

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



SUNDAY 30TH DECEMBER 2001



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.

A WELL DESERVED THANK YOU

The end of the year is a good time to say thanks to all who participated in parish life in Ballincollig. Ideally a parish should be rather like an extended family, in the sense that the members bear responsibility for each other. In parish life the existence of such solicitude is bourn out in simple ways like turning up at funerals to sympathise with and support the bereaved; like helping to celebrate the first Communion or Confirmation of a neighbour's child; mlike phoning to ask after someone who is ill or in hospital, etc. Simple things really but so different from the coldness of impersonal big city life.

We think of Mass principally as our weekly appointment with the Lord. But it also has a most important community dimension. When someone and your friend says; "I don't know her." You say: "Of course you know her. She is always at the 10.00 Mass."

Family responsibility usually involves financial practicalities. The members share the family income. The parents bear the financial burden of bringing up their children; when the parents grow old and pass into retirement and perhaps illness, the children carry the expenses involved. In a word, the strong help the weak. It is much the same in a Christian community. Only two weeks ago we had the outstanding example of the well off who contributed £12,000 at the Saint Vincent de Paul collection to make Christmas happy for those families who are less well off.

Ballincollig parish is building up a great tradition of practical service to the Church. A simple invitation from the pulpit brings in all the volunteers necessary to participate in the Liturgy as Readers and Ministers of the Eucharist. There is no problem in getting people to serve on the Parish Council. Volunteers collect at the Masses, dress the alters with flowers, sing in the choirs, count the collection, produce this newsletter, care for the aged, sit on School Boards of Management, raise funds, run the Scouts. The list could go on and on.

On behalf of the priests who have the honour of serving in the parish, I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone in the parish, not only for your willing participation in so many areas of parish life but also for your generosity in supporting us by means of the "dues". Please remember that any ideas you have for improving parish life will be fully considered by our parish Council which in the past six and a half years has introduced so many innovations and served the Lord so well.

Leonard O'Brien

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST:

Let us bring our prayeto God, who showers blessings upon all his sons and daughters.

READER:

For the members of the Christian Family, that joy and peace may be theirs through the Christmas celebration.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the families of this community, that members may learn to give way to each other in tolerance and respect.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For families where there is hurt and difficulty, that those who have suffered may find healing.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who look to the future with fear, that Christ may be their light in the New Year and through all their days.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who have died, and for all we have known who have died during the year 2001, whom we remember now, that the light of heaven may be theirs.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For our own needs, and for those in our prayers during the New Year celebrations...

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

PRIEST:

Ø God, your care for your family is constant: hear the prayers we make, in faith and trust, through Christ our Lord Amen.

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

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

A WITNESS FOR THE TRUTH(SECOND READING)

Tomorrow the month of the Missions begins, appropriately, with the feast of St. Thérèse. Jesus witnessed to the truth, as did his followers(Second Reading). St Thérèse knew that being an apostle - a messenger of the Gospel - was an essential part of her Carmelite vocation. It is part of the vocation of every Christian to be a witness to the Good News.

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 for all your help and co-operation during the past year. You will be remembered in our Christmas Masses.

Leonard O'Brien, Pat O'Donovan, Paul O'Donoghue, John O'Donovan

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

Patrick Sheehan, Kilmurray
 Nellie Murphy, Station Rd
 Con Greaney, Station Rd
 Tom Drinan, Waterfall
 The Delaney & McCarthy Family's
 Bernard & Josephine Boylan, Maple Lawn
 Margaret Collins
 Denis Murphy, Fr Sexton park
 Ellen Lynch
 John Lynch
 Margaret Rohane, Kinsale

Week 2

Edward & Joan Murphy, Powdermills
 Bridget Moran, Powdermills & London
 Christopher Daly
 Joe Lennihan, Inniscarra View
 John Coleman, Coolroe
 Eileen Quinn, Manchester
 Maureen Cuddihy, Coolroe
 Maureen Callanan, West Village
 Timothy O' Leary, Farnanes
 John & Anna Twomey, West Village

SAINTS THIS WEEK

St Sylvester died in 335 after being Pope for 21 years. He was elected the year after the Edict of Milan, when Christians became free to worship publicly. He built many new churches in Rome and sent his legates to the Council of Nicaea in 325.

St Basil 330-379, bishop of Caesarea, was a brilliant preacher, lived an ascetic life establishing norms for monastic life, implemented the decrees of the Council of Nicaea. He is Patron of Russia.

St. Gregory, 330-379 was an unwilling bishop, first of Sasima and then Constantinople. He retired to live a monastic life.

St Munchin (Mainchin) was born probably in Dal Cais. In the seventh century he was granted Inis Sibtonn (Ibton) in the tidal waters of Limerick for a monastic foundation.

