

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



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

Sunday 18-March-2007

Fourth Sunday Of Lent

The Parable of the Prodigal shows us the power of the Father's forgiving love. The elder brother thinks of himself, and is begrudging. How often do we begrudge God's goodness to others? How many of us 'seek to use our good works as a means of monopolising God's love for ourselves.



**Christ Our Light
Innishmore**

Shamrock Christians?

This is the weekend for drowning the shamrock and going green (hair, beer etc)? Many of the festivities will reinforce our national image as high consumers of alcohol which is often not a very pretty image, especially seen in the context of people spilling out of pubs and clubs in the early hours. The feast of our national saint has taken on a thoroughly commercial character and is celebrated in different degrees worldwide. New York boasts the largest parade; though not an inclusive one, for all the Irish Diaspora (Irish lesbians and gays are banned). Other cities too have St Patrick's Day festivals and events including smaller parades. The parades are surely meant to showcase all that is Irish, but the root of the festival (St Patrick) is all but ignored or at the very least trivialised. Effigies of the great saint make appearances like a cartoon figure from Disney might appear at a children's party. The most common visual representation is somebody dressed outlandishly in green vestments, toting a lopsided mitre on his head, and invariably presented as a snake banishing bishop.

Perhaps this is a good weekend to reflect on the nature of Christianity in Ireland today? Our Christian roots are intertwined with the threads of Celtic paganism which were adapted to the Christian story. So the sun God, Lugh, became displaced by the Son of God, Jesus. (Though some commentators today might be tempted to ask if we ever really lost our pagan roots?) Christianity in Ireland has been through troubling times. From the humble beginnings by a former pig-herdsman/slave, become missionary, to the persecutions of the Penal times (for Catholics), to the abuse scandals of our time; the Christian story is one of survival and endurance.

The power wielding, hierarchical clerical church, of past generations should be well and truly dead. But alas, hasn't been buried in many quarters yet, where there is a refusal to acknowledge that the world has changed. Some people choose to live in the comfort zone of denial rather than embrace the challenges of the gospel in a new age.

The starting point for any journey of faith has to be from within; to listen to the voice of the Spirit gently calling and leading. To those not comfortable with this personal freedom and more used sitting obediently in the pews, this is scary stuff. Because of fear, they are missing out on the joys of a personal discovery of faith. They live in a world looking back, longing for the reassurances and security that the church of the past gave them; a time when everything was black and white and you knew where you stood.

Christianity in Ireland today is seeking to assert itself in a post modernist, post Celtic tiger society. The Christian God is still sought in diverse ways as people try to make sense of the bigger questions that have always been there, but are now needing fresh answers. Meanwhile the official church is still offering the same old tired prosaic rituals to an ever decreasing and ageing congregation. The pace of change is just too pedestrian for many, and they seek expression of their religious needs in alternative spiritualities ranging from Yoga to New Age crystals.

Christianity in Ireland today is at a crossroads. The traditional monopolist vehicle of communicating the faith, the church, like all monopolies is being challenged by the arrival of competition. Christianity for the future will find its expression in many more unconventional ways than in the past, reflecting the lived experience of the "bebo" generation. The church must be to the forefront in providing leadership and embrace this diversity and wave of change, or risk being irrelevant. It poses a challenge for all of us who are making the Christian journey of faith.

To all moms of the parish have a wonderful Mother's Day

Sean O'Driscoll

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

God's care for each of us is guaranteed. We bring our prayers with confidence.

Reader

For Pope Benedict, our Bishop N., and all who serve as ministers in the Church.

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

For an end to war in our world, and for reconciliation between nations and peoples.

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

For exiles and refugees, and for all who travel in search of work and livelihood.

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

For those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year and for their families.

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

For the needs of this community.

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

For those who have died, and for all whose anniversaries occur around this time.

