

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 30-November-2014

First Sunday of Advent

*God comes to those who wait for him. Our waiting needs to be prayerful if we are to be truly ready to receive him when he comes.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

## First Sunday of Advent

'Stay awake' Jesus said to his disciples, or perhaps awake from your slumber as a new day is dawning.

This week Fr Derek Meskell CSsR will lead our 3 day Advent Retreat in St Mary's & St John's Church. Morning Mass @ 7.00am and Evening Sessions @ 8.00pm. Fr Derek is a familiar visitor to our parish and we welcome him as he invites us to prepare the way as best we can for the great Feast of Christ's Birth (The Nativity).

We finished the liturgical year last week with the Feast of Christ the King and we now enter into the liturgical year with the season of Advent.

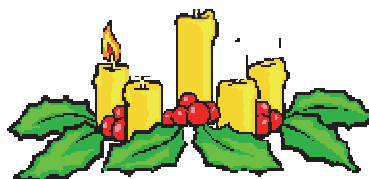
The Advent Wreath is out and the first candle will be lit. The Advent wreath itself is a circular evergreen wreath with the circle reminding us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. The candles symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His Son and represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent.

The flame of each new candle reminds us that, as we wait, something is happening, more is yet to come. We ask the Lord that over these weeks we give time to wait with expectation and hope. Let us, on this First Sunday of Advent, keep our eye on the ball and make our own personal effort regardless of what is going on around us to find something of the great treasures within the Christmas story. Let us make a special effort to be in a state of readiness to celebrate worthily The Nativity, the Birth of Christ. Let us create, for ourselves and for others, time and space for God's peace and love to, as it were, come to life, come to birth. O Lord, speak to all of us during this Holy Season and turn our eyes to watch for your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, Come

*Dave O'Connell*

First Sunday of Advent

Lord, help us to remember that YOU are near us always as we struggle, step by step, to get nearer to YOU, in this special season. "God of Hosts, bring us back; Let Your face shine on us and we shall be saved"



## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**Priest**

In a world divided by greed and fear, let us ask God to come to our help and bring us back to him.

**Reader**

For Christians: that their lives may bear witness to the faith they profess with their lips.

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

For all those who hold positions of trust and responsibility in our society: that they may prove to be good and faithful servants.

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

For those who do dull and repetitive work.

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

For all gathered here: That God may awaken our faith from the sleep of habit and routine.

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

For our dead, those we have loved and those no one remembers: That God may keep them all his care.

**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**

All powerful God, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever; help us to have confidence in your unchanging love for us, so that we may have the strength to persevere in goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***God of hosts, bring us back; Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.***

**Visit Our Website: [www.ballincolligparish.ie](http://www.ballincolligparish.ie) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish](https://www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish)**

**BAPTISMS**

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

Fiadh Catherine Keohane, Westcourt Heights.  
 Karl Patrick Power, Berryfield, Classes Lake.  
 Jayne Martina Hennnessy, The Cloisters.  
 Ellie Marie Fitzgerald, Parknamore Rise.

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

Jim Butler, Inniscarra.  
 Fin Buckley, Bishopstown.  
 Mary Dineen, Shandon View.  
 P.J Holly, Muskerry Estate & Millstreet  
 Charlie, Julia & Sean Dunne, Muskerry Estate.  
 Christy Callanan, Muskerry Estate.  
 Pauline O'Neill, Castleknock.  
 Betty Hickey, Los Angeles.  
 Kathleen O'Connor, Oaklands.  
 Kevin McCarthy, Rosewood.  
 Jerry Sheehan, Curraheen.  
 Michael Giltinan, Maglin View.  
 Mick Hennigan, Station Cross.  
 John Cahill, Tower/ Parish Organist.  
 Noreen Murray, Straight Road.  
 Tom Murray, Straight Road.  
 Ellen Linehan McNabb, Kanturk & London.  
 Dec members of the Linehan family.  
 Jeremiah & Julia Forde, Station Road.  
 Stephen O'Sullivan, Rosewood.  
 Stephen Spitere, Glasheen.  
 Kitty, Denis & William O'Mahony, Tudor Grove.  
 Margaret Connolly, Elm Lawn.  
 Anne Patricia Kelly, Statford & Macroom.

**Marriage Support**

The Envelope Collection conducted on weekend of 15th & 16th November amounted to €450. Thank you for your support which was greatly appreciated.

