

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 09-December-2007

## Second Sunday of Advent

*Through the scriptures God has given us the hope of justice for the poor and a longing for peace and harmony among people. Christ came to fulfil that promise, but to receive it we must turn our lives away from everything that is sinful.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Christmas Collection

Once again, with the kind permission and encouragement of the priests in our area, we are having our Annual Christmas Collection at all masses this Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th December 2007.

This year, 2007, the number of calls seeking help from the Society of St Vincent de Paul have soared by over 80% nationwide and more than a quarter of a million households are receiving assistance. There seems to be a growing disbelief that poverty still exists in Ireland, but despite the nation's affluence, the number of people unable to make ends meet is growing and the number of those in permanent debt has also increased. It is so easy to insulate oneself from harsh realities such as: There are 70,000 Irish children in consistent poverty-the figure represents 70,000 children without a warm meal every day or a second pair of shoes. 300,000 children live in a household with a total income of less than €350 a week. The past three years has seen calls to the Society rise by 300% During the past two years weekly household bills have rocketed. We are now the most expensive country in the Euro zone for basic foodstuffs and yet we expect people to exist on less than €250 a week. Social welfare and pension rates have not kept pace. According to the latest UN report on Human Development, Ireland has the highest per capita income in the world after Luxembourg and Norway... and yet has the highest percentage of people at risk from poverty in the EU This is not helped by the fact that we spend less on public health, education and social welfare than any other country in the West.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul locally spends:  
Over €3,000 monthly on coal during the period of October to March.  
Over €14,000 annually in educational support.  
Over €800 weekly on direct cash assistance to families in need.  
Huge seasonal demands on the SVP at Christmas time, first Communion and Confirmation times and again, every August-September for back to school requirements. The unstinting generosity of our benefactors to the Society locally raises in excess of €45,000 annually while our local expenditure this year exceeds €70,000, the shortfall being made up from the Society's regional funds who redistribute the surplus from parishes wealthier than our own. Again as always, we wish each and every one of you who support our work, together with your families and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

We commend to you the words of the Father as spoken by Jesus in Matthew 25 when He said "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."  
We believe that you who are so generous to those less well off in our community will in the fullness of time hear those very words being spoken by the Father as He welcomes you home.

## Second Sunday of Advent

Lord, may we be open to Your healing grace as we take another step, preparing for You in our hearts.

"Let us see, O Lord, Your mercy,  
And give us Your saving Help"



## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### Priest

As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, we present our prayers in confidence.

### Reader

For the church and its leaders, that they may continue to bear witness to the Gospel.

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

For those who have the courage to speak out against injustice in society, may their voice be heard.

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

We pray for those who dedicate their lives to working with the poor and marginalised.

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

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus

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

We pray for those who are lonely and feel isolated from society. Lord, hear us.

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

For our children, in this season of anticipation.

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

### Priest

Father, hear these prayers we bring before you, confident in your infinite mercy. We make these and all our prayers through Jesus Christ, your Son, who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen.

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The annual Christmas Indoor Church Collection for St. Vincent de Paul takes place at all Masses this weekend Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December.

*Please give generously.*

*In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.*

Visit Our Website: [www.ballincolligparish.ie](http://www.ballincolligparish.ie)

**BAPTISMS**

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

Danielle Lucan Dawn Crowley, Greenfields.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Fr. Frank Buckley.  
Mary Considine, Kilmihill Co Clare  
Ann Perrott, Parknamore  
Owen O'Sullivan, Australia & Ovens.  
Kathleen O' Connor, Oaklands.  
Margaret O'Sullivan, Newcestown.  
Una McDonagh, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo.

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

Bill & Kitty O'Connell.  
Denis & Kate Calnan.  
Timothy O'Leary, Farnanes.  
Nora Ryan, Citi West.  
William Flynn.  
John O'Donnell.  
Robert Tyrell, Beaumont.  
Kathleen & Jim Doyle.  
Mary Ann & John Finn, Ballyduff.  
Mary Anne Sheehan, Kilcorney.  
Nuala & Dermot Burke.  
Mary Drinan, Waterfall.  
Deceased members of the Downey family, Waterfall.  
Bill & Kit Foley, Essex.  
Deceased Members of O.N.E.  
Tim & Catherine McCarthy, Dunmanway.  
Denis Long, Rylane.  
Daniel & Margaret Murphy, Knockburden.  
Beatrice Shanahan, Pr Sexton Park.  
Mick Hennigan, Station Road.  
Dan Lucy, The Crescent.  
Peter & Kitty Butterly..  
Mildred & David McCarthy, Union Hall  
Stephen Spitere, Glasheen.  
Hannah & Dan Dempsey, Leemount.  
Dan Downey, Castlepark.  
Donal, Cecelia & Pauline Leahy, Lee View.  
Deceased members of Bogue & Leahy families, Lee View.  
Mairtin de Nogla, Wyndham Downs.  
Katie O'Brien, Rosewood.  
Liam Walsh, Wolverhampton.  
Patrick & Nom Barry, Redemption Road.  
Pat Barry, Mayfield.  
John Cunningham, Wilton Gardens.  
Jim & Peg Cotter, Ballingearry.  
Frances Cunningham, Crookstown.  
Brendan Whelan, Elm Lawn.

