

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Sunday 04-March-2007

Second Sunday Of Lent

Today we are presented with two stories of God's appearance amongst us. They remind us that his presence is something awesome and mysterious, but for all that, it offers light for everyone at moments of crisis and doubt in life.



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Are you Semi-Detached?

In urban Ballincollig the most familiar residence is the semi-detached house. (I live in one!) However many families aspire to the greater space and privacy offered in the detached home. This is generally considered an upwardly mobile move for those lucky enough to have gained sufficient equity in their semi. To be detached or semi-detached is the question?

This question relates very well to our religious commitment too. In the not too distant past, the trend of moving away from formal regular religious worship and practice was often described as "a la carte" Catholicism. This was manifest in Catholics choosing aspects of their tradition that they wanted and quietly ignoring aspects or teachings that they couldn't relate to, or that somehow didn't resonate with their life experience.

Today, perhaps semi-detached would be a good analogy to use to explain the relationship many Catholics have with their church. They are still connected, but only in a small way. Like the regular 3 bed semi, the connection is only one wall. These Catholics do not wish to sever all ties with the church, but are happy maintain a loose connection. Religion and religious worship is concentrated on special events in their lives. The big sacramental occasions are the obvious touchstones; Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation followed some years later by marriage. The funerals of loved ones are also important times when they want the church and its ministers to be there for them.

That's the semi detached catholic. A nice kindly neighbour, leading a busy life, won't cause a stir, but still managing to find space for a bit of public religious expression at significant times. This semi detached catholic will never consider that they are not part of the church and would identify themselves in a census as catholic and in their own view, regularly practice their faith. When I worked in Peru over 20 years ago, it was considered to be a strongly catholic country. The semi-detached (although the living conditions of the populace were far from the salubrious semi's we know) catholic was the norm. Certain times of the year brought religious fervour to fever pitch, especially Holy Week. Then it quietened down and we were back again to the smaller numbers at church. Defining the Irish catholic experience today is far more complex than heretofore. The recent decline in public church attendance is only new to Ireland, but taken in the context of the global catholic experience, even one so diverse as the Peruvian culture, it is nothing strange. Perhaps what was unique/strange/different about Ireland of the past was the almost 100% level of weekly church attendance. That has clearly levelled off.

It is worth bringing into this changed arena the relationship between the weekly church attendees and the semi-detached. How are these semi-detached folk looked on by the regular daily and weekly mass goers? Are they looked down on, as somehow lesser Catholics? (If the former definition was based on weekly attendance at public worship) Do they risk not being accepted or welcomed when they do turn up at church? Are they criticised and spoken of negatively for what is perceived as their lack of commitment? Hmmm. Does it suddenly occur to you that this attitude (smacking of historical clericalist undertones) may cause the semi-detached catholic to make their strongest silent protest yet and make the move to being detached?

The semi-detached catholic is here to stay. Let's get used to it. Let's be open and welcoming and not be the cause of them choosing to become detached. The detached catholic has made a decision; I no longer want to be part of what's on offer. For many reasons ties with the church are cut. It is a decision that should be respected.

Where is Jesus with all this? The gospels show Him as compassionate and welcoming. He invited people to follow Him. That invite is always open and we trust the Holy Spirit will blow where it will and the invite will generate a level of response that people are prepared to give at this stage of their life journey.

Sean O'Driscoll

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us call on the Lord's name, presenting our prayers with confidence.

Reader

For Christians everywhere, that they may be renewed in faith and hope and love, as they make this Lenten journey.

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

For all those who are preparing to be received into the Church at Easter this year, and for those who accompany them on their faith-journey, that all may be richly blessed.

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

For our Jewish brothers and sisters, descendants of Abraham, our father in faith, and for a true deepening of Christian-Jewish relations worldwide.

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

For agencies and individuals who work for the relief of famine in our world, that their efforts may be fruitful.

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

For all who are sick or in pain, for those who are burdened by grief or anxiety, that they may be strengthened and consoled.

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

For those who have gone before us on life's journey, that they may enter the heavenly kingdom prepared for them. We remember especially all our loved ones.

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

Priest

Loving God, we trust in you for all that we need. Hear the prayers we make this day in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord Is My Light And My Help.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Aisling Catherine Whelan, 10, The Green, Coolroe Meadows.
 Eoghan Thomas Keane, 77, Old Court, Greenfields.
 Sinead Honey Casey-Galloway, 12, Hazel Grove & New Zealand.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Mary Condon, Model Farm Road.
 Ina Murphy, Mount Farran.
 Amelia O'Brien, The Lough.
 Maura Hurley, Balineen.
 Justin O'Mahony, Cranford Pines.
 Denis Daly, Banteer.

