

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

150 Years



**St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road**

## Sunday 11-December-2016

### Third Sunday of Advent

*The coming of Christ brought joy to the world as He healed every sickness and overcame human deprivation. For those who suffer, the joy of Christ's first coming must be tempered by patience as they await their restoration at his Second Coming.*



**Christ Our Light  
Innishmore**

### **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.**

St. John's Conference, Ballincollig and Ballinora.

This year, more than any other year, we need your help at Christmas. Calls for assistance, from families in the Ballincollig and Ballinora areas, are up considerably since last year and we anticipate that these calls, for our assistance, will continue to increase. This, as you will understand, places huge seasonal demands on our resources.

Once again, with the kind permission and encouragement of the priests in our parish, we are holding our Annual Christmas Collection at all Masses this weekend Saturday and Sunday, 10th and 11th of December 2016.

We in the Vincent de Paul Society in Ballincollig and Ballinora, are a family visitation conference. We witness poverty and its effects on families; we are constantly faced with families who live from week to week struggling to make ends meet. We see the parents who are constantly worrying about which bill to pay this week from their meagre resources, be it electricity, heating, rent or mortgage, education, clothing etc.

The Society in the Ballincollig and Ballinora areas, is currently providing assistance to over 200 families; this us up considerably since last year. We have funded local activities such as health care, home assistance, education, summer breaks etc. and where there is someone in need we are always there to assist in every way possible. We greatly depend on your generosity to fund our work and you have not failed us. The goodness and kindness of the Parishioners of Ballincollig and Ballinora empowers us to continue the work of those who have served the local community so well over the past decades.

Thank you once again for your generous support throughout the past year. Your loyalty to the local Vincent de Paul Society has made a valuable difference. Should anyone be in need you can call us at the Cork Regional Office on 021-4270444 or the local Conference on 087-6651707.

Thank you again for your generosity and support.

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

We are a step nearer to our celebration of His coming. As we approach Him we must bring Him everything! Our dreams, our successes, our rejoicing. If we have little to rejoice over, bring Him that little. If you feel you have only empty hands - bring Him those empty hands. IN HIS HANDS ALL ARE MADE GOOD! "Let us rejoice in the Lord"



### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Priest**

With confidence, let us pray to the Lord who keeps faith for ever.

**Reader**

For the Pope, the bishops, and all who minister in the Church: that they may give an example of selfless and joyful service.

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

For those who hold public office: that God may enlighten their minds and guide their hearts.

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

For those who are working for the relief of suffering in others: that they may know comfort themselves.

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

For this community: that God may strengthen our faith in the midst of uncertainty and doubt.

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

For those who are suffering the effects of war, famine and persecution in particular the people of Aleppo, Mosul & Nigeria.

**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 mercy, take pity on our weaknesses. May the coming of your Son confirm our faith, strengthen our hope, and deepen our love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Come. Lord. and save us.**

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

**† IN SYMPATHY †**

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

Edwige Galliot.  
Sylvian Deage, VM Ware/France.  
Thomas Marrett, Ballincollig / Friars Road.  
John Corcoran, Church View.

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

Robert & May Curling, London.  
Aoibhin Power, Coolroe Meadows.  
Kate Carson, Fair Hill.  
Frank & Noreen Keohane, Westcourt.  
Seamus O'Donovan, Maple Lawn.  
Sr. Barbara O'Sullivan.  
Cathal Murphy, Bandon.  
Susan O'Driscoll, Carrigdene.  
Deceased members of Ahern family. Fr. Sexton Park.  
Dan Twomey, Clash.  
Br. Angelus Leahy.  
Eimear Higgins, Manor Hill.  
Edith Wyllie, Scotland.  
Con Kerins, Castleknock.  
Dec. Members of the Reilly & Hanney Families.  
Mary & Jack Manley, Limerick.  
Kitty, Denis & William O'Mahony, Tudor Grove.  
Ellen & Denis Hurley, Coolgarten Park.  
Dec. Members of the O'Shea & Sexton Families.  
Gus, Mary & Vincent O'Connell, Ballinora.  
Stephen O'Sullivan, Rosewood.  
Mairtín De Nóglá, Wyndham Downs.  
Dan & Margaret Murphy, Knockburden.  
Dan Murphy, Bray.  
Brendan Whelan, Elm Lawn.  
Frank & Margaret Whelan, Prosperity Square  
William & Christina O'Sullivan, Botanic Road.  
Dec. members of the Whelan & O'Sullivan Families.

