

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 20-December-2009

Fourth Sunday of Advent

God's anointed was born by the power of God's spirit. He is the Son of God, and fulfils God's promise of an everlasting kingdom for his people.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

The Visitation

The two women Mary and Elizabeth are at the centre of this weekend's Gospel. Mary after her encounter with the messenger of God headed off to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Visiting, whether it is neighbours, relatives or friends has gone out of fashion during the recent decades. Visiting is presented as a bit of a chore especially when it is someone of another generation. Much easier to text, email or make a phone call. The various sites such as bebo are the regular points for social interaction for the younger generation.

During the past year a young woman Ciara (assumed name) in her early forties asked that I visit her in Marymount Hospice as she awaited death. I first met Ciara as a second level pupil in the early 1980's when she was full of life and energy. Now as Ciara lay in bed weak and fragile she talked of her eminent death, being at peace with God and ready for the journey ahead. She was anxious to help her husband and her brothers cope with her death. She had chosen the readings for her funeral Mass, now she a few more parts to deal with. She asked if I could celebrate her funeral mass in a few days, "you know me and have some understanding of me as a person, it would give me comfort if you can do that ". The faith and peaceful acceptance that I experienced that afternoon with Ciara will remain with me for my life.

During my parish work each week I get to visit people and their families in many different situations. Very often it is the sick at home or in hospital; sometimes I visit because a family who are going through a difficult time or have experienced tragedy in their lives, at other times it is simply a routine pastoral visit. Whatever the circumstances my visits are generally very rewarding and worthwhile experiences. Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth gave her encouragement and inspiration for the months and years ahead. May we find encouragement also when we visit the crib this Christmas, and also in our visits to family and friends.

Happy Christmas to everybody from the priests of the parish..

George O'Mahony

Fourth Sunday of Advent

We are about to take our final step in preparation for our Christmas meeting with Christ. In the Gospel we hear the words spoken to Mary: "Do not be afraid".

Let us place our trust in God, who is very near us. With open hearts may we embrace the grace of our Saviour.



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us present our needs to the Lord, our Shepherd, who hears us.

Reader

For the Church; that it may continue to guide people in the way of truth.

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

We pray for the gift of peace; peace in our world, peace in our homes, peace in our hearts.

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

For all who will be travelling at this time of year; that they may have a safe journey.

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

It is in the very nature of our God to bless and protect; we pray for a renewed commitment on the part of all of us to protect and nourish our children.

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

We pray for the grace to hear the Lord's call and to follow our vocation.

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

We pray for those who have died; that they may be raised to eternal life with the saints in heaven.

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

Priest

Heavenly Father, shepherd of peace, hear the prayers we make through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

The priests of the parish join in sending their Christmas greetings to all members of the parish and to all readers of the Ballincollig Parishioner. We thank you all for your help and co-operation during the past year.

You will be remembered in our Christmas Masses.

George O'Mahony, Michael O'Mahony, Billy O'Sullivan & James McSweeney



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

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Hugh Anthony Cassidy, Hayfield, Carriganarra.
 Kate Ellen O'Donovan, Coopers Grange.
 Norah Anthony Kavanagh, Highfield Park, Carriganarra.
 Jayden Michael O'Leary, Castlepark.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Margaret Kirby, Mideton.
 Ann O'Leary, Stoneview, Blarney.
 Barry Kelly, The Crescent.
 Maureen Daly, Ardfallen, Douglas.
 Dan Phelan, Kinsale.
 Sr Mary Dominic Harte, Mallow & Clonakilty.
 Dan McCarthy, The Crescent.

