Large Urban Centre Award.

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition is an all island initiative organised jointly by the Department and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council and participation is based on a town's performance in Tidy Towns and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council's 'Best Kept Awards' in the previous year. Adjudication takes place during the month of May and the results are announced at an awards ceremony in Belfast in June. There are four awards in this year's competition; Best Village, Best Small Town, Best Large Town and Best Large Urban Centre, with one of these going on to take the overall prize.

We ask for the support of the wider community to help us achieve more positive results for Ballincollig, categories to be judged are;

- Presentation of Buildings
- Appearance of Approach Roads and Streets and Public Areas
- Presentation of Natural Environment
- Presentation of Immediate Residential Areas
- Tidiness
- Comprehensiveness
- General Impression