**Reflection for Parents**

It would have appeared to Jesus that John began to doubt. Perhaps it was the confinement of prison that let his mind question what he once so clearly understood. But even so, Jesus affirmed John in this scripture as the greatest of all prophets. From this experience, it is reassuring as parents to know that even when we doubt, either ourselves or God, we are still great in God's eyes. Our strength is in knowing God is with us as a loving parent.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Third Week Of Advent**

- 11 Sunday Is. 35:1-6, 10. Ps. 145. Jm. 5:7-10. Mt. 11:2-11. Lect I: 46
- 12 Monday Num. 24:2-7, 15-17. Ps. 24. Mt. 21:23-27 Lect I:53
- 13 Tuesday Zeph. 3:1-2, 9-13. Ps. 33. Mt. 21:28-32 Lect I:56
- 14 Wednesday Is. 45:6-8, 18, 21-26. Ps. 84. Lk. 7:19-23. Lect I:58
- 15 Thursday Is. 54:1-10. Ps. 29. Lk. 7:24-30. Lect I:61
- 16 Friday Is 56:1-3, 6-8. Ps 66. Jn 5:33-36. Lect I: 63
- 17 Saturday Is. 49:2, 8-10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:17 Lect I:76

**Next Sunday's Readings 18-December-2016**

Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Rom. 1:1-7. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I:68

**BAPTISMS**

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

Roland Gerard Ywuong Botsimbo, An Caisleán.  
James Patrick Hallissey, Old Quarter.  
Rónán Cillian Kelly, Old Quarter.  
Aoibheann Brenna Hurley, Classes Lake.

**THE SUNDAY READINGS**

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10  
Isaiah now describes the joy of the kingdom. Advent is a time of gladness because we know that Christ is coming.

Second Reading: St. James 5:7-10  
The prophets of old were teachers; they spoke God's truth. The second reading reminds us to take them as our models.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11.  
John the Baptist had disciples of his own and while in prison he sent some of them to Jesus. At John's request, the disciples asked Jesus if he was the Messiah or were they to wait for another. Jesus did not answer them directly, but pointed to the miracles he had performed in the name of God's love. If John himself did not wonder, it was likely that his followers did. Jesus did not fit the image of "Messiah," and so it was possible that people began to doubt their original perception.

**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)  
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Golden Charter Funeral  
Pre-Planning Available

**Penitential Service**

Going to confession for Christmas has been part and parcel of Irish Catholic life for generations. Older people will recall long slow-moving queues at the confessionals on Christmas Eve. Even today when attitudes have changed Catholics still see a close connection between the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of the birth of Christ.

The old style Confession was an ordeal for many people: they found the slow queuing unnerving, they were afraid the priest might be deaf and that his questions and comments might be overheard by those waiting in line; they were afraid that if they were kept in longer than usual it might embarrass them. Children also were afraid that they might 'get stuck' in the Act of Contrition.

Perhaps it is because of all these considerations that the Reconciliation Service, the modern form of the Sacrament has taken on so well. In the new communal celebration we prepare ourselves together for confession and give thanks together for the forgiveness received. There are readings, a homily, an examination of conscience conducted in common, a shared request for forgiveness and a thanksgiving in common. Central to the ceremony is the opportunity given to each person to come up to the priest of their choice and make a brief confession of their sins. At the Reconciliation Ceremony there may be some people who for one reason or another do not wish to make a confession. These may ask the priest for a blessing and no one will know whether or not they have made a confession.

The confession of sins, in a sense, frees us from the power sin had over our lives. By telling his sins to the priest, man looks squarely at the sins he is guilty of, takes responsibility for them, and thereby opens himself again to God and to the communion of the Church in order to make a new future possible. Being open to the communion of the Church refers, not to Holy Communion or the Blessed Eucharist but rather to our sense of belonging to the parish community. Sin damages or even breaks brotherly friendship in the family, in the neighbourhood or in the wider community in which we live. To steal, to aggress others, to hate, to insult, to drive drunkenly - all such actions offend God but they also offend against other people. Sin is an act of aggression against our fellow man as well as against God. The Sacrament of Penance repairs and restores our union with our fellow man. Because the Reconciliation Service is shared publicly with our neighbours it expresses our desire to admit our sin and our desire to 'make up' with our families, our neighbours and all of God's children throughout the world.

**The Christmas reconciliation service will be held on  
Monday 19th December, 2016  
Church of Christ Our Light at 8pm**

*And then there was the little boy  
who remarked to his companion:  
"The people in heaven must think I'm dead  
I haven't said my prayers for a week"*

**Bulletin Board**

**Baptism Preparation**

The next Baptism preparation will take place on Saturday 4th February 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.