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*For personal attention contact
 Michael or Patricia*

FIRST WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

30 Sunday Sir. 3:3-7,14-17. (2-6.12-14.) Ps. 127. Col. 3:12-21. Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23. *Lect I:114*

NB. Col 3:12-17 is recommended as an alternative second reading. Cf. LN 21. Raised to the dignity of a Sacrament, marriage expresses the "great mystery" of Christ's nuptial love for his Church (cf. Eph 5:32). On this point the Church cannot yield to cultural pressures, no matter how idespread and even militant that may be. Instead, it is necessary to ensure that through an ever more complete Gospel formation Christian families show convincingly that it is possible to live marriage fully in keeping with god's plan and with the true good of the human peron - of the spouses, and of the children who are more fragile. Families themselves must become increasingly conscious of the care due to children, and play an active role in the Church and in society in safeguarding their rights. Novo Millennio Ineunte. Pope John Paul II, 2001

31 Monday 1 Jn. 2:18-21. Ps.95. Jn. 1:1-18 *Lect I:136*

"The word became flesh - in order to save us by reconciling us with God - so that thus we might know God's love - to be our model of holiness - to make us 'partakers of the divine nature'." cf. CCC, 456-460.

January 2002

1 Tuesday Num. 6:22-27. Ps 66 Gal. 4:4-7. Lk. 2:16-21 *Lect I:139*

Mary, the mother of God At the message of the angel, the Virhin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave Life to the World. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer. (Lumen gentium, 52.)

2 Wednesday 1 Jn. 2:22-28 Ps. 97. Jn. 1:19-28. *Lect I:146*

We are to live in Christ with the promise of eternal life.

3 Thursday 1 Jn. 2:29-3:6. Ps. 97. Jn. 1:29-34. *Lect I:148*

"The whole life of Jesus Christ will make manifest 'hhow God anointed Jesus of Nazereth with the Holy Spirit and with power'." CCC, 486

4 Friday 1 Jn. 3:7-10. Ps. 97. Jn. 1:35-42. *Lect I:150*

The Christmas message is that we have found the Messiah. Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, has appeared to undo the work of the devil.

5 Saturday 1 Jn. 3:11-21. Ps. 99. Jn. 1:43-51. *Lect I:152*

"The Epiphany shows that the "full number of the nations" now takes its 'place in the family of the patriarchs' and acquires Israelitica dignitas (is made 'worthy of the heritage of Israel')."
 " CCC, 528

BALLINCOLLIG **TIDY TOWNS**

Would like to thank everyone who supported them in any way throughout the year.

We would also like to acknowledge the great work being done by the local County Council employees.

We look forward to even better results in 2002

With everyone's support and assistance

**Wishing you all a Happy New Year
And every good wish for 2002**

A PRAYER

*Lord, This land is yours,
From East to West, wehn
we rise and when we rest.
Lord of vine, barley and sheep,
Of mountains high and ravines deep.*

*And dear Lord, when you pray
From where you are in Heaven
Please ask the Spirit for his gifts
- at least seven.*

By Fr O Riordan - Lisgould

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Notices, articles, etc. for the publications of 23rd December & 30th December must be handed in to the sacristy, St. Mary & St. John by Tuesday next, 18th December.

The deadline for the publication of 6th January 2002 is wednesday 2nd January.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE PRIESTS OF THE PARISH

SINCERE THANKS FROM
FR. LEONARD, PAT, PAUL & JOHN

FATIMA APOSTULATE AND CIRCLES OF ROSARY

The fifteen mysteries of the Rosary will be recited in both Churches on New Year's Eve
31st December at 3.00pm

All are welcome

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 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

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 comprehensions?
In all the dizzy strife of things,
both high and low.

TO A SPECIAL CHILD

A meeting was held quite far from Earth:
It's time again for another birth
Said the angels to the Lord above.
This special child will need lots of love.

Its progress may seem very slow
Accomplishments he may not show
And he'll require extra care
From the folks he'll meet way down there.

He may not run or laugh or play
His thoughts may seem so far away
In many ways he won't adapt
And he'll be known as handicapped

So let's be careful where he's sent
We want his life to be content
Please Lord find the mother who
Will do this special job for you.

She will not realise straight away
The leading role she's asked to play
But with this child sent from above
Comes stronger faith and richer love

And soon she'll know the privilege given
In caring for this gift from Heaven.
Her precious boy, so meek and mild,
Is Heaven's very special child.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on
Friday January 4th 2002 from 10am until 7.30pm

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Boxes of the 2002 envelope for the weekly
offering are available from both churches.

PLEASE TAKE ONE HOME

"HAPPY CHRISTMAS"

- FROM NOELLE AND FAMILY -

Noelle and her family would very much like to thank you all again for your prayerful support and warm friendship, most especially since Noelle was diagnosed with a brain tumor in February 2001. With heartfelt gratitude and thanks to God for so many graces and blessings and a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, please continue to pray for a mighty miracle for Noelle, and great healing for all of us. May the joy of the first Christmas, fill your homes with happiness. Christmas blessings and every good wish for the New Year. We are arranging for the holy sacrifice of the Mass to be offered for all your intentions at

Bethlehem this Christmas

The Wrenne family.