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

Harry & Ivy Ramsden, England.
 Denis & Muriel Bowen, Glasheen Road.
 Gillian Drinan, Church View.
 Bill & Kit Foley, Essex.
 Billy Greene, Station Road.
 Margaret O'Connor, Ovens.
 Tim & Sheila Coakley, Castlehaven.
 Jerry Delaney, Maglin.
 Norah O'Leary, Uam Var Estate.
 Gerry Ring, Carriganarra.
 The Lucey Family, Station Road.
 Jim Prenderville, Castlepark.
 Peter & Hannah Crowley, Leemount.
 Deceased members of the O'Sullivan Family, Tralee.
 Deceased members of the Flanagan Family, Castlepark.
 Seamus O'Donovan, Maple Lawn.
 Carse Fortune, Cathedral Road.
 Con & Paddy O'Sullivan, Ballyvolane .
 Nora & Denis Calnan, Douglas.
 Mildred & David McCarthy, Union Hall.
 Kevin & Sivdbh McCarthy, Rosewood.
 William Tracy, Castleknock.
 Bridget O'Regan, Carriganarra.
 Mary Murphy, Uam Var Avenue.
 Derry O'Neill, Carrigrohane.
 Denis & Ellen Hallahan and daughter Mary Horgan, Upton & Ballingully
 Mary Linehan, Inniscarra View.
 Mary Creed, Woodside & Inniscarra View.
 Gus & Vincent O'Connell, Balinora.
 Tom, Margaret & Judy Enright, Banteer.
 Nellie Murphy, Station Road.
 John, Lena & Patrick Gaffney, Carrigrohane.
 Patrick & Mary Radley, Powdermills.
 Con, Nora & Donal Ahern, Fr Sexton Park.
 Josephine Murphy, Castle Avenue.
 Mary Gaffney, Limerick.
 Mick Gaffney, Carrigrohane.
 John, Mary & Harry Twohig, Farranree.
 Masie Kearney, Oxford.
 Bridie O'Driscoll, England.
 Eileen Padgett, Australia.
 Thomas Twohig, Farranree.
 John O'Sullivan, Castlepark.
 Kay Barrett, Beech Park.
 Deceased members of the Harrington Family, The Square.
 Deceased members of the Hopkins Family, Rosewood.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week Of Advent

20 Sunday Mic. 5: 1-4. Ps 79. Heb. 10:5-10. Lk. 1 :39-45. Lect I: 73
 21 Monday Song 2:8-14 or Zeph. 3: 14-18. Ps. 32. Lk. 1 :39-45. Lect I: 85
 22 Tuesday 1 Sam. 1:24-28. Ps. 1 Sam. 2:1, 4-8. Lk. 1:46-56. Lect I: 88
 23 Wednesday Mal. 3:1-4, 4:5-6. Ps. 24. Lk. 1:57-66. Lect I: 90
 24 Thursday 2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps. 88. Lk. 1:67-79. Lect I: 92
 25 Friday Is 52:7-10. Ps 97. Heb 1:1-6. Jn 1:1-18. Lect I: 109
 26 Saturday Acts 6:8-10, 7:54 - 9. Ps 30. Mt 10:17-22. Lect I: 125

Next Sunday's Readings 27-December-2009

Eccles. (Sir) 3:2-6, 12-14. Ps. 127. Col. 3:12-21. Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23. Lect

Children's Christmas Mass

In the last few years the numbers of children attending the Christmas Eve Mass have increased. Last year there were some significant safety concerns with the children around the altar. The safety of the children is of the utmost importance, to help ensure this, parents are asked to keep their children with them and not allow them to stray onto the altar. Parents are also asked to follow the directions of the stewards who will be there for the safety of the children on the night.

Cake Sale.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the cake sale last Sunday in Christ Our Light Church in Aid of Hope Foundation. The winning Tickets No's are: 1st: 51-55 2nd: 76-80 3rd: 36-40
 Prizes may be collected from choir members after the 11 am Mass

The Gift of a House

At the heart of the Christmas story is 'coming home'. Jesus, the Son of God, finds a home with Mary and Joseph, and we are called to come home to God through our Advent journey. Having a home is central to a family's sense of well being and security. Millions around the world like Maria Daisy Oyola from Bogata, Colombia, are living in makeshift shelters. Last year Maria and her family received Trócaire's Christmas Global Gift of a housing kit and are now very proud of their new home. €200 / £180 provides skills and tools to families living in makeshift shelters, to build a lasting home. To order your gift log onto www.trocaire.org/globalgift or call 1850 408 408 (ROI) 0800 912 1200 (NI).

Ballincollig Boy Scouts

Ballincollig Boy Scouts would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend and support our recent Bazaar in the Community Hall. We had a very successful day with the crowds enjoying the various stalls and raffles, even winners of the Wheel of Fortune were unable to carry their prizes and the auction proved very entertaining even for the spectators. Santa was on duty with lots of parcels and of course the games room kept the little people entertained. The support of the local business community, the parents, the scout leaders and indeed the scouts themselves made the Bazaar a success...
 Thank you all for your contribution, your support and your time!

Ballincollig Tidy Towns

Wishes to thank everyone who supported them in anyway during 2009
 Your continued support is greatly appreciated
 Please Help - Keep Ballincollig Litter Free

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Mic 5:1-4
 Jesus Christ is coming soon, as he once came to Bethlehem. His origin is ancient. His message is timeless. His truth is eternal. Jesus Christ is peace itself.

Second Reading: Heb 10:5-10
 The coming of Christ brings about our sanctification. As Jesus came to do the will of God, we too have the same purpose in life. We offer our bodies as a spiritual sacrifice to God. In his will is our peace.