**Reflection for Parents**

There is more work for parents to do in a day than will ever get done. Some of us work outside our homes while some stay at home. In either case there are always bills to pay, laundry to wash, meals to prepare, errands to run and things to fix. Unless we deliberately set aside time to prepare ourselves and our families for Jesus' return, we will continue with the busyness of everyday life like the people of Noah's time and the workers in the field and at the mill. Especially at this time of year, it is easy to get caught up in the demands centred on Jesus' birth rather than his return.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**First Week of Advent**

30 Sunday Is 63:16-17. 64:1, 3-8. Ps 79. 1 Car 1:-9. Mk 13:33-37. Lect I: 5  
 01 Monday Is 2:1-5. Ps. 121. Mt. 8:5-11. Lect I: 10  
 02 Tuesday Is 11:1-10. Ps. 71. Lk. 10:21-24. Lect I: 13  
 03 Wednesday Is. 25:6-10. Ps. 22. Mt. 15:29-37. Lect I: 15  
 04 Thursday Is. 26: 1-6. Ps. 117. Mt. 7:21, 24-27. Lect I: 18  
 05 Friday Is. 29:17-24. Ps. 26. Mt. 9:27-31. Lect I: 20  
 06 Saturday Is. 30:19-21, 23-26. Ps. 146. Mt. 9:35-10: 1, 6-8. Lect I: 22

**Next Sunday's Readings 07/December/2014**

Is 40:1-5, 9-11. Ps 84.2 Pet3:8-14. Mk 1:1-8. Lect I: 27

**Christian Meditation Ireland**

Day of Recollection in Cork with Fr. Donagh O'Shea on Saturday, 6th December, from 9:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Missionaries' Hall, Western Rd., Cork. Cost €15. Bring a packed lunch. Booking not essential - just turn up on the day.

For further information contact Rita Tel.: 021 4292404 or email: 8rroconnell@gmail.com

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal**

Meeting every Tuesday night at 8 pm in Ballincollig Community Hall.

Songs of praise and joy, sharing God's word. Come and join us in prayer and worship.

Anybody out there who can play guitar, violin etc. would be most welcome

Information can be obtained from Pat Carroll on 086 8136701

**Anam Cara Parental & Sibling Bereavement Support**

Anam Cara support groups are situated throughout Ireland and provide parents a safe, comfortable environment where they have the opportunity to connect with other bereaved parents. Anam Cara is an inclusive organisation where parents do not identify themselves by their children's age, how they died, or if their death was recent or many years ago. What Anam Cara provides is a safe place for bereaved parents to connect with others who understand the intensity of the grief and loss.

Anam Cara is holding its monthly Parent Evening on Wednesday 3rd of December 2014 from 19:30 to 21:00 at the Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork. Anam Cara Services are available free of charge to all bereaved parents.

For further information please see our website at [www.anamcara.ie](http://www.anamcara.ie) email us at [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) or call 01 4045378

**CROWLEY**

**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

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

Email: [michaelfd@eircom.net](mailto:michaelfd@eircom.net)

[www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie](http://www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie)

Complete Funeral Arrangements

24 Hour Service Embalming Service

Member I.A.F.D.

Golden Charter Funeral

Pre-Planning Available

**THE SUNDAY READINGS**

First Reading: Is. 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8  
 The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah expresses sentiments of longing for the coming of the Saviour.

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:3-9  
 St Paul gives a word of encouragement to all who are waiting for Jesus.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37  
 We are reminded in today's gospel that the world as we know it will pass away, and God's Kingdom will come in full. Jesus tells a parable about a master who went away and left each of his servants with a specific task to do. No one knew when the owner would return, just as no one can know when God's plan will be fulfilled. The words of Jesus were quite clear to the early Christians and to us today. We must be watchful and always ready for Jesus' return.

**St. Vincent de Paul CE Scheme**

Station Road, Ballincollig

021 4874626 stvincentdepaulce@hotmail.com

We have a vacancy for 2 caretakers in the Community Hall under the above Community Employment Scheme. Duties include light maintenance, cleaning, opening, closing and upkeep of Community Hall. If you are interested and you are eligible for Community Employment please forward your CV to the above address or email your CV to the above email

**Youth 2000 Ireland**

Will be hosting their annual Christmas Retreat in Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th December 2014. Over 500 young people from across Ireland (aged 16-35) are expected at this donation only event, with all newcomers very welcome. This is a great opportunity to find out what your faith is all about in a friendly, chilled out atmosphere. Free buses available. Online booking necessary, see www.youth2000.ie or phone 01 6753690.

**Christmas Cards & Sponsor a Slate**

Sincere thanks to all those who have sponsored slates for Christ Our Light in recent weeks. The work is now complete and hopefully will make the building waterproof for many years. Thanks also to those who have purchased the Christmas Cards using the nativity scene from one of the glass stained windows in the Church of St. Mary & St. John last weekend. The final opportunity to sponsor a slate or purchase Christmas Cards will be at all Masses this week end (29th, 30th November).

**L'Arch Christmas Craft Fair**

Sunday Dec 7th From 10am to 4pm  
 In L'Arch Workshop  
 (In between school and Church in Togher)  
 In aid of people with an intellectual Disability  
 Admission Free.

**Bulletin Board**

**First Friday**

Friday December 5th 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.

**Baptism Preparation**

The next Baptism preparation will take place on Saturday 6th December at 12.00 noon 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.

