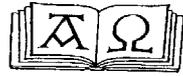


THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Sunday 21-March-2004



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road



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

The Prodigal Son

Of all Christ's parables this is the most revolutionary. So much so that we have come to the conclusion that Christ got it wrong. That he went overboard. I mean what would happen if we opened our doors to every runaway, waster and squanderer? Isn't that what is wrong with the world today? We have too many prodigals, too many people who are all too willing to claim their rights but too few who are willing to consider their responsibilities?

Many people feel sorry for the older son in the story. They feel he got a raw deal from the Father. Put yourself in his shoes. How would you feel if you were in his position? Would you not feel it was unfair? How would you react? You'd blow your top. It would not be human if you did not. Does it not tell us how much of the Pharisee is in each of us? The older brother stands for the Pharisees – those austere men who kept all God's commandments and yet were without love and mercy.

But now try to put yourself in the shoes of the younger son. If you were in his would you not be very happy at the way things turned out? This is not to say what he did was right. It wasn't. It was wrong, selfish and irresponsible. But that said, he paid a big price for his sins. He was in a foreign country. When his money ran out he was alone. And what a comedown he suffered. After his high life to end up feeding pigs. For a Jew, feeding pigs was the lowest of all jobs. As a foreigner he was hopelessly exploited by his employer, but he had to work if he wanted to stay alive.

He thought back to the fine life he had back home. He thought of the kind and loving Father he had. Then shame, remorse and guilt arouse within him.

So it was that he came to his decision to return home. To return home was no easy job. It called for a lot of humility and courage. He knew well what people were thinking and saying about him back there. He realized that he had sinned, not only against his Father but against God.

Who can describe the joy of the Prodigal Son? We become slaves to guilt. We waste so much time in remorse. We become slaves to guilt. If we still find it easier to identify with the older son, then so be it. Which of us can truthfully say that we have kept all the commandments, that we have served God 'all day long'? Have we not squandered at least some of our inheritance? Have we not made a totally inadequate response to God's love? The Prodigal shows us the way to the Father's house. He tells us what we have to do. "I will arise and go to my Father's house and I will say to him ..." Millions have heard these words and inspired by them, have come in from the cold and found welcome and forgiveness from God. It is not simply that we are saved but that we are loved by the Father.

Let us pray this Lenten time that we may put into practice, this love of the Father, in the daily living of our lives.

John O'Donovan

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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

God our Father's love is astonishing love. We have reason to trust as we bring our petitions before him...

Reader

That we may really believe in the forgiving love of God for each one of us, we pray.

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

That all people of goodwill may hear the call to repentance, which comes to us in a particular way this year in Lent.

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

That today we all give thanks for mothers and take time to remember them.

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

That we may welcome those who are new to our community, those who come from other nations and cultures, those whose ways differ from our own.

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

That parents who grieve the loss of their children may be consoled by their faith and the support of good neighbours.

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

We pray that there may be vocations to the religious life.

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

Priest

Father of peace, who reconciles us to you, we make our prayer to you in the name of Jesus, your Son.

Amen.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Helen Kenneally, Beech Park.
Johnny Curran, Castlereagh, Roscommon.
Kathleen O'Connor, Waterford.
Alan O'Connor, Ballincurra.
Victims of the Madrid bombings.

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

Michael O'Mahony, Whitethorn Ave.
Helen Lynch, Innishannon.
Maureen & Timothy O'Connell, Ballygully.
John McAuliffe, Douglas.
The deceased members of the Twohig family, Kilcrea Park.
David & Kevin McCarthy, Union Hall and Rosewood.
Tom McAuliffe, The Square.
Patrick McNamara, Inniscarra View Estate.
Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Fairylawn, The Lough.
Daniel O'Sullivan, Fairylawn, The Lough.
Bob & Eileen Foolkes, Ballyphehane.
Owen Dwyer, Ballyshoneen.
John Emperor, Rockchapel.
Geraldine O'Sullivan-O'Brien, Timoleague & Wales.
John & Helen Kingston, Clonakilty.
Ted & Bridie Brennan, Coon, Co. Kilkenny.
Bridie O'Sullivan, Ballingeary.
Joe Heaton, Pierce Place.
Cornelius & Eileen Bradley, Leemount, Carrigrohane.
Robert Cuthbert, Douglas.
Michael Hennigan, Woodbine Lawn.
Betty Davy, Foxford, Co. Mayo.
Ned Keating, West Village.
Ena O'Shea, Innishannon.
Norah Barry, Redemption Road.
Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane.
Denis Clifford, Turners Cross.
The deceased members of the Mulcahy family, Cobh.
John McAuliffe, Douglas.
William & Margaret McNamara, Ballincollig.
Julia Slattery.
Molly Cussen.
Frank Manning, Blackrock.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

