

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 28-January-2024

Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

For some people it is a fearful thing to imagine being face to face with God. For those in Christ, however, such fear is overcome because with him the presence of God neither torments nor annihilates but brings human life to perfection.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

"O That Today You Would Listen To His Voice"

In our first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy Moses is describing the prophet that God promised to his people, a prophet who will speak God's very words and commands: "I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; to him you must listen; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him". Jesus is the prophetic voice promised in this first reading. In the Gospel story we see him joining in public worship at the Synagogue in Capernaum where he preaches the word of God; he heals; and he drives out evil spirits. His teaching made a deep impression on his listeners and as he spoke with such authority they began questioning one another what all this could mean. This was a new experience for the people gathered in worship and as we read in the final verse of the Gospel: Jesus' reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside. His word remains as powerful and as effective today as it was back then. Each time we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation we hear Jesus words spoken to us through the ministry of the priest, "Your sins are forgiven". We can also be open to the power of God's word every time we read or listen to the Scriptures.

Jesus came to draw all people to himself seeking us out, lighting up the hidden, dark places in our lives. He uses his power to liberate people from the evil forces that dominate their lives. As sinners, we have to confront our own inner 'demons' - greed, hate, envy, not willing to forgive others, selfishness etc - whatever it is that is opposed to God's spirit of love. We pray that in being open to God's loving forgiveness, we may be filled with the gifts of his Spirit - gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Following his encounter with Jesus, we see the man that had been 'possessed by the unclean spirit' now experiencing the freedom of new life. Jesus offers the same new life to us also. Do I believe that God's word has power to set me free and to transform my life? Lord help us to face our own inner demons and to hear your voice speaking within us. As we hear in the words of the Psalmist: "Oh that today you would listen to His voice - harden not your hearts".

Day for Consecrated Life

To mark the Day for Consecrated Life, Bishop Fintan is inviting members of Religious Communities throughout the Diocese of Cork and Ross to join him in praying Evening Prayer on Thursday, February 1st at 5pm in the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne. All are welcome to this special Diocesan celebration. Please let the Office for Mission and Ministry know if you wish to attend at 021-7355517 or scan the QR Code with your phone camera:



Scan me!

Spring Gathering for our Family of Parishes

Thursday February 8th at 7.30 pm in Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farran. World day of the sick, come join the spiritual journey...be healed. Our lady of Lourdes be with all our sick in mind and body. Most loving divine mother will teach us to walk in her gentleness and grace.

Reflection for Parents

It is an awesome responsibility to have authority over another person. Our very use of that authority has the potential of lifting people up or tearing them down. The greatest responsibility we have rests in the authority we have over our children. The words we choose, the tone of voice we use to speak to them and the actions our children see us take, relate to them the authority Jesus has over us. It's often a sobering experience to think back over the day and recall what kind of witness we've been for Jesus. Our hope is that we can try again tomorrow.

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

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

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 :Ned Bowe, Nottingham/Tipperary. Jo McAuliffe, Glincool.
 Jeremiah Walsh, The Maltings.
 John O'Brien, Castle Ave.
 Denis O'Flaherty, Coolroe Meadows.
 Seán Henrick, Togher.
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:
 Ben Bourke, Limeworth.
 Eddie O'Donovan, Station Road.
 Martin & Nancy Ginnane, Shanakiel.
 Patrick Ginnane, Kilkenny.
 Christy Lucey, Beech Park.
 Dec. Mem. of the Reilly & Hanney families.
 Martin & Eily Murphy, Hodders Villas.
 Michael O'Connor, Carrigrohane.
 Pat Manning, Farranree.
 Timothy Dineen, Curraheen Cross.
 Sheila O'Mahony, Coachford/Ballyvolane.

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 God promises to raise up a prophet who will speak God's word to the people.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
 St Paul explains that the gift of celibacy helps him give full attention to the Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28
 Much of Jesus' teaching took place in a synagogue and specifically in today's reading, the synagogue at Capernaum was filled with Jewish people from Galilee. Jesus' listeners were surprised by his knowledge and authority. He especially surprised them when he cast out an evil spirit from one of the men. The evil spirit recognized who Jesus was and called him "the Holy One of God." The people didn't understand this meaning. Only the evil spirit recognised Jesus. The people, however, were impressed by Jesus' deeds and brought others to him for healing.

*Sycamore Series for Young Adults
 Exploring Catholic Faith*

Have you ever questioned why you are Catholic and wondered why we Catholics believe what we believe? The Sycamore Series is an informal course for those aged 18-35. Join us as we deepen our understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith. Each session involves a short film and time for discussion, with a meal also included. Everyone is welcome. Start date Wednesday January 31st 2024, 6pm-8pm at Presentation Brothers Mardyke House, Cork T12 W8RP. The course runs for 10 consecutive weeks. The course is free, but places are limited. Please email chaplaincy@ucc.ie or ring 0214902459 to let us know you are interested.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week In Ordinary Time

28 Sunday Deut 18:15-20. Ps 94. 1 Cor 7:32-35. Mk 1:21-28. Lect I:745.

29 Monday 2 Sam 15:13-14, 30, 1&5-13. Ps 3. Mk 5:1-20. Lect II: 498

30 Tuesday 2 Sam 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30-19:3. Ps 85. Mk 5:21-43. Lect II: 500

31 Wednesday 2 Sam. 24:2,9-17. Ps. 31. Mk. 6:1-6. Lect II: 503

01 Thursday Job 31:16-20, 24-25, 31-32 or Eph 3:14-21. Ps 106. Lk 6:32-38.
 National Proper

02 Friday r Heb 2:14-18. Ps23. Lk 2:22-40. Lect I: 967 or II: 940

03 Saturday 1 Kgs 3:4-13. Ps 118. Mk 6:30-34. Lect II: 510

Next Sunday's Readings 04-February-2024
 Job 7:1-4, 6-7. Ps 146. 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23. Mk 1:29-39. Lect I: 747

MASS TIMES

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
10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	7:30 pm (Vigil)

Bulletin Board

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.

Diocesan Envelope Collection

The quarterly collection in aid of the Diocesan Funds which was taken up at all Masses the weekend of the 13th/14th January amounted to €1,920. We appreciate your continued generosity.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. in St. Mary & St. John's Church every Friday.

Meditation

Meditation continues every Tuesday in Ballincollig Community Hall after 9.30am Mass. Please feel free to join any Tuesday.

First Friday

Friday 2nd February is the first Friday of the month. There is Mass in St Mary & St. John's church on Friday evening at 7.30pm. 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.

A thought for today

Perhaps the most radical statement Jesus ever made is "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate".