

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 21-December-2008

## Fourth Sunday Of Advent

*God's anointed was born by the power of God's Spirit. He is the Son of God and fulfills God's promise of an everlasting kingdom for his people.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

### The Shortest Day

This Sunday (Dec 21st) is the winter solstice. I had the privilege of visiting Newgrange during the summer. If you ever are up in Co. Meath it is well worth a visit. Newgrange is a world historic site and its structure is older than the pyramids. The passage grave was constructed five thousand years ago. Its builders were preoccupied with winter and with death. Above the entrance to the passage there is a small opening through which the sun shines on Dec 21st. Its rays penetrate some 50 feet into the inner chamber where the ashes of the dead were kept. It is an extraordinary construction that required painstaking and precise work. On Dec 21st the sun reached and still reaches deep within the earth to illuminate the darkest corners. These people feared the darkest of days and thought the world was going to end. Newgrange instils a great sense of hope and a reminder that in the darkest of corners light will always shine.

The same is so true of Christmas. Jesus is born into our world as a wonderful and inspiring light. The invitation is to allow Jesus to be born into those parts of our lives that need him the most. We all have dark corners in our lives. On our own the darkness could overwhelm us. Christmas is a reminder that we can't journey through life on our own. We need support, love, companionship, friendship, light, hope and so much more. That's why we make a special effort to reach out and include everyone at Christmas. The spirit of Christmas is meant to be alive every day of the year, not just on Christmas Day. Newgrange is an awesome spectacle. Christmas is equally an awesome event. We thank God for coming into our world to shatter all forms of darkness. We invite God's light to touch every aspect of our lives this Christmas. Wishing you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas..

James McSweeney ([www.2u.ie](http://www.2u.ie))

### 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

We present our needs to God, who provides for us what we need, confident of being heard.

#### Reader

We pray for the Church; that it may bear witness to the Christ-child across the world

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

We pray for peace; peace in our world, peace in our homes, peace in our hearts

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

We pray for those who are travelling at this time of year

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

We pray for those who live in slavery across the world; that they may be set free.

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

We pray for those who are sick; that they may be comforted by the healing touch of the Lord.

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

We pray for our dead; that they may enjoy eternal life in the kingdom of God.

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

#### Priest

Heavenly Father, God of mercy and compassion. Hear the prayers we ask you. We make these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus, your Son.  
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



*I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.*

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

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

Mary & Michael Harrington, Douglas Street.  
 John & Mary O'Connor, Powdermills.  
 Michael Harrington (Jnr), Gould Street.  
 Daniel O'Neill, High Street.  
 Jeremiah Harrington, Tower, Blarney.  
 Michael O'Leary, Inniscarra View Estate.  
 Pat O'Donoghue, Skibbereen.  
 Donie Harrington, Skibbereen.  
 Jeremiah & Mary Keohane, Rossmore.  
 Tim & Nora O'Connell, Knockburden.  
 Kate & Hugh Carson, Fairhill.  
 Jeremiah Delaney, Maglin.  
 William Frances Buckley, West Village.  
 Frances Murray, Douglas.  
 Con, John, & Julia Harrington, Ardigole.  
 Mary Bridget & Ann Murray, Cork & Derry.  
 Peter & Hannah Crowley, Leemount.  
 Deceased Members of the Flanagan Family, Castle Park.  
 Deceased Members of the O'Sullivan Family, Tralee.  
 Peggie Lingwood, Bishopstown.  
 Margaret, Joseph, & Extended Kavanagh Family, Powdermills.  
 Jack, John, & Beatrice Shanahan, Fr Sexton Park.  
 Lill O'Mahony, Bandon.  
 Bridget & Michael O'Regan, Carriganarra .  
 Denis O'Riordan, Kilmichael.  
 O'Connell Family, Kilnamartyra.  
 William Treacy, Castleknock.  
 Bridget O'Regan, Carriganarra.  
 Mary Murphy, Bishopstown.  
 Nancy Hogan, The Crescent.  
 Derry O'Neill, Carrigrohane.  
 Denis & Ellen Hallahan, Ballingullie  
 Mary Horgan, Upton.  
 Deceased members of John A Wood's Workforce.  
 Gus & Vincent O'Connell, Ballinora.  
 The Hoskins Family, Rosewood Est.  
 Margaret & Michael O'Donovan, Model Farm Rd.  
 Maura & Sean O'Leary, Dublin Hill.  
 The Harrington Family, The Square.  
 Deceased relatives of Danny & Peggy McCarthy, The Crescent.  
 John & Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane.  
 Patrick & Mary Radley, Powdermills.  
 Mick & Mary Gaffney, Limerick.  
 Con, Nora, & Donal Ahern, Fr Sexton Park.  
 Josephine Murphy, Muskerry Est.  
 John & Mary Twohig, Farranree.  
 Thomas, Harry & Masie Twohig, Farranree.  
 Bridie O'Driscoll, England.  
 Eily Padgett, Australia.  
 Kay Barrett, Beech Park.  
 Mary O'Mahony, Castlepark.  
 John O'Sullivan, Castlepark.  
 Dan Gaffney, Limerick.  
 Irene O'Donovan, Skibbereen.  
 Patrick & Margaret O'Mahony, Clash  
 Con & Mary Kelly, Dunmanway.  
 May & Eddie Barry, Inniscarra.  
 Dan O'Connell, West Village.  
 Deceased members of the Moynihan family.  
 Deceased members of the Kernins family.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week Of Advent

21 Sunday 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88. Ram 16:25-27. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 70

