

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 18-December-2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

The Promise

Broken promises and broken contracts leads to all kinds of disagreements and disharmony. The person who breaks a promise creates an ever widening ripple of distrust. The unfulfilled pledge is a wound that festers unceasingly. To break one's word to a child is to undermine confidence that may never be restored. On the other hand a commitment honoured, a vow kept, a covenant fulfilled creates a bond of peace and love that can survive any calamity.

The readings at today's Mass remind us of such a promise. The promise in question was God's to send a saviour, a messiah and a leader. He sent His own Son, Jesus born of Mary, a Jew of the line of David who would heal the sick, get the lame to walk, forgive sins, who would rise from the dead to enable us to believe in God and in our destiny. He gave his word to be our God no matter how often we failed. To seal that promise his Son took flesh and continues to live among us as a builder of peace on Justice.

God continues to keep His word. Today is another invitation to respond in faith filled joy and generous fidelity.

I take this opportunity on behalf of Fr Cian and myself to wish our readers and all parishioners A VERY HAPPY, JOYFUL AND PEACEFUL Christmas. To those who work week in and out to produce the parishioner a sincere thank you.

George O'Mahony

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us pray. that the whole world may be flooded with the grace of the Lord's coming.

Reader

For all Christians: that they may celebrate the birth of Christ with the faith and joy of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds.

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

For all temporal leaders: that in their administration of justice they may ensure that the poor and vulnerable members of society are not left out.

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

For those for whom Christmas may be a time of loneliness and sadness: that they may experience the warmth of Christ's presence.

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

For all those who are travelling this Christmas: that they may reach their destinations safely.

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

For those who are suffering the effects of war, famine and persecution in particular the people of Aleppo, Mosul & Nigeria.

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

For a moment, we remember in silence our own particular needs.

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

Priest

O God, Father of every family, against whom no door can be shut, convert our hearts and our homes into fit dwelling places for Christ your son. We ask this through the same Christ 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 & Cian O'Sullivan

Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie or Facebook www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Ted O’Leary, Maple Lawn.
 John Corcoran, Lissarda/Churchview.
 Patrick Clohessy, London.
 Betty Aylward, Carrigtwohill/Glounthaune.

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

Fin Buckley, Bishopstown.
 Brian Reddy, Dripsey.
 Harry & Ivy Ramsden, England.
 Tadgh & Maureen O’Callaghan, The Lough.
 Jeremiah & Mary Keohane, Rossmore.
 Pdraig O’Donoghue, Coachford.
 Maura O’Connor, Dublin.
 James & Eileen O’Donovan, Leap.
 Nuala Harte, Rosscarbery.
 John Kavanagh, Powdermills.
 Tom, Margaret & Judy Enright, Nadd.
 Jack & Beatrice Shanahan, Fr. Sexton Park.
 O’Mahony Family, Ballineen.
 Teresa Britnell, Nottingham.
 Sonny & Kathleen Murray, Carrigrohane Road.
 Noel White, Inniscarra View.
 Denis, Ellen Hallahan, Ballingulley.
 Pat & Mary Horgan, Upton.
 Philip Hall, Rosewood.
 Mary Hall, Bishopstown.
 Pat McCullagh, Castle Avenue.
 Gerry Delaney, Maglin.
 Peter Davis, Douglas
 Joan O’Riordan, Carriganarra Estate.
 Bridie Sexton, Hillsboro.
 William Treacy, Castleknock.
 Eric Philpott, Beech Park.
 Chris Foley, Muskerry Estate.
 Martin Canny, Leesdale.
 Seán Coakley, “Hillure”, Muskerry Estate.
 Tom & Hannah Hannafin, Annasaul
 Paddy Forde, Powdermills.
 Kieran Forde, Carrigaline.
 Neil McGroarty, Beech Park.
 John & Mary Lucey, Coolroe.
 Neil, Noreen & John McGroarty, Cobh.
 Sean & Elizabeth Crowley, Poulavone.
 Nellie Murphy, Station Road.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week Of Advent

