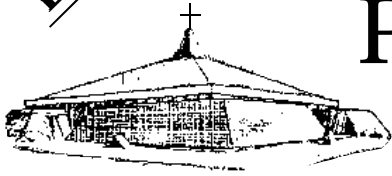


6 PAGE
EDITION

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



CHRIST OUR LIGHT
INNISHMORE



ST. MARY & ST. JOHN
STATION ROAD

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2000

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



God comes to those who wait for him. Our waiting needs to be prayerful if we are to be truly ready to receive him when he comes.

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

As we approach the season of Christmas it might do no harm to remind ourselves what we are really celebrating. We are celebrating the coming of Christ among us as a baby boy, and thus a human being. Born in a stable in Bethlehem in Judea, in the height of poverty with the only visible signs of wealth being a humble donkey. Let's keep that in mind as the Christmas shopping gets into full swing. Personally it's not a time that really appeals to me. Presents, etc, bore me, Santa, I love for the children, when a smile on a child's face is the strongest light I could wish to imagine.

Advent is now upon us, the purple is out again having been put away at the end of Lent. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Saviour. It is a time to re-focus our minds on the Christ among us. It is also a time to give to others who have not, indeed we should be giving all year round anyway.

I close with the following reflection on the Prophet Jeremiah.

"Harvey Peale mowed the lawn every week, the same way each time. Fr. Judge said Mass in a similar manner and Fr. Judge didn't mow the lawn. Neither saw any reason to change.

St. Paul commended his followers for the change they had made. Jesus spoke of the coming trial.

Harvey Peale had a stroke. The neighbours brought the news to Fr. Judge and he said he would say Mass for him. Harvey Peale wondered what he meant. Fr. Judge did say Mass for him and left nothing out. Jeremiah, could you shout a little louder"

Fr. Pat

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST

My brothers and sisters, through the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ we are called to a new way of life. Let us pray to him with all our hearts during this season of Advent to renew his presence in our world.

READER

For Christian people everywhere, let them renew their Baptismal commitment and be more perfect witnesses to the Gospel, so that, through them, others may learn to believe

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those in public office, let them fulfil their responsibilities by humble and loving service of others, and thus follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came into the world so that people might be free to live the kind of life God meant them to live.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For prisoners of conscience, let all who suffer unjustly the loss of their freedom be strengthened in their struggle against oppression

by our prayers and moral support.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the members of our Christian community, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, let us learn to see and receive him in the poor and suffering people of our neighbourhood.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE
REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

Bill & Kit Foley, Essex, England
Mary Drinan, Waterfall
Sile & Deaglán Ó Longaigh
Con Considine
Timothy Crowley, Coachford
Hannah O'Shea, Beaufort
Mary Dempsey, Inniscarra
Stephen Herley, Douglas
Patrick & Annie Murray, Curraheen
Dan Murphy, Clash
Brendan O'Sullivan, Glandower
Denis William & Kitty O'Mahony, Tudor Grove
John Joe O'Sullivan, Kenmare
Paudie McAuliffe, Rathmore
Thomas Donovan, Turners Cross
Thomas Draw, Donoughmore
Deceased members of the Reilly Family, Leitrim
Jim Campbell, Galway
Agnes Kavanagh, 12, Fr. Sexton Park
Gus & Vincent O'Connell, Ballinora
Thomas O'Mahony, South Berrings
Stephen Spitere, Glasheen
Timothy O'Connell, Ballingully
Margaret & Joseph Kavanagh, Powdermills
Deceased members of the Murphy family, Greenfields
Daniel Cooney, Carriganarra
Agnes & John Roche, Gurranbraher
Eileen Healy, Donoughmore
Callanan Family
Beatrice Shanahan, Fr. Sexton Park
O'Sullivan Family, Kenmare
Catherine Dineen, Coachford
Rachel Kelly
Robert Barrett, Model Farm Road
John Paul Curran, Carriganarra
Frances Cunningham, Crookstown
Liam Walsh, Wolverhampton
Bridget Collins, Dunmanway
Peter O'Shea, Curraheen
Kathleen & Patrick Fitzgerald, Ballyphehane
John Lucey, Station Road
Donal Hallahan, Greenfield
Kathleen & Daniel Hallahan
Mary O'Neill, Dunmanway
Helen Harrington, Inniscarra
Mary McGuire, Naas