22 Monday 1 Sam. 1 :24-28. Ps. 1 Sam. 2. Lk. 1 :46-56. Lect I: 88

23 Tuesday Mal. 3:1-4,23-24. Ps 24. Lk 1 :57-66. Lect I: 90

24 Wednesday Midnight Mass Is. 9: 1-6. Ps. 95. Tit. 2:11-14. Lk. 2: 1-14. Lect I: 104

25 Thursday Dawn Mass Is. 62:11-12. Ps. 96. Tit 3:4-7. Lk. 2:15-20. Lect I: 107  
 Mass during the Day Is. 52:7-10. Ps. 97. Heb. 1:1-6. In. 1:1-18. Lect I: 109

26 Friday Acts. 6:8-10,7:54-59. Ps. 30. Mt. 10:17-22. Lect I: 125

27 Saturday 1 Jn 1 :1-4. Ps 96. Jn 20:2-8. Lect I: 127

**Next Sunday's Readings 28-December-2008**

Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3. Ps 104. Lk 2:22-40. Lect I: 119

**BAPTISMS**

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

Patrick Michael Christopher Keane Hennigan, Station Cross.  
 Grace Jean O'Donovan, Woodberry Lawn.  
 Greta Elelina Dahl, Oldcourt.  
 James Richard Krauss Allen, Maglin Circle.  
 Harry Michael Mulligan, Willowgrove.  
 Michael Andrew, Melleney, Elm Lawn.  
 Conor Che-Sing Chung, Maglin View.

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Mary O'Sullivan, Holly Road & Mayfield.  
 Kitty O'Mahony, Westcourt.  
 Bernadette White, Togher.  
 Mary O'Regan, Westcourt.

***Theft from Cars***

Regrettably handbags and other items of value have been stolen recently from cars parked at the Church of St Mary & St John. Parishioners are reminded that valuable items should not be left in cars parked in the Church grounds or car parks. Visible items in cars represent an attraction to thieves; items which must be left in a car are best locked in the boot.

***Car Parking - Urgent Notice***

Please note with immediate effect car spaces are no longer available at Madonna House, Station Road for St. Mary & St. John Church users

***Legion of Mary***

Rosary at Crib will be recited on Christmas Eve at 12 o'clock  
 You are most welcome to visit and participate.

***Ballincollig Tidy Towns***

Wishes to thank everyone who supported them in anyway during 2008  
 Your continued support is greatly appreciated  
 Please Help  
 Keep Ballincollig Litter Free

**THE SUNDAY READINGS**

First Reading: 2 Sam. 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16.  
God's promise to David is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.

Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27  
St Paul introduces us to the mystery of Christ, once a secret, but now made known to the whole world.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38  
Jesus' birth is foretold in this gospel where Gabriel comes to Mary and announces that within her she has the king that Israel has long awaited. To have found favour with God surprises Mary, a woman with none of the qualities valued in her society. She was female, young, poor, and didn't even have a husband or child to give her existence credibility. Not only did this puzzle her, but she knew she was a virgin and carrying a child didn't logically fit. Her puzzlement gave Gabriel the opportunity to explain that the baby she carried was conceived through the Holy Spirit. Mary accepted what was told to her, and remained open to God's will. At the same time, she learned that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also pregnant. This pregnancy was miraculous as well, since Elizabeth had been thought to be barren and was now an old woman.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2008 at 7.30 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 2009 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**

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.00 a.m.	St Mary & St John	Confessions
	7.30 p.m.		Penitential Service
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	10.00 a.m.	St Mary & St John	Confessions
	6.00 - 8.00 p.m.		
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.	St Mary & St John	Confessions
	12.00 noon - 2.00 p.m.	Christ Our Light	



**Mass Times**



Church of St Mary & St John	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		10.00 p.m.	Midnight Mass
	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> 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	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6.00 p.m.	Children's Mass
		8.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		12.00 midnight	Midnight Mass
	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> 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-27 & Dec-28-2008

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

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Michael Fitton  
Paul Kearns  
**8:30 am**  
Pat Fennell  
**10:00 am**  
Tony Hegarty  
William Green  
**12:00 Noon**  
Declan Chalmers

**7:30 pm (Vigil)**  
Murigen Ni Mhathuna  
Niamh Murray  
**11:00 am**  
Chide Ebili  
Karen Flavin  
**12:30 pm**  
Bernard Vallely  
**5:30 pm**  
Emily Hardman



**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Dec-27 & Dec-28-2008

**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  
**11:00 am** Seamus O'Connell  
Mary O'Connell  
Alan O'Riordan  
Geraldine Keohane  
Gerard Murray

**8:30 am** Mary Buckley  
Rita Murphy  
Denis Healy

**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  
Siobhan Burke

**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 who conducted the retreat.

**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 €22,006.00 St. John's Conference, Ballincollig.

**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, 6 pm (Vigil) & 10 pm	<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am, 6 pm, 8 pm & Midnight
8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon	<b>Thursday</b>	11 am, 12:30 pm
9:30 am	<b>Friday</b>	
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	<b>Saturday</b>	4:30 pm
Except First Saturday of Month		First Saturday of Month
12:45 pm	<b>Sunday</b>	

**PARISH CLERGY**

**Priest on Duty 087-2479140**

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

*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  
Pnieciguz 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.*

**St Stephen's Day Mass**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30a m Mass in St Mary & St John. There is NO 8.30 am Mass in Christ our Light. **Saturday & Sunday Masses as usual**

**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.**