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

Priest

God of all kindness, your gifts to us are without end. Grant these our prayers in the name of Jesus, your Son, who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Rachel Theresa Woodhouse, 40, West Court.
 Kiah Erin Parsons, 19, The Heathers, Classis Lake.
 Daniel Patrick Kirstein, 3, Sweetbriar Lane, Inniscarra View.
 Shane Oliver O’Sullivan, 38, The Brambles, Classis Lake.
 Ava Lily Corcoran, Apt 7, Chapel Lane, The Square.
 Christopher Liam Walsh, 27, Coolroe Heights.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Jane Casey, Kanturk.
 Br. Thomas Hannan, Ballydoyle & Kildorrery.
 Chrissie Fitzgerald, Tralee.
 Catherine Walsh, Dublin Hill.
 Joe McCarthy, Yorkshire & Cork.

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

Fiona Buckley, Glenville.
 Derek Buckley, Beech Park.
 Sam Walsh.
 Jerry & Kitty Hallahan, Kilmichael & Wales.
 Tom & Joe Heaton, Pearse Place.
 Conrad O’Sullivan, Dripsey.
 Eileen Bradley, Leemount.
 Ned Keating, West Village
 Nora & Patrick Harrington.
 Eoin O’Dwyer, Ballyshoneen.
 Sid Carmody, Leo Murphy Terrace.
 Lucy Barrett, Leo Murphy Terrace.
 Richard Krauss, Aisling Close.
 Kieran McNulty, Fr Sexton Park.
 Teresa Strahan, Dublin.
 Neil McGroarty, Beech Park.
 Alan Ledwith, Athlone.
 Bob & Eileen Foolkes, Ballyphehane.
 Nellie Murray, Ballingearry.
 Deceased members Ward Family, Cobh
 Deceased members Carroll Family, Dunmanway
 Ken Murphy, Castle View.
 Veronica Downey, Castle Park.
 John Joe Donovan, Old Blackrock Road.
 Tom McAuliffe, The Square.
 Patrick McNamara, Inniscarra View Estate.
 Nancy Hogan, The Crescent.
 Bill Dwane, Douglas.
 Robert Cutbert, Douglas.
 John & Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane.
 Tony Radley, Douglas.
 Josephine O’Shea, Castle View.
 Christina Carroll, Dripsey.

Reflection for Parents

We try to divide the world into equal pieces for each of our children, but we know how very different each child can be. There are really no "one-size-fits-all" sets of expectations for families with more than one child. Today’s Gospel helps us remember that we need to recognise the virtues of obedience and faithfulness, while we still love unconditionally and forgive the child who challenges us. Both brothers in this story considered themselves slaves, a feeling we work hard to prevent in our children.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week Of Lent

18 Sunday Josh. 5:9-12. Ps. 33.2 Cor. 5:17-21. Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32. Lect I: 284
 19 Monday 2 Sam. 7:4-5,12-14,16. Ps. 88. Rom. 4:13,16-18, 22. Mt. 1:16, 18-21 or Lk. 2:41-51 Lect I:970
 20 Tuesday Ez. 47:1-9,12. Ps. 45. In. 5:1-3.5-16. Lect I: 292
 21 Wednesday Is. 49:8-15. Ps. 144. In. 5:17-30. Lect I: 294
 22 Thursday Ex. 32:7 -14 Ps. 105 In. 5:31-47. Lect I:297
 23 Friday Wis. 2:1,12-22. Ps. 33. In. 7:1-2,10,25-30. Lect I: 300
 24 Saturday Jer. 11 :18-20. Ps. 7. In. 7:40-53. Lect I: 303

Next Sunday’s Readings 25-March-2007

Is. 43:16-21. Ps 125. Phil. 3:8-14. Jn. 8:1-11. Lect I: 313

Are you active in community education and development on either a paid or voluntary basis?

Would you like to have nationally and internationally recognised qualifications in this area?

The BA degree programme at Cork Institute of Technology can provide you with such an opportunity, while you continue your current community work.

BA Degree in Community Education and Development
 This is a three-year programme consisting of lectures, workshops, seminars, and tutorials and a significant work practice element based in the community. Subject areas covered include: education and development; management, leadership and change; groupwork in the community; social stratification, and action research.

For those who do not wish to make a commitment for the full three years, there is an option to leave the programme after two years with the qualification **Higher Certificate in Community Education and Development**.

Admission to the BA programme is based on interview. Interviews will be held in CIT in April 2007.