**Reflection for Parents**

We Christians come in daily contact with other people whether at work, in our neighbourhoods, or schools. We have opportunities throughout the day to witness our faith by our actions and words, but what greater audience do we have than our own children? They watch us and listen to us. They imitate our every action and mimic our expressions. It is important that we witness our faith to all we meet, but no audience is more important than our families. Sometimes we need to take some quiet "desert time" like we find in today's Gospel in order to focus our lives more intentionally on what is truly important.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Second Week Of Advent**

09 Sunday Is. 11:1-10. Ps. 71. Rom. 15:4-9. Mt. 3:1-12. Lect I: 24  
10 Monday Is. 35:1-10. Ps. 84. Lk. 5:17-26. Lect I:33  
11 Tuesday Is. 40:1-11. Ps. 95. Mt. 18:12-14. Lect I:35  
12 Wednesday Is 40:25-31. Ps. 102. Mt. 11 :28-30. Lect I: 38  
13 Thursday Is. 41:13-20. Ps. 144. Mt. 11:11-15. Lect I:40  
14 Friday Is. 48:17-19. Ps. 1. Mt. 11:16-19. Lect I:42  
15 Saturday Sir. 48:1-4,9-11. Ps. 79. Mt. 17:10-13. Lect I:44

**Next Sunday's Readings** 16-December-2007  
Is. 35:1-6, 10. Ps. 145. Jm. 5:7-10. Mt. 11:2-11. Lect I: 46

***Muskerry Local History Society***

December Lecture

Subject: Ballycannon

The story of Keny Pike Massacre on 23rd March 1921 of six I.R.A. Volunteers by Crown Forces, is one of betrayal, savagery and retribution.

Speaker: John Mulcahy, Local Historian  
Venue: Ballincollig Rugby Club Function Hall  
Date & Time: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December @ 8pm  
Admission: €2.00 for non members  
Everyone most welcome.

***Pyke Theatre***

The Pyke Theatre group will hold their Christmas Party on Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> at Tanner Park starting at 8 pm sharp. Music by Fergal Doody. Lots of spot prizes to be won. A great night assured.



The Irish Blood Transfusion Service Will Hold A Blood Donor Clinic In The GAA Pavilion Ballincollig On

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 From 5:00 – 8:00 pm  
Tuesday December 2007 From 3:00 – 5:00 & 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
Wednesday December 2007 From 3:00 – 5:00 & 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 From 3:00 – 5:00 & 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Blood donation from O Rh Negative and A Rh Negative groupings is urgently requested due to high demand.

**CROWLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

*Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork*  
Tel: 021-4874777 Mobile: 087-2759254  
Email: [michaelfd@eircom.net](mailto:michaelfd@eircom.net)  
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**THE SUNDAY READINGS**

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

The vision of the peace that will come when all people worship the one God.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Paul reminds us that the scriptures were written to teach about God's promises.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12.

In Matthew's Gospel, we learn of John's continued warning for us to be ready for Jesus when he comes again. It is not enough that we are sons and daughters of Abraham, but by our own desire, we want to live a life pleasing to God. The Gospel challenges us to bear fruit. It was not enough for the Sadducees nor is it enough for us to simply follow the rules and rituals of our faith. The very actions of lives must show what we believe about our faith.

**Bulletin Board**

**Mass Book**

Diaries to book Mass intentions for January, February & March, 2008 will open in both Churches on Saturday 8th December at 9 am.

**Christmas Carol Service**

St Mary & St John  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at 8 pm

**Penitential Service**

Will be held on Monday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 p.m. in Christ Our Light church. This is an opportunity to come as a community to celebrate the Lord's love and respond to his call to forgiveness and a change of heart.

**Advent Retreat**

The recent Advent retreat was very well received and appreciated by many parishioners. Thanks to the members of the parish council who helped organise this retreat. Special word of thanks to the Redemptorist fathers, Fr JP O' Riordan and Fr John Bermingham who conducted the retreat

**Fr. George**

**Child Protection**

A Child Protection Policy for the Diocese of Cork and Ross will be published shortly. This policy will ensure that all children and young people who are involved in Church related activities are safeguarded and protected. Each parish will, in the near future, appoint one or two Parish Child Protection Representatives. They will be responsible for ensuring that all information about child protection procedures will be available in each parish. Information and training sessions will be held throughout the Diocese for those interested. In a letter to the people of the Diocese this weekend, Bishop Buckley encourages parishioners to give serious consideration to volunteering for the position of Parish Representative when the posts are advertised in each parish.