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

Garrett Collins, Dunmanway.
 John & Catherine Barry, Fermoy.
 Rose McCarthy.
 Mai & Jack Finnegan, Killarney
 Denis Mannix, Doneraile
 Sean & May Callaghan, Galway.
 Jerry Buckley, Meelin.
 Liam & Siobhan Twohig, Skibbereen.
 Deceased members of Ballincollig Credit Union.
 Daniel McSweeney, Cathedral Road.
 Con O'Leary, Kilnaglogry.
 David Murphy, Poulavone
 Paul O'Connor, Carrigrohane.
 Tim Cagney, Gardiner's Hill
 William & May Murphy, Blarney.
 Mary Jo Connaughton, Kilrickle Co. Galway.
 Rita Kinsale, Carrigrohane.
 Catherine & Thomas O'Donnell, Drimoleague.
 James O'Mahony, Ballinora.
 Helen Lynch, Innishannon.
 John Lucey, Carriganarra
 Eileen Walsh, Holly Road.
 James & Mary McCarthy, Ballymacoda.
 Tony & Kathleen Fielding.
 Denis & Maureen O'Donovan.
 Francis & Margaret O'Farrell, Station Rd.
 Lucy Doyle, Mallow.
 John, Nora & Joseph Fleming, Mallow.
 Miah Shannon, Bandon.
 Julia Mullen, Grange Ave, Douglas.
 Eileen Long, Crosshaven.

I would like to express my gratitude to Fr George and the Parish Team for accepting me to minister in Ballincollig Parish. It is good to be back in Cork again after 28 years! My original home was at Magazine Road! Having entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours, I spent many years nursing in Cork, Dublin, Tralee and ten years living and working abroad in an administrative capacity for our Congregation. Following this I felt a strong desire to live and work in a Parish community. To prepare for this I did a year's study in Parish Pastoral Ministry at All Hallows College in Dublin. This is a new and challenging Ministry for me! While I only arrived in Ballincollig earlier this month, I can truthfully say I've already experienced how vibrant this Parish is. It is life-giving to see so many people involved in so many diverse Ministries. I feel both humbled and grateful to belong to this Parish community and deeply appreciate the warm welcome I have received. My prayer is that together we continue the Mission of Jesus in ministering to one another.

Sr Colette

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Second Week Of Lent

- 04 Sunday Gen. 15:5-12, 17 -18. Ps. 26. Phil. 3: 17 -4: 1. Lk. 9:28-36. Lect I: 228
- 05 Monday Dan. 9:4-10. Ps. 78. Lk. 6:36-38. Lect I: 231
- 06 Tuesday Is. 1:10,16-20. Ps. 49. Mt. 23:1-12. Lect I: 232
- 07 Wednesday Jer. 18:18-20. Ps. 30. Mt. 20:17-28. Lect I: 234
- 08 Thursday Jer. 17:5-10. Ps. 1. Lk. 16:19-31. Lect I: 236
- 09 Friday Gen. 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28. Ps. 104. Mt. 21:33-43, 45-48. Lect I: 239
- 10 Saturday Mic. 7:14-1'5,18-20. Ps. 102. Lk. 15:1-3,11-32. Lect I: 243

Next Sunday's Readings 11-March-2007
 Ex. 3:1-8, 13-15. Ps. 102.1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12. Lk. 13:1-9. Lect I: 255

Ballincollig Parish

Lent Retreat

March 12th to 14th 2007

Three Days of prayer and reflection.

Christ Our Light Church

Morning Masses: 7:00 am & 9:15 am

Evening Session: 7:30 pm
 (does not include Mass)

Topics (at the evening sessions):

- Monday Celebrating our Journey together with Christ
- Tuesday Nourishment for our Journey
- Wednesday Light for our Journey
 (give up your old sins)

Conducted by Fr's John P O'Riordan and Derek Meskill,
 And members of the Scala Team.

The Team will preach at all the weekend Masses in the Parish on March 10th & 11th

All Are Welcome

Ballincollig Children's Theatre

SPEECH ** DRAMA ** DANCE **

For Children Aged 5 - 12 Years

Enrolments on Monday 5th March

At 6 pm.

In Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Gen 15:5-12. 17-18

God makes a covenant with Abram. ...a covenant never re-voked.

Second Reading: Phil. 3:17-4:1

Paul assures us that our bodies, like the body of Jesus, will be transfigured.

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36.

Peter, James and John went with Jesus to pray on a mountain top. The disciples witnessed what we call the transfiguration where Jesus' face became radiant and his clothes dazzling white. Along with Jesus stood Moses and Elijah. The disciples had no idea what was happening and Peter, in his ignorance, suggested that they erect three tents to commemorate the event. As though to correct Peter's misunderstanding, a voice came from the cloud naming Jesus as his son and telling the disciples to listen to him. There was not to be confusion about Moses or Elijah being equal to Jesus nor should Peter have tried to assume control of a holy happening, but rather listen to this holy one.

Bulletin Board

Mass Book

Diaries to book Mass intentions for April, May & June 2007 will open in both churches on Saturday March 10th.

Notice

All Ministers of the Eucharist for Christ Our Light please collect copy of Rota from Sacristy.

Mass Envelope Collection

Irish Bishops' Commissions
Next Weekend 10th & 11th March

Reflection for Parents

Parents are often in a privileged situation to see a radiant look on a joyful child's face. Maybe it's how they light up when special company arrives, or maybe the look of delight at a special gift or surprise. What kind of transfigurations have you seen this week, either in the faces of your children, co-workers, or even in yourself?