21 Sunday Josh. 5:9-12. Ps. 33.2 Cor. 5:17-21. Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32. Lect I: 284
22 Monday Is. 65:17-21. Ps. 29. In. 4:43-54. Lect I: 290
23 Tuesday Ez. 47:1-9,12. Ps. 45. In. 5:1-3,5-16. Lect I: 292
24 Wednesday Is. 49:8-15. Ps. 144. In. 5:17-30. Lect I: 294
25 Thursday Is. 7: 10-14, 8: 10. Ps. 39. Heb. 10:4-10. Lk. 1 :26- 38. Lect II: 985
26 Friday Wis. 2:1,12-22. Ps. 33. In. 7:1-2,10,25-30. Lect I: 300
27 Saturday Jer. 11 :18-20. Ps. 7. In. 7:40-53. Lect I: 303

Next Sunday's Readings 28-March-2004

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

Community Games

The Cork County Community Games Indoor Soccer finals were held last weekend at the Neptune Basketball Stadium. Ballincollig had two teams, East and West, in the Girls U/13 competition and had high hopes of regaining the trophy last won in 2001. The Ballincollig East team included Ellen Jackson, Tara O'Leary, Wendy Cahill, Laura Hogan, Amy Wilson, Danielle Campion and Aoife Power under the management of Jennifer Walsh and West team included Emer O'Sullivan, Aoife Cremen, Laura O'Driscoll, Rebecca O'Callaghan, Emer Nolan, Katie Hallissey and Michelle O'Driscoll under the management of Lisa O'Mahony. The competition was played on league basis and in the opening series of matches The East side, with Ellen Jackson in flying goal scoring form, had a 4-1 victory over Glanmire, while the West was narrowly defeated 1-2 by Ballinlough. In the next series the West got back on the winning trail with a 1-0 win over Glanmire, while the East played out an exciting 3-3 draw with Ballinlough. In the last series of matches the two Ballincollig teams played each other with both teams striving for victory and the chance of winning the overall competition. Jennifer was the first manager to be celebrating as her team, East, started brightly and took an early lead but Lisa and her troops responded with an equaliser just before half time, and took the lead with an early goal in the second half. It looked as if this was going to be the final score as Emer O'Sullivan was having a magnificent game in the goals. However Ellen Jackson broke away with just 30 seconds remaining to score the all important equaliser. When the League Tables were finally calculated Ballincollig East was in first place while Ballincollig West was in third place, losing the silver medals on goals scored. The winning team now goes on to represent Cork at Munster finals in Limerick which will be held on Saturday 10th July. Ballincollig Community Games would like to thank all the girls who performed so well, their managers Jennifer and Lisa, and the committee of Ballincollig Ladies Soccer club for organising the teams.

Upcoming Events: Swimming - The County Swimming finals will be held in Leisureworld Bishopstown on Saturday 24th April with competitions for boys and girls ranging from U/8 to U/16. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Rick O'Mahony at 087-2358347 as quickly as possible.

Art - The County Art finals will also be held next month, in Mallow. The competition is open to all girls and boys in the U/8 to U/16 age groups. Once again any young boy or girl interested in entering the competition should contact Rick O'Mahony at 087-2358347 for further details.

CROWLEY

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12
 The story of God providing manna in the desert, but only there, may tell us something about how God provides for us in our every need.

Second Reading: 2 Cor. 5:17-21
 St. Paul gives a strong message today: We, each one of us, are ambassadors for Christ. That is something!

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3. 11-32
 Today's Gospel is the well-known story of the prodigal son who begged for his share of the family inheritance. He took his fortune to a far away place and quickly spent all he had on his personal pleasures. He was completely broke when a serious famine struck the area and he was forced to tend pigs, an occupation prohibited to Jewish people. As he tended the pigs, he hungered for their scraps and realised that his father's slaves lived better than he did. It was then that he decided to return home, not as a son, but as a hired hand. So happy was the man's father when he saw his son return that he celebrated with all sorts of signs of honour. The father's older son, however, was very displeased with the way his father treated his brother, claiming that he had always been there working like a slave for his father. Never once had the father celebrated with this son. The father explained that the older son had always been with him and obedient. It was cause to rejoice, however, that his other son had been lost but now was found.