Application forms and further information on the course may be obtained from:

Anne Deasy
 Department of Education Development – DEIS
 School of Humanities
 Cork Institute of Technology.
 Telephone: 021 – 4326700
 Email: ann.deasy@cit.ie

CROWLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork
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Sunday 18-March-2007

The Garment of Suffering

The Garment of Suffering is done every Lent as there is a lot of pain and suffering in life, that's never given expression in the church. Anyone with any unresolved grief or pain, or any kind of hurt, would take a piece of cloth about six inches by six and place it in the basket at the front of the altar. All the elements are represented bereavement, break-up of a relationship, misunderstandings between parents and children, the pain of parents having to let their children go, especially when they didn't like the direction they were taking, the pain of addiction, the pain of being gay, of being homosexual, lesbian, and not being understood, not being able to talk about it, the pain from the past, the hurt the church itself had inflicted. On the Tuesday of Holy Week a number of women come to the altar with their sewing machines, needles and thread, and sew them on a long roll of white cloth. On Good Friday it is brought forward by the women and draped over the cross and spread across the width of the church. It is left there, representing the pain and suffering of the people of the parish, and on the eve of Pentecost it is taken out and burned. Every day during Mass there are prayers of healing for those whose pain and grief is represented on the Garment of Suffering.

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

49th Cork Ballincollig Scout Group

Last Sunday the Scouts went on a hike to Ballyvourney. The day started wet and the weather only got worse as the day went on. All the Scouts were well prepared for the weather and it did not interfere with the fun of the day. We started hiking at the Mills and followed along the banks of the river Sullane. The P.Ls had decided that we would try to get to the top of the hill, light a fire, build shelters and find our way to St Gobnait's Nunnery (without a map). We left the riverbank and headed uphill, the going was tough, wet and slippery. Having crossed ditches, wire, bogs, stonewalls and streams we got to the top. The P.L. in charge, (Mathew) found a spot, which he felt, was the most sheltered and we had our lunch, the rain that was with us all the way got heavier, we all ate what we had quickly and went into the forest. The group was split in two and shelters were built. After a hasty meeting with the leaders the fire lighting was abandoned and we headed downhill for the church ruins. The way down was wet and bogey and an un-named P.L. went to his knee and then fell head first into the mud, his ego was more dented than anything. We reached St Gobnait's Shrine. We saw St Gobnait's Bowl, which is said to have magical powers. The rain got heavier and we started the hike back to the bus. All enjoyed the day regardless of the weather.

If you find that you don't much care for one of your Patrol Leaders, try to bear in mind that he probably has reservations about you too.

Bulletin Board

Mass Book

Diaries to book Mass intentions for April, May & June 2007 are open in both churches.

Feedback on the Parish Retreat

We would love to hear how you found the 3 day Parish Retreat. Any comments/feedback/evaluation would be most welcome. Also let us know how you heard about it (i.e. at Mass, in the Parishioner or from the flyer/billboards)

E mail all comments to: frsean@ballincolligparish.ie

Confirmation

Scoil Eoin Monday 26th March 2007 at 10:30 am in Church of St. Mary & St. John.

Lenten Retreat

The recent Lent Retreat in Christ Our Light was a tremendous success. The attendance, support and the sense of community spirit was uplifting. Thanks to the Redemptionist priests, Fr. Derek and Fr. John. Thanks also to the group from the Parish Council who met to plan the retreat, the ladies who collected up the flower bulbs and those who helped with the publicity. Perhaps you would be kind enough to let us know how the three days helped you.

Fr. George

TRÓCAIRE

Getting to know your Trócaire Box

The image on the Trócaire box this year is a young baby from Malawi called Amina. She comes from a small rural village where food is scarce. In 2 of the past 3 years families have lost all of their crops due to drought. Some families have had to sell everything they own and fall back on food aid as the only way of surviving. Amina's mother Teresa, like mothers everywhere, has dreams for her. She wants to provide for her little girl. She wants her to go to school. She wants her to have a real future. Through Trócaire, Amina's family received pigs to start a breeding programme. The pigs will allow them to earn a much needed income. This way Amina should have a better future and her mother's dreams may come through one day