- 18 Sunday Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Rom. 1:1-7. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I:68
- 19 Monday Judg 13:2-7, 24-25. Ps 70. Lk 1:5-25. Lect I: 81
- 20 Tuesday Is. 7: 10-14. Ps. 23. Lk. 1 :26-38. Lect I:83
- 21 Wednesday Song 2:8-14 or Zeph. 3: 14-18. Ps. 32. Lk. 1 :39-45. Lect I:85
- 22 Thursday 1 Sam. 1:24-28. Ps. 1 Sam. 2:1, 4-8. Lk. 1:46-56. Lect I:88
- 23 Friday Mal. 3:1-4, 4:5-6. Ps. 24. Lk. 1:57-66. Lect I:90
- 24 Saturday 2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps. 88. Lk. 1:67-79. Lect I:92

Next Sunday’s Readings 25-December-2016

Is. 52:7-10. Ps. 97. Heb. 1:1-6. In. 1:1-18. Lect I: 109



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.

The 12 Days of Christmas

Religious symbolism of The Twelve Days of Christmas

1. True Love refers to God
2. Turtle Doves refers to the Old and New Testaments
3. French Hens refers to Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
4. Calling Birds refers to the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
5. Golden Rings refers to the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
6. Geese A-laying refers to the six days of creation
7. Swans A-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
8. Maids A-milking refers to the eight beatitudes
9. Ladies Dancing refers to the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
10. Lords A-leaping refers to the ten commandments
11. Pipers Piping refers to the eleven faithful apostles
12. Drummers Drumming refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

BAPTISMS

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

Seán Eoin O’Connell-Murphy, Avoncourt.
 Grace Amelia Brown, Oldcourt.
 Freya Lynn Hogan, Carrigaline.

Legion of Mary

Rosary at The Crib (Near AIB)
 Christmas Eve at 12 Noon
All are welcome to participate

Carol Service

Today Sunday 18th December at 7pm
 Church of St Mary & St. John

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14
The first reading contains Isaiah's prophecy of the events we celebrate at Christmas.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7
Paul's message is another reminder of what we are preparing to celebrate.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24
Matthew recounts the circumstances of Jesus' birth by telling us the story of Mary's engagement to Joseph and the child she carried originating from the Holy Spirit. This reality made no sense to Joseph, but he did not want to dishonour Mary so he planned to quietly divorce her. An angel came and told Joseph not to be afraid, that Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and that they should call him Emmanuel meaning, "God is with us."

Saint Vincent De Paul

Sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously last weekend. This generosity will make big difference to many struggling families in Ballincollig & Balinora..

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.

Offertory Collection Boxes 2017

The boxes of envelopes (green) for the Offertory Collection are available in both churches. Families who have already registered the number of their boxes from previous years, please ensure you collect the same number again this year. Please use the envelopes for the Offertory Collection for the Vigil and Sunday Masses during the year. The Offertory Collection is solely for the upkeep, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches.

Thanks for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year.

Mass Diaries

Mass Diaries to book Mass intentions for January, February and March are now open in both churches. Priority will be given to those booking 1st Anniversary Mass.

Fr. George

Ballincollig Parish Christmas Programme

Sacrament of Reconciliation for Christmas

Monday 21 st December	8 pm	Christ Our Light	Penitential Service
Friday 23 rd December	7 pm - 8 pm	St Mary & St John	Confessions
Saturday 24 th December Christmas Eve	11.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	St Mary & St John	
	12.00 noon - 1.00 p.m.	Christ Our Light	



Mass Times



 Church of St Mary & St John	Saturday 24 th December Christmas Eve	6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		10.00 p.m.	Christmas Mass
	Sunday 25 th December Christmas Day	8.30 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
10.00 a.m.			
12.00 noon			
 Church of Christ Our Light	Thursday 24 th December Christmas Eve	6.00 p.m.	Children's Mass
		8.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		12.00 Midnight	Midnight Mass
Sunday 25 th December Christmas Day	11.00 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day	
	12.30 p.m.		
	No 5:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day		

Open letter to the Dáil and Seanad Eireann.

"A voice is heard in Aleppo, mourning and great weeping, Maryam weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more"

Where is the voice of the people of Ireland on the on the barbaric destruction of human life being perpetrated on Muslims and Christians in Syria?

We may not have the political power to influence what is happening, but it is our duty to voice our outrage and our sadness at these atrocities.

It is our duty to see what is to be done to bring this suffering to an end. It is the duty of our leaders to be heard from the rooftops on this matter. It is important to denounce these actions in the Dáil and the Seanad. It is even more important that the words are heard in the media, not alone by the people of Ireland but all people.

