

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Sunday 27-March-2011



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Third Sunday of Lent

When Jesus asked the woman of Samaria for water to drink he had already prepared her for the gift of faith. In his thirst to receive her faith he awakened in her heart the fire of God's love. We pray for those who are preparing for this baptism.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Seeking Common Ground

Responding to the declining number of priests in Cork & Ross

The late Cardinal Bernadin of Chicago often preached that 'common ground is holy ground'. Certainly one of the great challenges facing the Church in Ireland today is how we can all work together to shape our future in a world and a church where so much seems to be changing so quickly. Consider for a moment the following statistics. In 1995 some one hundred and fifty four priests worked in the parishes of Cork and Ross. Today that figure stands at one hundred and three. By next year, twenty of that number will have reached the age of seventy five, the age at which priests are entitled to retire from active ministry.

These stark figures beg the question: How can we as a diocese prepare for the many challenges that this declining number of priests entails? How can we seek to plan for the future in a way that is fair and just to all the communities that make up our diocese? In a word, how can we find that holy ground that is common ground?

In an attempt to prepare for this challenge, Bishop Buckley organised the diocese into sixteen pastoral areas a little over two years ago, each area comprising of a number of neighbouring parishes. The goal of these pastoral areas is to foster greater co-operation between the parishes and to explore how they might work more closely together for the benefit of all their communities.

Given the continuing fall in the number of priests in the diocese, each pastoral area now faces the very real prospect of losing at least one priest within a couple of years. Any decision in this regard will be both difficult and painful. To help him in these difficult decisions, Bishop Buckley has invited the parishes in each pastoral area to come together and to make recommendations as to how they think this might be achieved in a way that is fair to all concerned.

Part of that conversation will involve looking at the number of Sunday Masses available in each area. Each pastoral area is being asked to propose an agreed reduced schedule of Sunday Masses that could be implemented by January 2012. Whilst the number of masses in each is very likely to be affected, it is hoped that parishioners will continue to enjoy as wide a choice as possible of mass times within their own pastoral area from which they will be free to choose. Hopefully this new schedule will also allow for priests within a pastoral area to cover for one another when any one of them is unavailable due to illness, personal circumstances or vacation.

This invitation represents an attempt to face up to just some of the important challenges facing the diocese. Other important issues include: How we can begin to invite women and men into ministry and leadership positions in our parishes to work with and alongside priests in the future? What are the key aspects of parish life that we need to prioritise? What sort of church do we want to be part of in the future? How can we effectively encourage and promote vocations to the priesthood in today's world?

The immediate future faces us with many challenges but these can best be faced by working together, choosing what is best not just for our own parish but for all parishes and communities in the diocese, seeking a way forward that genuinely is fair and respectful of everyone concerned. Christ's most fervent wish for his followers at the Last Supper was very simple: that they would 'all be one' (John 17:21). That wish has neither changed nor altered. May that prayer continue to inspire us and sustain us as we seek together that holy ground that is common ground!

Fr. Sean O'Sullivan
Director of Pastoral Planning,
Diocese of Cork & Ross.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us pray with confidence to God who alone can quench our deepest thirst.

Reader

For the followers of Christ: that they may turn away from the murky waters of sin, and seek instead the clear waters of grace.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For people everywhere: that they may realise that God alone can quench the thirst in the human heart.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are lonely or rejected that they may find in Christian people who are willing to listen to them.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For each other; that through pray and the sacraments, we may grow in friendship and intimacy with Christ.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For ourselves; that our own special needs may have a place within the presence of god.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

May this Lent see a new awakening of a spirit of compassion and service among all the baptised.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son into our world to quench our thirst with the living water of your grace. Help us to accept his gift with eager hearts. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Liam Mark Hoey, The Green, Coolroe Meadows.
 Zuzanna Grenda, Willowfield.
 Charlie Ronan Hickey, Coopers Grange, Old Quarter.
 Julita Matylda Pachla, Church View.
 Alex Arabella Furlong, Greystones.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Brendan Minihane, Caheragh, Drimoleague.
 Aoife Callanan, Coolroe Heights.
 Jerry Keohane, Clonakilty.
 Shay Graham, Glincool.

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

Catherine McKechnie, Tower.
 Kate & Fred Nash, Powdermills.
 Paudie & Olive Coleman, Redemption Road.
 Tim & Eily O'Herlihy, Tara Lawn.
 Raymond & Lilian Nagle, Dublin.
 John Corkery, Aherla.
 Myles & Peggy Troy, Thurles.
 Aiden Linehan, Park Road Muskerry Estate.
 O'Sullivan Family, Station Road.
 Tom Reck, Togher.
 Danjoe & Margaret O'Shea, O'Donovan Crescent.
 Bob & Eileen Foulkes, Ballyphehane.
 Kitty O'Sullivan, Tudor Grove.
 Annie Cotter, Fr Sexton Park.
 Robert Cuthbert, Douglas.
 Carmel Shanahan, East Gate.
 P.J. Harrington, Beech Road.
 Pat & Billy Coomey, Carriganarra.
 Alan O'Callaghan, Aherla.
 Ann & John Hogan, Co Tipperary
 Michael J Sexton, Clash.
 Geraldine O'Sullivan O'Brien, Timoleague & Wales.
 Bessie & Gerard Higgins, Pouladuff.
 Dec Members of the Higgins Family.
 Shay Graham, Glincool.
 Flor & Lizzie McCarthy, Park Road.
 Bernie O'Connell, Kilnaglorry.
 Vincent McLoughlin, Sliglo.
 Dan McCarthy, The Crescent.
 Michael Hennigan, Woodbine Lawn.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week Of Lent

27 Sunday Ex. 17:3-7. Ps. 94. Rom. 5: 1-2, 5-8. In. 4:5-42. Lect I: 245
 28 Monday 2 Kgs. 5:1-15. Ps. 41. Lk. 4:24-30. Lect I: 262
 29 Tuesday Dan. 3:25,34-43. Ps. 24. Mt. 18:21-35. Lect I: 264
 30 Wednesday Deut. 4:1, 5-9. Ps. 147. Mt. 5:17-19. Lect I: 267
 31 Thursday Jer. 7:23-28. Ps. 94. Lk. 11:14-23. Lect I: 268
 01 Friday Hos. 14:2-10. Ps. 80. Mk. 12:28-34. Lect I: 271
 02 Saturday Hos. 5: 15-6:6. Ps. 50. Lk. 18:9-14. Lect I: 273

Next Sunday's Readings 03-April-2011

1 Sam. 16:6-7, 10-13. Ps. 22. Eph. 5:8-14. Jn. 9:1-41. Lect I: 276

Ballincollig Parish

Biblical Reflection on The Eucharist

Following the series of talks on the writings of St Paul and on St John's Gospel, our occasional series of Biblical reflections continues this Lent with four talks on the Eucharist. These will examine the Biblical foundations of the Eucharist, and reflect on the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian Life.

The talks, as before, will be held in the St Mark Centre, opposite the Church of Christ Our Light in Innishmore. These will include presentation of the material by Fr Billy O'Sullivan followed by tea and group discussion.

The schedule of meetings is as follows.

| | Monday 7.30 pm | Wednesday 10.00 am |
|--------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Talk 1 | 28 th March | 30 th March |
| Talk 2 | 4 th April | 6 th April |
| Talk 3 | 11 th April | 13 th April |
| Talk 4 | 18 th April | 20 th April |

Autism Awareness

The Fourth Annual World Autism Awareness Day is being held on April 2nd, 2011.

April is Autism Awareness Month.

Irish Autism Action is celebrating this by holding a series of national collection days and running unique fundraising activities throughout the month of April in the 26 counties around Ireland. If you have any of the following days Free April 1st, 8th, 14th and 29th Please join us! Get behind our Patron Keith Duffy and come out and collect for your county to help raise much needed funds for local families affected by Autism. We would love to hear from you regarding how you would like to get involved - contact us directly on 087 - 2496068

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

Church Door Easter Collection

Next Weekend
 2nd & 3rd April 2011
 Please Support

Early Morning Prayer

(For LENT)

The great Feast of EASTER is coming.
 LENT is the preparation time.
 Come to the MORNING PRAYER of the CHURCH.
 Taking place during Lent in St. Mark's Centre
 (opposite Christ, Our Light Church)
 Mon. - Fri. at 6 am.
 Everyone Welcome

CROWLEY

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork
 Tel: 021-4874777 Mobile: 087-2759254

Email: michaelfd@eircom.net

www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7
 The Israelites grumbled against Moses for leading them out of Egypt. They were thirsty, and there was no water in the desert, so Moses struck a rock with his staff, and water flowed out for the people to drink.

Second Reading: John 4:5-42
 "The love of God has been poured out into our hearts," and that love is immeasurable; "While we were still sinners Christ died for us."

Gospel: John 4:5-42
 Jesus approached a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well and asked her for a drink of water. This surprised the woman for several reasons. In the first place, it was unlikely that a man would ask a woman for anything and even more unbelievable that Jesus, a Jew, would ask something of a Samaritan, a great enemy of the Jewish people. Jesus explained to her that our thirst would return if we drank water from the well; but if we drank the water Jesus offered us, we would never thirst again. After Jesus told her many things about herself, she came to believe that he was the Son of God and called others to him.

Trócaire

On this third Sunday in Lent we stand in solidarity with the people Trocaire works with in the poor communities of Honduras. They are doing all in their power, sometimes at great personal risk, to improve the conditions and futures of their people. Please help Trocaire to help them this Lent.