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

3 Sunday Jer. 33:14-16. Ps. 24. 1 Thess 3:12-4:2. Lk. 21:25-28. 34-36. *Lect 1:8*
The Advent spirit of waiting and longing for the Lord reminds us of the daily call to holiness. We are to be found blameless when He comes, living lives of honesty and integrity. We are to avoid the temptations to escapism from the true meaning of life. The temptations come in many guises.

4 Monday Is. 2:1-5. Ps. 121. Mt. 8:5-11. *Lect 1:10*
On these first days of Advent the Gospel passage is chosen in consideration of the selected texts from Isaiah. "For this reason the Church, especially during Advent and Lent and above all at the Easter Vigil, re-reads and re-lives the great events of salvation history in the 'today' of her liturgy. CCC, 1095

5 Tuesday Is. 11:1-10. Ps. 71. Lk. 10:21-24. *Lect 1:13*
The prophet speaks of the one on whom the spirit rests. Integrity and faithfulness shall characterise him. And in those days there shall be peace. Jesus, filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, gives thanks to the Father for revealing the fulfilment of the prophecies.

6 Wednesday Is. 25:6-10. Ps. 22. Mt. 15:29-37. *Lect 1:15*
Isaiah prophesies the banquet on the heavenly mount when all tears will be wiped away. Christ on the hillside provides bread for the people who are astonished at the Messianic signs. In the Eucharist we have a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.

7 Thursday Is. 26:1-6. Ps. 117. Mt. 7:21. 24-27. *Lect 1:19*
It is the upright nation, the faithful people, which will enter the kingdom. To be part of that people each one must hear the word of God and do God's will.

8 Friday Gen. 3:9-15, 20. Ps. 97. Eph. 1:3-6. 11-12. Lk. 1:26-38. *Lect 1:1009*
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We celebrate Mary who from the first instant of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne was "by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin." Patronal Day of United States, Portugal, Brazil and Tanzania.

9 Saturday Is. 30:19-21, 23-26. Ps. 146. Mt. 9:35-10:1. 6-8. *Lect 1:22*
God's ears are not deaf to the cries of the needy. Jesus, as a shepherd, feels compassion for those who have lost the way.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

Monday 4th - St. John Damascene c. 675-749, was a Syrian Christian theologian. He became a priest in the monastery of Saint Sabas near Jerusalem and was a leading figure in the defence of icons in the iconoclastic controversy.

Wednesday 6th - St Nicholas of Myra a fourth-century bishop in Turkey, of whom little is known. He is the patron of Russia, of sailors, of pawnbrokers and of children.

Thursday 7th - St Ambrose 339-397, became governor of the Roman Province, whose seat was in Milan. In 374, the laity insisted on his becoming bishop though he was still not baptised. He defended orthodoxy in brilliant preaching. Patron of Milan, beekeepers, domestic animals, French Commissariat.