**L'Arche Christmas Market**

From 10 am to 5 pm

On today Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December

In L'Arche workshop behind school and Church in Togher  
Music, Crafts, kids entertainment, mince pies  
Plenty of Free Parking available!  
Admission Free!

**Scout News.**

The Bazaar is over and a fine success it was. Many people pulling together for the common good of scouting. It never ceases to amaze the amount of work people put in, from asking around for spots, to organising the community hall, to selling tickets, cakes, books etc. Even the scouts pitched in with games. As a Scout group we would like say a big

**Thank you** to everyone who helped in any way.

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the Parliaments that ever sat, and all the Kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life, of Jesus Christ.

*Panic for some people is when they misplace their Christmas card list, and discover they haven't the slightest idea who their friends are.*

**Vacancy for the position of Sacristan**

**at St. Mary and St John's Church, Ballincollig.**

Applications are invited for the position of sacristan in Ballincollig parish at St. Mary and St John's Church, Station Rd. Ballincollig.

Applications are invited in writing to  
Fr George O'Mahony, The Presbytery,  
Station Rd. Ballincollig. Co. Cork.

Closing date for applications 23rd December 2007.

**Gospel Reflection Matthew 1**

The Gospel of Matthew will feature in Sunday readings in the new liturgical year. Like the other Gospels, the Gospel of Matthew emerged as a written record of the life and works of Jesus of Nazareth, composed probably at Antioch by a community of believers who were aware that the apostolic age was passing. Scholars give the years AD 70-110 as the time span during which all the four Gospels we now have were written and it is likely that Matthew came to be written after Mark, since it draws heavily on Mark for its structure and some of its content as well as some other sources. Levi the tax collector who became a close follower of Jesus is probably not the author although possibly a community which grew up around him may have wanted to carry his teachings on.

Matthew's Gospel also bears the distinctive mark of the community from which it issues. In general it seems that this community saw themselves as a Jewish sect, holding on to the Hebrew Scriptures and traditions, while also recognising that they had been excluded by orthodox Jews, probably based at Jerusalem, and marginalised on account of their belief that Jesus was the Messiah, the anointed one. The Gospel never fails to draw links between the Jewish tradition and the life of Jesus and it tries to make the Messianic claim more obvious. In all likelihood the Matthew community formed around Eucharistic celebrations in their houses and following the sack of Jerusalem by Vespasian and Titus in 70AD, their community become one of the most important communities in the Church at the time. As a Christian community, by sharing all they had in common, they would have shielded one another from the worst effects of the poll taxes demanded by Rome and the Temple tithes each adult had to pay, thus undoing in some way the damage that Levi had accustomed himself to doing in his early life as a tax collector.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Dec-15 & Dec-16-2007

**St. Mary & St. John      Christ Our Light**

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Carmel Keane  
**8:30 am**  
Elizabeth Daly  
**10:00 am**  
Margot Twomey  
Jordan Crowley  
**12:00 Noon**  
Sean Hennessy  
Shane Lehane

**8:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Michael Greene  
**11:00 am**  
Cormac Manning  
Marie Ni Niada  
**12:30 pm**  
Bernard Vallely  
**5:30 pm**  
Brian O'Donoghue

**MASS TIMES**

<b>St. Mary &amp; St. John</b>		<b>Christ Our Light</b>
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>	8 pm (Vigil)

**CONFESSIONS**

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

**BAPTISMS**

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

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Dec-15 & Dec-16-2007

**St. Mary & St. John      Christ Our Light**

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

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

**8:30 am** Theresa Lucey  
Rita Murphy  
Mona Holland

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

**10:00 am** Tadgh Murphy  
Mary Murphy  
Joan Tobin  
Tony O'Leary  
Phil Kennedy  
Denis Healy

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

**12 Noon** Michael Crowley  
Breda Lenihan  
Noel Hennessey  
Jacinta Jeffers  
Rena O'Connor  
Sean Farrell

**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. Ted Sheehan      021-4876171**



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**Parish Office, The Presbytery, Ballincollig is open Mon - Wed from 9 am - 1 pm & 2 pm - 3 pm.  
Sat 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206, Office Secretary Catherine Crowley.**

**Ballincollig Credit Union Ltd.**

**Harrington Street**  
Tel: 021-4872305  
Fax: 021-4872532



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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Closed</b>
Tuesday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.30 – 5.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9.30 – 5.00 pm</b>
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