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ANOTHER NEW YEAR

"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

ANCIENT NEW YEARS

The celebration of the New Year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of Spring).

The beginning of Spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar, in 46 BC, established January 1 as the New Year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

THE CHURCH'S VIEW OF NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations.

During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebration New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

Traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

AULD LANG SYNE

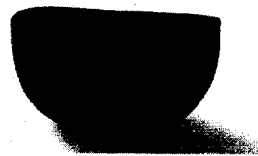
The song, "Auld Lang Syne", is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burn's death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 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".

FATIMA APOSTOLATE, BALLINCOLLIG

The monthly meeting of the Apostolate will be held on Monday 7th January 2002 at 7.00pm in the Youth House, Station Road.

Present members and new members are all most welcome to attend.

DAILY OFFERING



O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you the prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.

And I offer them with the whole Church, especially for the Pope's intentions this month:

That believers in Christ of every nation and culture, may deepen their respect for one another.

That during this year, which is dedicated to the Culture of Peace, men and women of good will may draw inspiration from the mystery of Christmas and be a source of unity for others.

BALLINCOLLIG PARISH COUNCIL PRAYER GROUPS TEAM

The above team have been asked to promote participation in Prayer Groups. To help us to compile a directory of prayer groups within Ballincollig. We invite you to write to us giving details of your group, i.e. type of group, when and where you meet, and if you are open to new members.

Replies should be sent to:
PRAYER GROUPS TEAM,
 c/o Ballincollig Parishioner,
 Sacristy, St. Mary & St. John,
 Station Road, Ballincollig.

Or e-mail: parish@ballincolligparish.ie

NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS:

Is. 60:1-6. Ps. 71. Eph. 3:2-3, 5-6. Mt. 2:1-12



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or

Fr. Fearon, St. Dominic's Retreat House, Montenotte, Cork

Tel: 021- 4502 250

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 5TH /6TH JAN

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN

CHRIST OUR LIGHT

6.00p.m.(Vigil) - Sandra Walsh	8.00p.m.(Vigil) - Tom Ryan
8.30a.m. - Marian Daly	11.00a.m. - Phil O' Connell
10.00a.m. - Margot Twomey	12.30p.m. - Liam Hayes
12 Noon - Tony Hegarty	5.30p.m. - Margaret Murphy

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

5th /6th December 2002

ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



SATURDAY 5TH
6p.m.

Mary O'Donoghue
 Cait O'Grady
 Margaret o'Sullivan
 Rita Aherne
 Betty Sheehan
 Jim Walsh

SUNDAY 6TH

8.30a.m.
 Mary Buckley
 Rita Murphy

10a.m.
 Maureen Roche
 Christina Walshe
 Peter Reilly
 Mary Collins

12.00 Noon
 Oliver O'Donovan
 Barbara Kelly
 John Jeffers
 Mary McLean
 Ellen Seymour
 Ita Walshe

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

SATURDAY 5TH
8p.m.

Anne O'Regan
 Marion O'Sullivan
 Sheila Cahill

SUNDAY 6TH
11a.m.

Seamus O'Connell
 Mary O' Connell
 Finbarr Murray
 Alan O'Riordan
 Geraldine Keohane

12.30p.m.
 Eileen O'Donoghue
 Jackie Sheehan
 Anne Burke
 Mary Green
 Michael O'Leary

5.30p.m.
 Catherine Green
 Mary Breen
 Siobhan Burke

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	EACH SUNDAY	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
<p>Masses Sunday: 8.30, 10.00, 12.00 Mon-Fri: 9.30am Saturday: 10.00am, 6pm (Vigil)</p>	<p>ROSARY RECITED AT BOTH CHURCHES EACH SUNDAY 3.00P.M. <i>Everyone most welcome</i></p>	<p>Masses Sunday: 11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm Mon-Fri: 8.30am Saturday: 10.00am, 8.00pm (Vigil)</p>
<p>Confessions Saturday: after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass</p>	<p>MASS BOOKINGS THE MASS BOOK IN BOTH CHURCHES IS NOW OPEN FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2002</p>	<p>Confessions Saturday: after 10am Mass</p>
<p>Baptisms Saturday: 5.00pm Sunday: 12.45pm</p>		<p>Baptisms Saturday: 7.15pm</p>

PARISH CLERGY

CHURCH NO. ☎ 087-2479140
 Fr. L.O'Brien PP ☎ 021-4871206
 Fr. P. O'Donovan C.C. ☎ 021-4872808 Fax: 021-4872808
 Fr. Paul O'Donoghue ☎ 021-4876055
 Fr. John O'Donovan ☎ 021-4870434

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