BAPTISMS

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

Katlyn Marie Kenny, 82, Castle Park
Emma Christine O'Donoghue, Rathard, Aherla
Andrea McSweeney, "Woodside" Waterfall
Niamh Emily Gill-Ryan, Malton, North Yorkshire



IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:
Timothy O'Callaghan, Carrigrohane Road
Noel Considine
Michael Hickey, Greenfield

NOTICES

**CIRCLES OF
LIVING ROSARY
PRAYER GROUP AND FAMILY
APOSTOLATE GROUP**

**PLEASE NOTE
THE FOLLOWING DATES:
The Rosary will be recited in the
Church of St. Mary & St. John
on the following dates and times**

DECEMBER 8TH

*- Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

**The Rosary will be recited at 7.40p.m.,
prior to the 8p.m. Mass**

DECEMBER 24TH

- Christmas Eve - The Birth of Jesus

**The Rosary will be recited at 9.40p.m.
prior to the 10p.m. Mass**

DECEMBER 31ST

- New Year's Eve

**The 15 Decades of the Rosary
will be recited at 3p.m.**

All are welcome

BOOKING OF MASSES

for

January, February & March

**The book for masses at
both Churches will
be open on and from
Saturday 16th December**



TOY MASS

ORGANISED BY S.E.O.

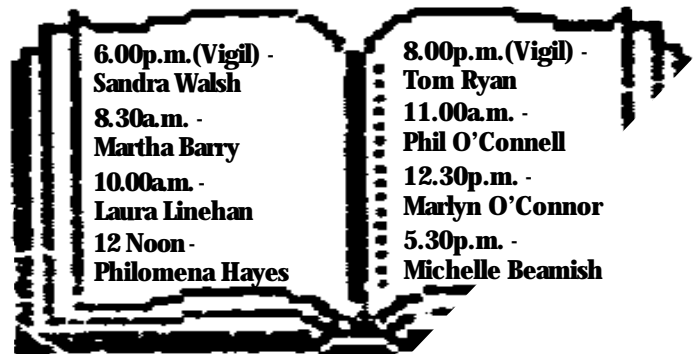
Sunday 10th December at 11a.m.

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

**Please help to make Christmas happier for
some child by giving them a gift of a toy
that you would like to receive yourself.**

Only good toys please. Thank you

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 9TH/10TH DEC
ST. MARY & ST. JOHN CHRIST OUR LIGHT



6.00p.m. (Vigil) -
Sandra Walsh
8.30a.m. -
Martha Barry
10.00a.m. -
Laura Linehan
12 Noon -
Philomena Hayes

8.00p.m. (Vigil) -
Tom Ryan
11.00a.m. -
Phil O'Connell
12.30p.m. -
Marlyn O'Connor
5.30p.m. -
Michelle Beamish

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST 9th / 10th December 2000 ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

**SATURDAY 9TH
6p.m.**

Mary O'Donoghue
Cait O'Grady
Margaret Sullivan
Angela Roche
Betty Sheehan
Jim Walsh

**SUNDAY 10TH
8.30a.m.**

Theresa Lucey
Rita Murphy

10a.m.
Maureen Roche
Christina Walshe
Peter Reilly
Mary Collins

12.00 Noon
Oliver O'Donovan
Pat Kelleher
Ellen Seymour
John Jeffers
Joan Tobin
Ita Walshe



**SATURDAY 9TH
8p.m.**

Charlie Vaughan
Joan Stephenson
Maura O'Driscoll

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

**SUNDAY 10TH
11a.m.**

Ann O'Regan
Neil Jeffries
Eileen Byrne
Mary Coleman

12.30p.m.
Con O'Connell
Rose Cotter
Denis O'Mahony
Christine O'Mahony
Tom Murray

5.30p.m.
Marie O'Brien
Patsy Galvin
Bridie O'Donnell



ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	EACH SUNDAY	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
<p style="text-align: center;">Masses</p> <p>Sunday: 8.30, 10.00, 12.00 Mon-Wed: 9.30am Thur: 9.30am, 6.00pm (Vigil) Fri: 8.30am, 10am, 12, 8pm Saturday: 10.00, 6pm (Vigil)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROSARY RECITED AT BOTH CHURCHES EACH SUNDAY 3.00P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Everyone most welcome</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Masses</p> <p>Sunday: 11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm Mon-Wed: 8.30am Thur: 8.30am, 8pm (Vigil) Fri: 11am, 12.30pm, 6.30pm Saturday: 10am, 8pm (Vigil)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Confessions</p> <p>Saturday: after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</p> <p>From the very beginning of her existence Mary was "full of grace" God's 'highly favoured daughter'. This was God's gift as he chose her to be the human mother of his Incarnate Son. In perfect obedience to his will, according to his word, she accepted and followed the vocation that God had planned for her.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Confessions</p> <p>Saturday: after 10am Mass</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Baptisms</p> <p>Saturday: 5.00pm Sunday: 12.45pm</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Baptisms</p> <p>Saturday: 7.15pm</p>

