

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 17-December-2023

Third Sunday Of Advent

John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare for Christ's coming. His task was to make them attentive to the Spirit who would be fully present in God's anointed.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Rejoicing Sunday

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near." Isaiah 40, 27 reads, "Had you not heard? Did you not know?, the Lord is an everlasting God, He does not grow tired or weary; His understanding is beyond fathoming, He gives strength to the wearied."

Today is also known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'Rejoice'. The third candle in the Advent Wreath is lit. It is a rose/pink colour. The rose/pink colour signifies the sense of expectancy building to a moment of rejoicing and hope as the long awaited promise of the Messiah is born among us.

This Sunday also invites us to capture and hold on to some of the quiet Joy that Pope Francis speaks about in his letter "The Joy of the Gospel". The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who have a friendship with Jesus. It is our personal friendship with Jesus that we celebrate and give thanks for at Christmas, God becoming one of us, the Good News announced by John the Baptist in today's Gospel. This is the reason for our joy, the reason for Advent and Christmas.

Third Sunday of Advent

We are a step nearer to our celebration of His coming. As we approach Him we must bring Him everything! Our dreams, our successes, our rejoicing. If we have little to rejoice over, bring Him that little. If you feel you have only empty hands - bring Him those empty hands. IN HIS HANDS ALL ARE MADE GOOD!
"Let us rejoice in the Lord"



The Advent Wreath

The third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2023

St. Mary & St. John's Church
Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December
Vigil Masses 6.00pm & 10.00pm
Christmas Day Monday 25th December
8.30am, 10.00am & 12 Noon

Christ our Light Church
Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December
6.00pm & 8.00pm
Christmas Day Monday 25th December
11.00am & 12.30pm

Weekday Masses from Tuesday, 26th Dec. until Mon. 1st Jan. (inclusive) will be at 9.30am in St. Mary & St. John's Church. There will be no weekday Masses on these dates in Christ our Light Church.

Family of Parishes Penitential Services

Ballincollig - Monday 18th December Christ Our Light Church at 7.30pm
Ballinora - Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm
Ovens/Farran - 17th December in St. John the Baptist Church at 6.00pm.

Confession Times Christmas 2023

St. Mary & St. John Tuesday 19th – Friday 22nd December after 9.30am Mass
Christ our Light Tuesday 19th – Friday 22nd December after 8.30am Mass

Third Sunday of Advent

So often our identity is tied to another person. We are Jim's mom, Tom's wife, Sue's husband, or Mary's daughter. Like John did in today's gospel, we may even define ourselves by who we are not. John made it clear he was not the Messiah, a prophet, or Elijah returned. What John is, is the same thing we are, and that is a herald - the person who brings the Good News about Jesus Christ into the lives of others. In our families we do this by our faithful participation in worship, prayer, and actions.



Please note new Emergency/Priest on Duty in Parish Number is: 087 4021357

My soul rejoices in my God.

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 :
 Kay Sheehan, Ballincollig/England.
 Elizabeth Osborne, Sweetbriar Lane.
 Mary Wilson, Ballyshoneen.
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS:
 Donal Lowry, Limerick/Oxford.
 Sheila McSweeney, Cathedral Rd.
 Con & Paddy O'Sullivan, Ballyvolane.
 Jeremiah & Mary Keohane, Rossmore.
 Philip Joseph, India.
 Dec. Mem's of the Aherne family, Clash.
 Con Delaney, Kilnaglory.
 Donal & dec. mem. of the Desmond family, Ballyburden.
 Danjoe McCarthy, Beech Park.
 Gary O'Dwyer, Inniscarra.
 Joan & Mary O'Reardon, Carriganarra Est.
 Adrian Boyde, Coolroe.
 Betty Hanlon, Upper Cloghroe.
 Michael & Teresa Healy, Upper Cloghroe.
 Billy Casey, Macroom.
 Michael Galvin, Model Farm Rd.
 Eimear Higgins.
 Paul Dunne, Galway.
 John & Joan Coughlan, Kilnamartyra.
 John & Susan O'Driscoll, Carrigidene.
 Jack & Claire Horgan, Gurranaברה.
 Liam Horgan, Carrignavar.
 John & Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane.
 Dec. Mem's of the Twohig family, Farranree.

First Reading: Is. 61:1-2. 10-11
 The first reading from Isaiah the Prophet is the reading proclaimed by Jesus as he began his public ministry. It is a message of joy.

Second Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24
 St Paul calls us to be people of joy and thanksgiving.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28
 The Jewish leaders questioned John the Baptist asking who he was. They even took a few guesses themselves suggesting that he was the Messiah, Elijah, or a prophet. John had his own following who would have been glad to acknowledge him in any of these three categories, but John made it clear that he was simply announcing the one to come who would be much greater than himself.

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week Of Advent

- 17 Sunday Is 61:1-2, 10-11. Ps Lk 1:46-50, 53-54. 1 Thess 5:16-24. Jn 1:6-8, 19-28. Lect I: 48
- 18 Monday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I:79
- 19 Tuesday Jg. 13:2-7, 24-25. Ps. 70. Lk. 1 :5-25. Lect I: 81
- 20 Wednesday Is 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Lk. 1:26-38. Lect I: 83
- 21 Thursday Song 2:8-14 or Zeph. 3: 14-18. Ps. 32. Lk. 1 :39-45. Lect I: 85
- 22 Friday 1 Sam. 1:24-28. Ps. 1 Sam. 2:1, 4-8. Lk. 1:46-56. Lect I:88
- 23 Saturday Mal. 3:1-4, 4:5-6. Ps. 24. Lk. 1:57-66. Lect I: 90
- 24-December-2023 Mic. 5: 1-4. Ps 79. Heb. 10:5-10. Lk. 1 :39-45. Lect I: 73

Mass Times for week ahead

St. Mary & St. John		Christ Our Light
8:30 am & 10 am	Sunday	11 am & 12:30 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
6 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	7:30 pm (Vigil)

Bulletin Board

Christmas Collection for the Priests of the Parish

According to the Diocesan custom, the collection at Christmas Masses is one of two occasions in the year when the offertory collection goes to the priests of the parish. Your generosity and support is very much appreciated.

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.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition will finish on Friday 22nd and resume on Friday 5th January 2024.

Meditation

Meditation will finish on Tuesday 19th and resume on Tuesday January 9th 2024.

Carol Service

Church of St. Mary & St. John on Sunday 17th December, at 7.00pm.

16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

In October 2021, Pope Francis announced a Universal Synod on the theme 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.' Following two years of preparation, listening and dialogue at diocesan, continental and universal level, 365 people gathered in Rome to participate in its first assembly, which took place from 4 - 29 October. Bishop Brendan Leahy and Bishop Alan McGuckian were the two bishop nominees of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. Their full report can be found online at www.synod.ie/bishopsreport

And then there was the little boy who remarked to his companion: "The people in heaven must think I'm dead I haven't said my prayers for a week"