**Congratulations to the following
who were commissioned as
Ministers of the Eucharist last weekend.**

Elizabeth O' Sullivan
Cathy Horgan
Carmel Ryan
Dympna Byrne
Jacinta Jeffers
Lettie Kelly
Joy Daly
Denis Healy
Michael Maher
Marie Healy
Marie Bohan
Sean Hennessy

Joe Coghlan
Teresa O'Donovan
Ursula McAuliffe
Danny Farrell
Seamus O'Donovan
Rita Hodge
Pauline Baston
Gerard Murray
Olan O'Mahony
Mairead Keenan
Breeda Feehily

49th Cork Ballincollig Scout Group

The Scout Troop decided last week instead of scaling high mountains or braving the elements in lightweight tents that they would pamper themselves and headed off to the Aqua dome in Tralee.

The day started at the Scout Hall as we got the gear ready, gas stove, frying pan, etc, two of the P.L.s had arranged the day so they took charge when we arrived and soon we were all swimming, sliding and the leaders relaxing in the steam room. We spent about 2 hours in all in the Aqua Dome. The plan was to go back as far as Killarney and cook up, but because of the time we went a bit further out of Tralee and found a nice wind swept beech, where we had our lunch and played a few games. We then took the long road back to Ballincollig.

Once there was a Scout in the Troop who really was conscientious about been a Scout. One night he was snugly tucked up in bed when he realised with dismay that he had forgotten to do his daily good deed. Not only that, but he had omitted to give the cat her supper. Naturally this worried him, but what could he do about it in the stillness of the night? However, all was not lost, he heard a pathetic little squeak coming from the direction of the family mousetrap, and there peeping from behind the bars was the sweetest little mouse you ever did see. Without a moment's hesitation the Scout jumped out of bed, rescued the little mouse from the nasty old trap and carried it downstairs to give the cat her supper.

Moral: Scout households should be given a wide berth if you happen to be a mouse.



The Coeliac Society of Ireland

Date: Tuesday, 6th of March, 2007
Place: SMA Hall, Wilton
Time: 8.00 p.m.
Topic: A.G.M. followed by talk from Dietician Anne-Marie Brennan.
Everyone welcome.

TROCAIRE

The Second Sunday of Lent

The reading today is the Transfiguration. It encourages us to find the moments of transfiguration in our own lives, the moments when God's glory breaks through into the human world and we see what we thought we knew, in a new and vibrant way. It also encourages us to find ways to transform our own society for the better.

If you can, take a practical action for Lent this week. Have you ever thought of joining a new online community that can make a difference? Log onto www.trocaire.org/justworld and take action for justice.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Monthly Collection
This Weekend
3rd & 4th March 2007

We also urgently require additional collectors to help with the monthly Church Gate Collection at the Church of St. Mary and St. John and at the Church of Christ our Light. If you are willing to help out, please leave your name and tel. number at the Family Centre Tel. 4874626

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Mar-10 & Mar-11-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Aine Sheehan
8:30 am
Elizabeth Daly
10:00 am
Margot Twomey
12:00 Noon
John Dorgan
Keevesa McGrath

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Rebecca Feely
Jessica Lingard
11:00 am
Dave Murphy
12:30 pm
Brian O'Donoghue
Lia Breathnach
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 & 8 pm	Monday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Tuesday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Wednesday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Thursday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Friday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	8 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	



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Mar-10 & Mar-11-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Patsie Murphy
 Breda Foley
 Mary Walsh
 Finbarr Lehane
 Margaret Kearney
 Nora Barry

8:30 am Theresa Lucey
 Rita Murphy
 Mona Holland

10:00 am Tadgh Murphy
 Mary Murphy
 Joan Tobin
 Tony O'Leary
 Phil Kennedy
 Claire McCarthy

12 Noon Michael Crowley
 Breda Lenihan
 Noel Hennessey
 Marie O'Callaghan
 Rena O'Connor
 Sean Farrell

8:00 pm Jim Cahill
 Kit Cahill
 Sheila O'Connor

11:00 am Brid Healy-Harris
 Angela Cunningham
 Laurence Cunningham
 Eileen Byrne

12:30 pm Eileen Garvey
 Sally Power
 Breda Callanan
 Marie O'Brien

5:30 pm Neil O'Donoghue
 Phil O'Connell
 Maire McCullagh

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty 087-2479140
Fr. George O'Mahony P.P. 021-4871206
Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C. 021-4877161
Fr. Sean O'Driscoll C.C. 021-4870434
Fr. Anthony O'Mahony



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Fax: 021-4872532



New Town Centre Office
Tel: 021-4208300
Fax: 021-4872532

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.30 – 5.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Friday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Saturday	9.30 – 12.30 pm

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Monday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Tuesday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.30 – 5.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 – 7.30 pm
Friday	9.30 – 7.30 pm
Saturday	9.30 – 5.00 pm