Cork's Lifelong Learning Festival Monday March 26 – Sunday April 1, 2007

'Over 200 events promoting learning of all kinds across all ages, interests and abilities in a city-wide celebration - Nothing like the Lifelong Learning Festival takes place anywhere in Ireland. The idea that learning is for everyone and can be fun is illustrated through events taking place right across the city in a variety of venues including shopping centres, libraries, community centres, schools and museums, and all events in the festival are free. The Cork Lifelong Learning Festival is organised by the Cork City Learning Forum, a group set up under the Cork City Development Board to promote the culture of learning across the city. The full brochure will be available from mid-March from libraries and community groups or online from www.corkcity.ie/learningfestival

Muskerry Local History Society

March 2007 Lecture

Subject: "Flight of The Earls"

Speaker: Dr Hiram Morgan;
History Dept. UCC.

Venue: Ballincollig Rugby Club
Function Hall

Date & Time: Tuesday 20TH March
2007 @ 8 pm

Admission: €2.00 for non members
Everyone most welcome.

ISANDS

'Support Group for bereaved Parents &
Families whose baby has died'

Service of Remembrance

To remember all babies who have died

St. Joseph's SMA

Wilton, Cork

Sunday 25th March 2007 @ 3 pm

Everyone Welcome

Table Quiz

In Aid of Ballincollig Youth Initiative

Wednesday March 21st

Starting at 8.30 pm

Venue: Ballincollig GAA Pavilion

Tables of 4 People

Cost: €20 per Table

Raffle also on the Night

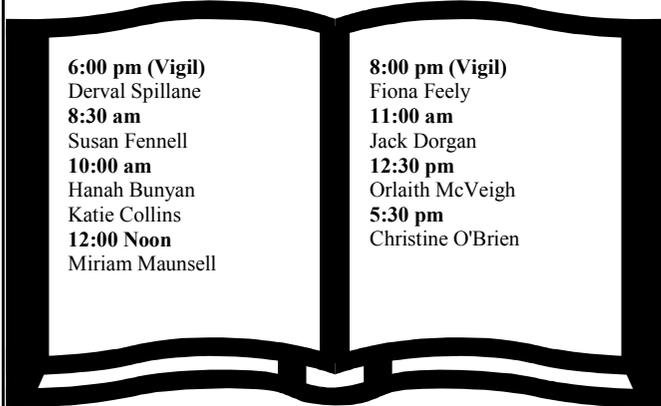
Supporting a Very Good Cause

Contact: 086 0570695

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Mar-24 & Mar-25-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Mar-24 & Mar-25-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

<p>6.00 pm Steve Wills Margaret O'Sullivan Rita Aherne Rose Doyle Jim Walsh Frances O'Brien</p> <p>8:30 am Mary Buckley Rita Murphy Mary O'Keefe</p> <p>10:00 am Christina Walsh Peter Reilly Mary Collins Christy Roche Katie O'Shea Claire Creedon</p> <p>12 Noon Oliver O'Donovan Barbara Kelly John Jeffers Mary McLean Ellen Seymour Nora Hennessy</p>	<p>8:00 pm Anne O'Regan Mairead Murphy Finbarr Murray</p> <p>11:00 am Seamus O'Connell Mary O'Connell Alan O'Riordan Geraldine Keohane</p> <p>12:30 pm Lucy O'Callaghan Jackie Sheehan Mary Green Michael O'Leary</p> <p>5:30 pm Noelle Buckley Mary Breen Siobhan Burke</p>
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MASS TIMES

<p>St. Mary & St. John</p> <p>8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon</p> <p>9:30 am & 8 pm</p> <p>10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)</p>	<p>Christ Our Light</p> <p>11 am, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm</p> <p>8:30 am & 6:30 pm</p> <p>8 pm (Vigil)</p>
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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 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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To all our readers - safe driving and enjoy St. Patrick's weekend

Ballincollig Credit Union Ltd.

Harrington Street
 Tel: 021-4872305
 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

Our Great Benefits

Avail of 100% Finance and Own Your Car from Day One
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Loan Protection Insurance at no Extra Cost
Interest Repayments Decrease as you Pay Off Your Loan
Easy Application Procedure and Speedy Decision

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