PARISH CLERGY

CHURCH NO.  087-2479140

Fr. L.O'Brien P.P.  021-4871206

Fr. E. Crowley C.C.  021-4870434

Fr. P. O'Donovan C.C.  021-4872808 Fax: 021-4872808 Fr. Paul O'Donoghue  021-4876055



*It's the Biggest
 Buzz in
 Ballincollig*



**BALLINCOLLIG SCOUTS'
 GREAT CHRISTMAS
 BAZAAR
 GIVEAWAY & AUCTION**

*Raffle Stall, Bottle Stall, Toys,
 Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Books, Plants,
 Christmas Fare, Novelty Stalls,
 Children's Entertainment*

*THIS SUNDAY
 AT 2.30P.M.*



**SUTTONS OIL
 HOME HEATING OIL**

**Commercial · Agricultural
 Centre Park Road, Cork**

Tel: 021-4911700

Fax: 021-4911701



Home Heating Budget Payment Plan

SACRISTY SERVICES
*Before and after all Masses
 Sundays & Weekdays*
**CHURCH OF ST. MARY
 & ST. JOHN**

- Mass Card Signing -
 Requests for
 Baptism/Marriage Certs etc.
CHRIST OUR LIGHT
 - Mass Card Signing -
Before and after all Masses

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Annual Christmas Appeal and Church Collection

at all Masses on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December

Once again, the local Conferences ask for your extra help at this time of peace and reconciliation on behalf of the needy in our parish.

Thankfully, it is true that many families that we would have helped at this time of the year now have at least one family member with an income; however, within the Ballincollig area, there remain many homes where the financial strain is still intolerable. These families are in fear of Christmas - they have nothing extra with which to buy presents for their children, nothing extra to buy a special Christmas dinner, nothing extra to celebrate with. There are many families in our midst with only one parent, others where one parent drinks or gambles the family income, others again where the financial pressure of schoolgoing children often doesn't leave enough money for day to day food, homes where the income doesn't cope with the caring of a sick or elderly relative, homes where the age and often lack of skills doesn't allow a breadwinner to take up a job. These are the types of situation where the traditional work of the Society still remains necessary, situations that the Celtic Tiger will always ignore. Sadly there are too many families under stress below the thriving surface of our economy. These are our families, and they are the families for whom we make this appeal. You, the people of Ballincollig have for many years now, have been most generous to the Society by donating monies, goods for our shop, toys, food and so on. Many have helped with our Church gate Collections, our Youth Clubs, our other activities and to one and all we say thanks. But it is especially at Christmas that we have been overwhelmed by the generosity shown for our Church Collection, our Christmas Appeal. Your unfailing generosity is a simple but powerful endorsement of our work and at the same time a statement of your love and concern for those who, through no fault of their own, are not as fortunate as ourselves. In the name of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and of the people we help, we thank you all for your generosity. May peace and love be with you all this special Christmas.

STORY

On a bitterly cold and blustery winter night, the pastor of an urban church knelt in the rectory. "Let me see your face, Lord!" he prayed over and over again. A knock at the rectory door disturbed his prayer. Reluctantly he rose to answer the door. Outside stood a dishevelled, shivering man who asked, "Can I have some food?" The pastor led the man to the kitchen, scrounged in the refrigerator for a left-over, not too dried out sandwich. He poured a small glass of milk and added a tired slice of pie before placing the food before the beggar. He waited a bit impatiently while the man ate. He offered little conversation, not wanting to prolong the time until he could return to his prayer. When the man had finished, the priest escorted him to the door. As he closed the door, he immediately resumed his prayer, "Lord, let me see your face". In his mind's eye the face of the beggar instantly appeared. Words something like, "You have seen me," echoed in his mind. The priest threw the door open. Though the street was long and visible, the beggar was nowhere in sight.