SAINT OF THE WEEK
St. Macartan 24-March-2004

St. Macartan belongs to a very early generation of saints in Ireland and is recognised as the first Bishop of Clogher. He was known as Patrick's 'Strongman' for his dedication and faithfulness. Before his conversion to Christianity he was known as Aidus, son of Caerthen, hence his later name, Macartan. He was converted to Christianity by Saint Patrick, who enrolled him amongst his missionary staff. When St. Patrick became worn out by his labours Macartan would sometimes carry him on his broad shoulders over rough ground and marshes. Often he was referred to as the "Strongman". When Macartan became too old for this task St. Patrick appointed him Bishop of Clogher. This was an area of great importance neighbouring the chieftains of Orghialla. The rest of his life was devoted to the government of his monastery and diocese. His biographers represented him as very meek with a kind disposition. He is accredited with having performed a number of remarkable miracles. In the Diocese of Clogher Cathedrals, Churches and Schools perpetuate the name of this great saint. He died in 506.

Mass Bookings

The Mass Book in both churches is now open for the Months of April, May and June

Understanding the Bible this Lent

Bible study under the title "Come and See" continues every Thursday night at 8 pm in the Community Centre until March 25th and will conclude on April 6th with The Seder Meal or Passover celebration.
 All are welcome

Fr. George.

Priesthood In Cork & Ross
First step on the path is ...

Listening, discussing, praying and reflecting.

Priesthood Information Day

about becoming a priest in Cork and Ross

Date: Saturday April 3rd, 2004

Venue: Ennismore Retreat Centre, Cork

Cost: Free; Time: 11 am to 5 pm (lunch provided)

Should you attend? What if you can't that day?

Want to find out more? In confidence, telephone

Fr. Aidan O'Driscoll at (021) 4303015 (9 am-3 pm)

or Fr. Bertie O'Mahony at (021) 4371684

or email priesthood@corkandross.org

Spring Dues

Envelopes have now been distributed to each household. Please return it by placing it in the Basket at Mass. Spare envelopes are available from the back of the Church.



The Irish Blood Transfusion Service Will Hold
 A Blood Donor Clinic In

The GAA Pavilion Ballincollig
 On

Monday 22nd March 2004

Tuesday 23rd March 2004

Wednesday 24th March 2004

Thursday 25th March 2004

From 3:00 – 5:00 & 7:00 – 9:00 pm

It's never too late to learn!

Cork college of Commerce will hold an Adult Information Morning on Wednesday 31st March 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Information on a wide variety of courses will be available on the day. Come along and have a chat with our students and staff. Refreshments will be served.

Admission free. All welcome.

Prayer for Mothers

God our Father, full of compassion for all who turn to you in their hour of need, you gave Saint Monica the wonderful grace of holiness as wife and mother. Through prayer and perseverance, she won for you, Lord, her husband and wayward son, Augustine. Grant to all mothers the same patience and prayer-filled concern, so that your Son's love may become more evident in the family.

"Best wishes to all Mothers for Mother's Day today"

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Mar-27 & Mar-28-2004

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Sandra Walsh
8:30 am
Elizabeth Daly
10:00 am
Elaine Murphy
12:00 Noon
Tony Lynch

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Pauline Collins
11:00 am
Jack Dorgan
12:30 pm
Pat McGeough
5:30 pm
Christine O'Brien

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	9:00 am & 8 pm (Vigil)

CONFESSIONS

After 10:00 am Mass & before 6:00 pm Mass **Saturday** After 9:00 am Mass

BAPTISMS

5:00 pm **Saturday** 7:15 pm
12:45 pm **Sunday**

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Mar-27 & Mar-28-2004

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Steve Wills
Margaret O'Sullivan
Rita Aherne
Rose Doyle
Jim Walsh
Frances O'Brien
8:30 am Mary Buckley
Rita Murphy
10:00 am Christina Walsh
Peter Reilly
Mary Collins
Christy Roche
Katie O'Shea
12 Noon Oliver O'Donovan
Barbara Kelly
John Jeffers
Mary McLean
Ellen Seymour
Ita Walsh

8:00 pm Anne O'Regan
Marion O'Sullivan
Finbarr Murray
11:00 am Seamus O'Connell
Mary O'Connell
Pat Manning
Alan O'Riordan
Geraldine Keohane
12:30 pm Maura Lombard
Jackie Sheehan
Mary Green
Michael O'Leary
Lelia O'Brien
5:30 pm Catherine Green
Mary Breen
Siobhan Burke

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty 087-2479140

Fr. George O'Mahony P.P. 021-4871206
Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C. 021-4877161
Fr. Paul O'Donoghue 021-4876055
Fr. John O'Donovan C.C. 021-4870434



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