Living Eucharist Today

A series of four evenings exploring the Mass and our lives today. This series is part of our diocesan preparation for the Eucharistic Congress in Ireland 2012

March 28th: Jesus present in His Word
April 4th: Jesus present in the Eucharist
April 11th: Jesus present in our living

With Fr. Christy Fitzgerald and Dr. Anne Francis
 Blackrock Parish Centre,

Mondays 8.00 - 9.30 pm. All Welcome.

Cost: €20 for the four nights.

For further information and booking:

Anne Francis, abfrancis@eircom.net 087-2282134.

Christy Fitzgerald, liturgy@corkandross.org 021-4537600.

Family Fun Day Fundraiser

Dripsey Sunday 8th of May

Lee Valley Vintage Rally

and Auto Jumble at Kilblafer, Dripsey

All proceeds raised in aid for

Children's Leukaemia Unit, Mercy Hospital, Cork.

Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin.

Motor Bike run on day

Start at Viaduct onto Dunmanway and back to Dripsey.

Contact Denis Dineen (087)7460807 or (021)7334421

Knock

Legion of Mary Annual Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday 29th May 2011. Bus leaving village at 7.00 am sharp. Early booking advised. For details contact Sally (021) 4870954 or Cathleen (021) 4874730.

Bulletin Board

First Friday

Friday April 1st is the first Friday of the month. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St Mary & St John from 6.30 pm to 8 pm, you are invited to come and spend some time with the Lord. There is Mass in St Mary & St John on Friday evening at 8 pm. The priests of the parish visit the sick of the parish on the first Friday of each month; please let us know if you have a family member or neighbour who is sick or housebound.

Mass Book

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

Spring Dues

Envelopes are currently being distributed to homes throughout the parish of Ballincollig; contribution of the dues is for the support of the priests of the parish. Please return it by placing it in the basket at Mass. Should your home be missed spare envelopes are available from the back of both church .

Preparations for the International Eucharistic Congress

Fr. Julian Green, the National Delegate of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales will address priests and interested laity, especially members of the parish assembly, in Myross Wood Retreat Centre on Monday, 28th March, 2011 from 7.30 pm to 9.15 pm and in the Sacred Heart Church, Western Road, Cork on Tuesday, 29th March from 7.30 pm to 9.15 pm.

Fr. George

World Missions Ireland

On behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith "Thank You" for your support on Mission Sunday. In 2010, the Mission Sunday Collection in Cork & Ross Diocese amounted to €108,645. Thank you for your great generosity despite very difficult financial times.

Gramophone Recital

Musical morning in the Ballincollig Library from

11.00 am on Tuesday 29th March, 2011.

This month's musical choice is presented by

Denis O'Callaghan.

Admission free all are welcome.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

Lake Hotel, Killarney on the 8th – 10th April.

Marriage is a wonderful vocation and one of the most fundamental plans of God for our happiness in this world. But as all married couples know, you have to work on a marriage relationship and give it a principal place of priority. During this short life of ours, many opportunities come our way and too often we are too afraid and too preoccupied to avail of them.

One such opportunity is a Marriage Enrichment Weekend. The weekend is directed by married people and it will do what it says - enrich your marriage. Any enrichment brings greater fulfilment into our lives and into our families.

For details visit: www.marriageencounter.ie or phone 021 4381511, 087 0567794.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Apr-02 & Apr-03-2011

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Karen Sheehan
Padraig Graham
8:30 am
Triona Collins

10:00 am
Sean Collins
Kate Collins
12:00 Noon
John Dorgan
Noella Ngenwie

7:30 pm (Vigil)
Rosarie Cotter
Louise McGrath
11:00 am
Alex Hatsigrigoriou
Alison Henchion
12:30 pm
Brian O'Donoghue
Chidera Ebili
5:30 pm
Tom Reck

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 | 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 |

Discern your Future

With The Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Women aged 18-45 are invited to come and Reflect on Jesus'

Invitation to
"Come and See"

Venue: Cork
29th April - 1st May 2011

Information:
Sr Una Mulvey sshjm
unashjm@aol.com

Tel:021 4616099 Mobile: 0863926161

**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.**



An Inter-Church *Alpha* course begins in March, run jointly by the Carrigrohane Union of Parishes (Church of Ireland) and Ballincollig Parish (Catholic). This is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal, fun and friendly environment. The course starts on Wednesday March 23rd, and continues in the Westgate Foundation Building, Ballincollig on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm for ten weeks.

What is the point of life?

What happens when we die?

What relevance does Jesus have for our lives today?

How do we deal with guilt?

If you would like to explore any of these questions, then Alpha is for you. *Alpha* considers some basic aspects of the Christian faith, including - Who is Jesus, Why Did Jesus Die?, How does God guide us? and What about the Church?

Contact: *Rev Ian Jonas, Rector,*
Carrigrohane Union of Parishes
Telephone 021 4871106

Fr Billy O'Sullivan,
Ballincollig Parish
Telephone 021 4876171