Gospel: Luke 1:39 - 44
 Luke tells us much in this account of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Mary went to Judah to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who knew nothing of Mary's pregnancy before their encounter. Yet Elizabeth knew that there was something special about Mary and the baby she carried. This is made clear by her calling Mary the "mother of my Lord." The baby that Elizabeth carried leaped for joy at the sound of Mary's voice. This completes the prophecy of the angel that Elizabeth and Zechariah were expecting a baby and is symbolic of John's announcing Jesus' coming.

Bulletin Board

Christmas Collection

According to the Diocesan custom, the collection at Christmas Vigil / Day Masses is one of two occasions during the year when the offertory collection goes to the priests of the Parish.

Mass Book

Some dates to book Mass Intentions for January, February & March are still available in Christ Our Light.

Penitential Service

Will be held on Monday 21st December, 2009 at 8.00 pm in St Mary & St John 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.

Offertory Collection

Envelopes for the offertory collections for 2010 are now available in both churches. There is one envelope for each Sunday in every box and it is an opportunity for every member of the family to contribute. The offertory collection is solely for the upkeep, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches. Thank for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year.

Fr. George

Ballincollig Parish Christmas Programme

Sacrament of Reconciliation for Christmas

Monday 21 st December	8.00 p.m.	St Mary & St John	Penitential Service
Wednesday 23 rd December	6.00 - 8.00 p.m.	St Mary & St John	Confessions
Thursday 24 th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.	St Mary & St John	Confessions
	12.00 noon - 1.00 p.m.	Christ Our Light	



Mass Times



Church of St Mary & St John	Thursday 24 th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		10.00 p.m.	Midnight Mass
	Friday 25 th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.30 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
		10.00 a.m.	
12.00 noon			
Church of Christ Our Light	Thursday 24 th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6.00 p.m.	Children's Mass
		8.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		12.00 midnight	Midnight Mass
	Friday 25 th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	11.00 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
		12.30 p.m.	
<i>No 5.30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day</i>			

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-26 & Dec-27-2009

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Ailish O'Reilly
Daniel McAuliffe
8:30 am
Jim Healy
10:00 am
Grace Buttimer
Orla Horgan
12:00 Noon
John Dorgan
Fergal Monahan

7:30 pm (Vigil)
Niamh Murray
11:00 am
Sorcha Nic Mheanmain
Maire Buckley
12:30 pm
Joseph Manning
Robert Murphy
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	Monday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Tuesday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Wednesday	8:30 am
9:30 am, 6 pm (Vigil) & 10 pm	Thursday	8:30 am, 6 pm, 8 pm & Midnight
8:30 am, 10 am & 12 Noon	Friday	11 am, 12:30 pm
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 087-2479140

Fr. George O'Mahony P.P. 021-4871206
Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C. 021-4877161
Fr. Billy O'Sullivan C.C. 021-4876171
Fr. James McSweeney 021-4873308



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dec-26 & Dec-27-2009

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6.00 pm	Steve Wills Margaret O'Sullivan Rita Aherne Danny Farrell Jim Walsh Frances O'Brien	7:30 pm	Anne O'Regan Mairead Murphy Finbarr Murray Lettie Kelly
8:30 am	Mary Buckley Rita Murphy Denis Healy	11:00 am	Seamus O'Connell Mary O'Connell Alan O'Riordan Geraldine Keohane Gerard Murray
10:00 am	Christina Walsh Peter Reilly Mary Collins Christy Roche Katie O'Shea Claire Creedon	12:30 pm	Lucy O'Callaghan Jackie Sheehan Mary Green Michael O'Leary J.P.O'Leary
12 Noon	Oliver O'Donovan Barbara Kelly Sean Hennessy Mary McLean Ellen Seymour Nora Hennessy	5:30 pm	Noelle Buckley Mary Breen

Please drive safely over the Christmas Holiday Period

Thank You

From The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

We wish to thank the priests of the Parish for their great support with the Indoor Christmas Collection, the members of the public for their great generosity and the volunteers who assisted at the monthly Church Gate Collections throughout the year.

Your generosity realised the magnificent sum of €19,907.00

St. John's Conference, Ballincollig.

To all our Readers & Parishioners

*Happy Christmas
Nollaig Shona Dhuit
Feliz Navidad
Boas Festas
Sretan Bozic
Ruumsaid juulup/hi
Hyvaa joulua
Joyeux Noel
Buone Feste Natalizie
Priecigus Ziemas Svetkus
Linksmu Kaledu
Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia
Sarbatori vesele
Cestitamo Bozic*

*May the Child Jesus and His Mother watch over you this Christmas and throughout the coming year.
As once they came to the stable of Bethlehem, may they come to you and bring you all the desires of your heart.*

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

from The Parishioner Editorial Team

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.