**Penitential Service**

Monday 19th December, 2016  
Church of Christ Our Light at 8pm

**Carol Service**

Church of St Mary & St John  
Sunday 18th December, 2016 at 7.00pm

**Offertory Collection Boxes**

The boxes of envelopes (green) for the Offertory Collection are available in both churches. Families who have already registered the number of their boxes from previous years, please ensure you collect the same number again this year. Please use the envelopes for the Offertory Collection for the Vigil and Sunday Masses during the year. The Offertory Collection is solely for the upkeep, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches. Thanks for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year.

**Mass Diaries**

Mass Diaries to book Mass intentions for January, February and March 2017 are now open in both churches. Priority will be given to those booking 1st Anniversary Mass.

**Parishioners**, who avail of the Direct Debit system and who gave their name can collect a box with their name & number on them from the sacristy.

Thanks for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year.

**Fr. George**

**Don't Be Lonely This Christmas**

Senior Help Line, Ireland's only national listening service for older people, will be open every day over Christmas and the New Year from 10 am to 10 pm. We are here to take your call if you are on your own, feeling isolated, worried or would like someone to talk to. Christmas can be a sad time for many people, and in the midst of apparent universal gaiety, some of us can feel very alone. Senior Help Line volunteers are trained older people who understand the ups and downs of life, and are happy to listen, to keep company and to support.

So let us put the companionship into Christmas this year.

LoCall 1850 440 444, no call costs more than 30 cents.  
All calls completely confidential.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Dec-17 & Dec-18-2016

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Aine Sheehan  
Michael Collins  
**8:30 am**  
Eadaoin O'Leary  
Gerard O'Leary  
**10:00 am**  
Grace Buttimer  
Orla Horgan  
**12:00 Noon**  
Tony Lynch  
Shane Tully

**7:30 pm (Vigil)**  
Rebecca Feely  
Josh Nyagaya  
**11:00 am**  
Ciara Healy  
Yago Greaux  
**12:30 pm**  
Joseph Manning  
Louis Herdman  
**5:30 pm**  
Tom Reck

**MASS TIMES**

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon	<b>Sunday</b>	11 am, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm
9:30 am	<b>Monday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Friday</b>	8:30 am
10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	<b>Saturday</b>	7:30 pm (Vigil)

**CONFESSIONS**

After 10:00 am Mass & before 6:00 pm Mass **Saturday**

**BAPTISMS**

4:30 pm Except First Saturday of Month	<b>Saturday</b>	4:30 pm First Saturday of Month
12:45 pm	<b>Sunday</b>	

**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**

12-Dec-2016 to 18-Dec-2016  
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-17 & Dec-18-2016

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6.00 pm** Steve Wills  
Bernadette Bell  
Danny Farrell  
Jim Walsh  
Frances O'Brien  
Eileen Coughlan

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

**8:30 am** Mary Buckley  
Denis Healy  
Tom Butler

**11:00 am** Mona Bowen  
Diarmuid Horgan  
Bill Barry / Sylvia Manley  
Mary Aylward  
Pauline Baston

**10:00 am** Christy Roche  
Mary O'Regan  
Elaine Crowley  
Anna Buckley  
Claire Creedon  
Jim Lordan

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

**12 Noon** Oliver O'Donovan  
Sean Hennessy  
Mary McLean  
Eleanor Seymour  
Nora Hennessy  
Christina Walshe

**5:30 pm** Shelia Curran  
Elizabeth O'Sullivan

**Christmas Support**

Volunteers to put up Christmas Decorations for Older People

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, but what if you are unable to put up Christmas decorations to give your home that festive feel? "Many older people, particularly those who live alone, cannot easily put up a Christmas tree or other decorations in their homes. Simply getting them down from the attic can be an impossible task" said Age Action Regional Manager John O'Mahony.

All year round volunteers from Age Action's Care & Repair programme do odd-jobs and DIY work for older people free of charge. Jobs that volunteers can do include gardening, moving furniture, putting up smoke alarms, small repairs and small painting/ decorating jobs. According to Mr. O'Mahony "The aim of the Care & Repair programme is to help people with tasks around the home that can become difficult as we grow older. Ultimately we want to support people to remain living in their own homes for as long as they wish in increased safety and comfort."

If you would like assistance putting your Christmas decorations or with any other tasks around the home, simply call Age Action on 021-4536554