

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



**St. Mary & St. John**  
Station Road

**Sunday 25-December-2022**

**Christmas Day**

*A child is born for us, a son is given to us;  
dominion is laid on his shoulder, and he  
shall be called Wonderful-Counsellor.*



**Christ Our Light**  
Innishmore

## *Christmas Day*

Whether we are conscious of it or not our lives are linked together. The poet John Donne wrote "No person is an island, each is part of the continent" Yet the world is full of division, we are divided by class, race, creed and nationality. What is it then that unites us.

Sometimes when a tragedy happens in a community, barriers can suddenly come down. For some time there are no strangers, no rich people, no poor people, just brothers and sisters in the same boat helping one another out.

The Russian writer, Dostoyevsky spent years in a Siberian prison. It was a bleak experience which brought him into contact with some desperate individuals. In his book "Memoirs from the House of the Dead" he gives a moving account of what Christmas day meant to these people. He writes that on Christmas day the mood of the prisoners was very touching. They felt they were not all outcasts or lost souls. They felt like human beings, they had bonds with another world, with all the world. Christmas day took them out of themselves. Even the most frugal among them made the effort to be open-handed on a day like this.

Christmas affects us also. It achieves a great levelling off; nobody can feel superior to another on this day. It puts an end to elitism. Christmas achieves this levelling off by raising us up. It is as if we are placed on a higher plateau. Christmas gathers us together in a great universal fellowship in the name of Christ. Christ turns a foreigner into a neighbour, a stranger into a sister. This is the miracle of Christmas. I hope and pray you will experience this miracle.

May you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

## *Mary's Dream*

I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the presents weren't for our son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree. Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our son. I don't think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name. I had the strangest feeling if our Jesus had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if Happy Christmas

### *To all our Readers & Parishioners*

Happy Christmas

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.

### **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.

## *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.**

*Fr's Alan O'Leary, Kamil Bachara & Ronan Sheehan.*

***All The Ends Of The Earth Have Seen The Salvation Of Our God.***

Visit Our Website: [www.ballincolligparish.ie](http://www.ballincolligparish.ie) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish](https://www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish)

*Mass Times*

Bank Holiday Monday  
 26th December (St. Stephen's Day)  
 Mass at 9.30am in the Church of St. Mary & St. John.  
 Friday 6th January 2023 is the Feast of The Epiphany  
*St. Mary & St. John* Friday 10.00am & 7.30pm  
*Christ our Light* Thursday Vigil Mass 6.30pm  
 Friday 12.30pm

*Weekday Masses*

St. Mary & St. John's Church *Christ our Light*  
 Mon. 9.30am  
 Tues. - Fri. 9.30am *Tues. - Fri. 8.30am*

† IN SYMPATHY †  
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF  
 THE RECENTLY DECEASED :  
 Marsie Curling, Muskerry Est.  
 John Daly.  
 Olive O'Leary, Beech Road.  
 Bridget McAlpine, Castlepark/Durrus.  
 Morgan Murphy.  
 Paul Dunne, Kerry/Galway.

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

George O'Brien, Innishmore.  
 Eileen Healy, Tralee  
 Maureen O'Brien.  
 Dec. Mem's of HSE retiree's.  
 Fr. George O'Mahony P.P.  
 Carmel, Barry & Terry Kelly, The Crescent.  
 Bartholomew & Patricia Murphy, Alysbury.  
 Gillian Drinan, Churchview.  
 Audrie Wiseman, Cranford Pines.  
 Dec. Mem's of the John A. Wood Workforce  
 Carmel O'Leary, Old Quarter.  
 Eddie & Mai Barry, Inniscarra.  
 Neol Hennessy, Castlepark.  
 William Treacy, Castleknock.  
 Daniel O'Mahony, Carrigrohane.  
 Eileen & John O'Mahony.

**Offertory Collection Boxes**

The boxes of envelopes for the Offertory Collection are available in both churches. Families are asked to take one box. 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. People who have a number allocated to them, please collect them from the sacristy in St. Mary & St. John's Church.

Part-Time Administrator for Ballincollig Parish Office  
 Ballincollig Parish office requires an administrator. Good computers skills required to help maintain office services. Dealing with emails and letters filing systems. Bookkeeping and reporting. Databases and record keeping of financial and personal information. Person must be eligible for Community Employment. Closing date to apply for position 06/01/2023. If you have any questions, please contact Irene Morrissey on 087 183 2033.

**Bishopstown Probus Club**

Male Group would welcome new members of retired age.  
 Meetings are held upstairs in Wilton Library at 11.00am – 12.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.  
 Contact: Neil White 085 8202692 or Dan Murray (President) 087 779 3791 Éamonn Leonoard (Secretary) 085 105 4365

**Coeliac Hosts**

Low gluten hosts are available that are suitable for Coeliac. Please inform the priest prior to Mass if possible if you require it.

**Ballincollig Parish Christmas Programme**

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



**Mass Times**

	Saturday day 24 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		6.00 p.m.	Christmas Mass
	10.00 p.m.	Mass of Christmas Day	
	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Christmas Day</i>		8.30 a.m.
10.00 a.m.			
12.00 noon			
	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6.00 p.m.	Children's Mass
		8.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Christmas Day</i>	11.00 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
		12.30 p.m.	