The priest had stayed awake to pray, "Lord, let me see your face," but today he believes he missed Jesus when he came to his door in the form of a beggar. Probably each one of us has a similar story of a time when Jesus whom we long to see came to us in the form of one of his poor ones and we failed to recognise him.

During this Advent season we are to be on our guard lest we miss Jesus in the midst of our Christmas preparations.

Animal Instinct

*It may be raining
cats and dogs
outside
And you may feel
As timid as a mouse
at the idea
of venturing forth.
But you will soon find
the courage of a tiger
even while the wolf
is at your door,
if you have the faith
of a new born lamb
and the heart of a lion.*

Sr. Mary Michael

**BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB
NOTES & FIXTURES**

LADIES

Playing at home here in B.C.S. did not bring any luck to our ladies teams as they faced very tough opposition from three Skibbereen sides. In the first game, which was the Un-12's, the Ballincollig girls put up a good fight and while their performance was a great improvement on their last outing against Skib, who have an older and more experienced team, Ballincollig were unable to make any great impact on the score and Skib went away with the win.

Next up were the Un-15's Team who were beaten by a very determined and strong Skib side.

Despite our girls best efforts and enthusiasm, Skib were taking no chances and notched up a very decisive lead which Ballincollig had no chance of catching up to.

Our Un-18 Ladies Team started off their game at a disadvantage due to the fact that many of the team had already played at least 3 games earlier that day in the School Tournaments. There was no way that they could play to the best of their ability and Skib took full advantage of this and made it a clean sweep for their squad. Better luck next week ladies.

MEN

The Boys Un-13's provided great excitement on Friday night when they played Carrigaline. With the two teams very evenly matched, the score reflected this with neither side having more than a two point lead at any time. The game went to extra time and Ballincollig were unbelievably unlucky to miss some crucial baskets and Carrigaline managed to snatch the win by only 6pts. There were no other matches for the men again due to the Schools tournaments.

UPCOMING FIXTURES - MEN

Friday 1st December - B.C.S., Ballincollig

6.00pm	Ballincollig v Skibbereen	U-11
7.00pm	Ballincollig v Skibbereen	U-13
8.00pm	Ballincollig v Skibbereen	U-15
9.00pm	Ballincollig v Skibbereen	Div. 2

Saturday 2nd December - Parochial Hall

10.00am	Iona v Ballincollig	U-13
12.00noon	Glanmire v Ballincollig	U-11

Saturday 2nd December - B.C.S., Ballincollig

7.30pm	Ballincollig v Glanmire	U-19
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Tuesday 5th December - Parochial Hall

6.30pm	Glanmire v Ballincollig	U-19
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Would anyone like to show and help teach my children to do some needlework, knitting and simple crafts please?

Girls aged 12, 8 and 5

Thank you and God Bless You

Please ring Mary at

Tel: 021-4873676 Ballincollig

FATIMA APOSTOLATE

Ballincollig Group

Our monthly meeting

will be held

on Monday next,

December 4th 2000

in the Youth House,

Station Road at 7p.m.

Present & New Members Welcome

**BALLINCOLLIG SECULAR
FRANCISCAN ORDER**

Usual Fraternity Meeting

on Thursday 14th of December 2000

at 11a.m. in the

St. Mary & St. John's Church

All members are requested to attend

ADVENT

Advent has twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's First Coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. There are two stages in Advent: the first runs until 16 December; the second, which is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts, runs from 17 December until 24 December.