**Mass Diaries**

Mass Diaries to book Mass intentions for January, February & March 2015 will open in both churches on Saturday December 13th at 9.00am. Priority will be given to those booking 1st Anniversary Mass.

**Graveyard Maintenance**

Many people make a huge effort to keep the graveyard adjacent to St Mary and Johns' neat and tidy. However a small minority dump plastic wrapping, withered flowers and bottles at the rear fence of the graveyard. We appeal to all to take plastic wrapping, withered flowers and plastic bottles to your own bin and play your part in keeping the graveyard clean and neat.

**Christmas Penitential Service**

Church of Christ our Light Monday December 22nd at 8 pm.

**Advent Retreat**

The Advent retreat will take place over three days and begins on Monday December 1st, continuing 2nd and 3rd. There will be early morning mass each morning at 7 am, please make the effort to come along for those mornings. Each evening at 8 pm. there will be time of prayer, reading and a reflection by Fr Derek Meskel C.Ss.r. The evening sessions will be about 50 minutes and are a chance to prepare ourselves for the saviour's birth.

**Evening Themes**

Monday	Who is God for me?
Tuesday	How is Christ present to me at Mass?
Wednesday	Mary, the mother of God?

We invite you to come and try to make each evening a family occasion.

**Tax Relief**

Many parishioners contribute €5 or more to the offertory collection each Sunday. I am asking you to please consider using an envelope and register the number on your envelope with the parish office. Last year the parish gained almost eight thousand euro by claiming a tax rebate for those who kindly registered their number. I hope that with your help we can at least double the figure next year. Looking forward to your support.

Fr. George

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Dec/06 & Dec/07/2014

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Muireann Nelligan  
Padraig McAuliffe  
**8:30 am**  
Pat Farrell

**10:00 am**  
Cormac Kelly  
Ashling O'Shea

**12:00 Noon**  
Catherine O'Sullivan  
Emer Wiseman

**7:30 pm (Vigil)**  
Nonyi Ebili  
Jennifer Nyagaya  
**11:00 am**  
Jacob Derham

**12:30 pm**  
Cathy Naughton  
Una Lynch

**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

7:00 am & 9:30 am

**Monday**

8:30 am

7:00 am & 9:30 am

**Tuesday**

8:30 am

7:00 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  
Fr. George O'Mahony P.P.  
Fr. Dave O'Connell C.C.  
Fr. James McSweeney

087-2479140  
021-4871206  
021-4876171 or frdaveoconnell@gmail.com  
021-4873308

**Funeral Pastoral Team Rota**

Week 8th Dec to 14th Dec

Joan Barrett  
Margot Twomey

**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**

Dec/06 & Dec/07/2014

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6.00 pm** Patsie Murphy  
Pat Moore  
Mary Walsh  
Marie Healy  
Margaret Kearney  
Nora Barry

**8:30 am** Theresa Lucey  
Tom Butler  
Mona Holland

**10:00 am** Margaret Bunyan  
Mary Murphy  
Joan Tobin  
Breda Monaghan  
Niamh Nic Gearailt

**12 Noon** Marie Bowen  
Breda Lenihan  
Jacinta Jeffers  
Rena O'Connor  
Sean Farrell  
Mary Hennigan

**7:30 pm** Sheila O'Connor  
Martin O'Regan  
Brid Healy-Harris  
Kit Cahill

**11:00 am** Carmel Ryan  
Eileen Byrne  
Bernadett Spillane  
Angela Cunningham  
Laurence Cunningham

**12:30 pm** Eileen Garvey  
Sally Power  
Breda Callanan  
Catherine Freehill  
Betty Walsh

**5:30 pm** Olan O'Mahony  
Ann-Marie Whelan  
Noel Kelleher

**Church of St. Mary & St. John Ballincollig - Flower Festival**

You will be aware by now that the Parish has embarked on a yearlong calendar of events to mark the 150th anniversary of the building and commissioning of St. Mary & St. John's Church.

Among the planned events is a weekend Flower Festival in May of next year. All proceeds from the Flower Festival will be given to the Hope Foundation Project in Calcutta. This is a very deserving charity which has been actively supported for some years now by the youth of our parish. Ballincollig school children go to Calcutta each year to participate in the work of the Foundation.

Sponsorship for this event has been invited from all businesses in Ballincollig, by letter and will be greatly welcomed. Sponsors are requested to please return sponsorship forms and donations in the envelope provided by 15th December, 2014. They may be handed in at the week-end mass collections or directly to the sacristy in either St. Mary & St. John's Church or Christ Our Light Church or returned by post.

Anyone else wishing to be a sponsor is most welcome to do so. Sponsorship slips can be collected at the sacristy in either church. This is the only event during the entire celebrations where sponsorship will be sought.

All donations will be acknowledged by letter and listed in the Flower Festival Booklet which will be available at the Festival