Ignorance is no defence.

We cannot say that we did not know. Our public and historic record must show that we heard the cries of the children of Aleppo, of the old and infirm, of the poor, of those who live in constant terror, of the premature babies turfed out of their incubators as their hospitals are no more. The mothers and fathers of children attacked and murdered in their schools.

The people of our country look on in horror and despair at what is happening in Syria and in particular in Aleppo, the social media pages cry out: "how can this happen?" and "what can be done?"

You have put yourselves forward to be our leaders. You have taken the title that was conferred on you by democracy. Well then lead! – be our voice, tell us what is to be done, what we in Ireland must do, will do, both at home and on the international stage.

It is a moral imperative. We cannot be the generation who sits back and says we did not know or "what's to be done" without taking action.

We celebrated the centenary of the birth of our nation this year. We are an Independent State with a Voice obtained through great suffering on the part of our predecessors. Use Our Voice to be the voice of the suffering in Aleppo.

We must be able to say to our grandchildren that we stood up for these people, we were their voice, we were their cry, that we too refuse to be comforted as Aleppo's children are no more. We refuse to accept the silence of our leaders and their inaction.

The suffering is not limited to one side of the border – acknowledge that there have been grave wrongs on both sides of this war and that the massacre of the innocents is not limited to the children of one political ideology or another. Children do not have a political ideology. Children have toys and should not themselves be the toys of political war games.

"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends" Martin Luther King Jnr.

Ballincollig Parish Council
13/12/2016

Reflection for Parents

The angels brought good news to the shepherds, a part of the population not well respected. As Christmas Day approaches parents often feel exhausted and stressed out. We too may feel low as the shepherd only because we have demanded so much of ourselves. Looking into the faces of our children, is it possible for us to see the true meaning of Christmas? Can their plea to "read one more story" or "play one more game" be a clue for us to enjoy the time we have with them? How hard it is for us to focus only on the joy of their company and not be leaping ahead to the many chores awaiting us after we tuck them in. For us to realize the peace that God has in mind this Christmas Day, we might first make peace in our own home. Maybe this is the year to do something totally daring, like spend more time in pyjamas playing all the new games found under the tree. Let Jesus truly come among you.

The Origin of 'Silent Night'

A holy night, a silent night, with Mother and child, all is calm, all is bright. This inspiring hymn came to us because an organ in Germany broke down about one hundred years ago. Without an organ the parish priest in a small country church said it would be a 'Silent Night'. The organist would compose a melody. The priest would write the lyrics and the choir would just sing the soft praises of this hymn for Midnight Mass. That is all it was meant to be, just a simple hymn sung once and forgotten. Then a snowstorm prevented the man who fixed the organ from coming until the snow melted in the spring. After he finished he noticed the music left on the organ since Christmas night and took it back to Munich, the rest is history. "Silent Night" has reverberated throughout the ages. With its quiet sounds of love and peace it has inspired millions and millions, touching the lives of countless people.

To a Special Child

A meeting was held quite far from Earth: It's time again for another birth said the angels to the Lord above. This special child will need lots of love.

Its progress may seem very slow Accomplishments he may not show and he'll require extra care from the folks he'll meet way down there.

He may not run or laugh or play His thoughts may seem so far away in many ways he won't adapt and he'll be known as handicapped.

So let's be careful where he's sent we want his life to be content Please Lord find the mother who Will do this special job for you.

She will not realise straight away the leading role she's asked to play But with this child sent from above Comes stronger faith and richer love

And soon she'll know the privilege given in caring for this gift from Heaven. Her precious boy, so meek and mild, Is Heaven's very special child.

Bulletin Board

Family Mass (formerly Children's Mass)

The next Children's Mass for children in second class preparing for their first Holy Communion will take place on Sunday December 18th, at 11.00am in Church of Christ Our Light. The Parents of children who are seven and eight are asked to bring them to this Mass. Preparation with the children commences in the main body of the church at 10.45am. Small children preschool/infants/1st class retire to the crying room where they celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in a child friendly fashion. They will return to the main church at the start of the offertory procession.

Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism preparation will take place on Saturday 4th February at 12.00 noon in the Library Room, Community Hall, Station Road. The presentation lasts for approximately forty minutes. The following questions are addressed, What is Baptism? What are the symbols used in the Sacrament of Baptism? How can the family become involved in the ceremony? Parents might book the baptism a few weeks in advance to give ample time to take part in the preparation.

Bank Holiday Monday

Monday 26th December, 2016 only one morning Mass 9.30 am Mass in Church of St Mary & St John.

Feast of the Epiphany - Friday 6th January

Holy Day of obligation, Masses as follows;
St Mary & St John 8.30 am, 10.00 am & 8.00 pm
Christ Our Light
Vigil: Thursday 5th January 7.30 pm, Friday 6th January 12.30 pm & 6.30 pm

First Friday

Friday January 6th 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 7.45 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 8.00 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

Fr. George

Christmas Support

Volunteers to put up Christmas Decorations for Older People

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, but what if you are unable to put up Christmas decorations to give your home that festive feel? "Many older people, particularly those who live alone, cannot easily put up a Christmas tree or other decorations in their homes. Simply getting them down from the attic can be an impossible task" said Age Action Regional Manager John O'Mahony.

All year round volunteers from Age Action's Care & Repair programme do odd-jobs and DIY work for older people free of charge. Jobs that volunteers can do include gardening, moving furniture, putting up smoke alarms, small repairs and small painting/ decorating jobs. According to Mr. O'Mahony "The aim of the Care & Repair programme is to help people with tasks around the home that can become difficult as we grow older. Ultimately we want to support people to remain living in their own homes for as long as they wish in increased safety and comfort."

If you would like assistance putting your Christmas decorations or with any other tasks around the home, simply call Age Action on 021-4536554

May the Child Jesus rest at the inn of your heart this Christmas

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-24 & Dec-25-2016

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Muireann Nelligan
Padraig McAuliffe
8:30 am
John Healy
Kerry O'Leary
10:00 am
Fergal Monahan

12:00 Noon
Katie Tobin
Kate Sheehy

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Pauline Collins
Dyan Ebili
11:00 am
Cormac Manning

12:30 pm
James Nyagaya
Laura O'Leary
5:30 pm

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	Thursday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Friday	8:30 am
10:00 am, 6 pm & 10 pm	Saturday	8:30 am, 6 pm, 8 pm, Mid-night

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. Cian O'Sullivan C.C.	021-4876171

Funeral Pastoral Team Rota

19-Dec-2016 to 25-Dec-2016

Laurence Cunningham & Virginia Harrington

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
Pniecigus 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
Con, Tom, Karen & Diarmuid
Next publication Sunday 8th January 2017

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dec-24 & Dec-25-2016



St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Bernadette Bell
Betty Casey
Frank Riordan
Siobhan Riordan
Pauline Quane
Aisling Leahy

8:30 am Mary Buckley
Theresa Lucey
Mary B. Murphy

10:00 am Joan Tobin
Betty Flavin
Anne Spillane
Betty Sheehan
Anne O'Connell
Con O'Connell

12 Noon Seamus O'Donovan
Eleanor Knowles
Catherine Greene
Joan Barrett
Frances Hogan
Geraldine Lynch

8:00 pm Geraldine Lynch
Charlie Vaughan
Joan Stephenson
Bernie Bowen

11:00 am Neil Jeffers
Eileen O'Donoghue
Padraig Fleming
Hugh / Catherine Moran
Imelda Power / Martina Woods

12:30 pm Tom Murray
John O'Regan
Gerard Dunne
Theresa O'Driscoll

Muskerry Local History Society

Times Past Published

Times Past 2015-16, the journal of Muskerry Local History Society, was launched before a huge crowd in Ballincollig Rugby Club on Monday, 5th December. It was launched by Mary O'Leary, former chairperson of the society, who praised the wide range of articles. These include articles on Oriel House, a photographic history of the Royal Gunpowder Mills, the Church of St Mary and St John, tobacco growing in our locality, Ballincollig in 1916 and the rise of the Irish Volunteers, and the life story of some local people. The journal is for sale in may local shops: Maxol, West Village; Maurice Healy's, Main Street; O'Donovan's Store, Leemount Cross; Barry's Service Station, Inniscarra; O'Leary's Post Office, Cloghroe; Cuddihy's Killumney Road; O'Callaghan's, Killumney; Gala, Lisheens; and AppleGreen, Lisheens.