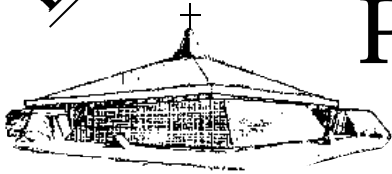


6 PAGE  
EDITION

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



CHRIST OUR LIGHT  
INNISHMORE

**SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2000**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN  
STATION ROAD



*God's anointed was born by the power of God's spirit. He is the Son of God, and fulfils God's promise of an everlasting kingdom for his people*

## CHRISTMAS

Every year the Church expresses its profound wonder as it contemplates the great mystery of the coming of the Son of God as a human child into our world. The Christmas carols, the Crib, the presents, the popular Christmas songs, the wide range of decorations, the holly, the mistletoe: all these images transport us, adults into a child's world of wonder.

God became man. Why? Who must humans be if the Son of God took on our human nature? Who must we be if the Son of God gave up his life for us on a Cross? The Pope in his wonderful book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope", devotes a whole chapter to reflection on this central question for mankind: "Who must we be?"

When the Germans were defeated in 1945, Poland - a staunchly Catholic country - came under Communist rule. Christianity and Marxism faced up to each other in the battle for the minds of the young. Interest in man and his dignity became the principal theme of the debate. The Pope was then involved with young people who were asking questions, not so much about the existence of God but rather about how to live their lives, how to face and resolve problems of love and marriage and problems related to work. The young people's confusion in a confused country led the Pope to reflect on the importance of the human person. How should we treat a human being? How should a human being live his or her life?

The New Testament rather than the writings of Karl Marx was the key to answer these profound and most relevant questions. The human person is a being for whom the only suitable dimension is love. We treat people with full justice only when we love them. Love for others excludes the possibility of treating them as objects of pleasure. Not only that but on the positive side we must always affirm a person as a human person made by God in His own image. Human beings are the only creatures on earth that God wanted for their own sake. In other words, a person has value not because of wealth, or power or usefulness in some way but by the simple fact of being a person.

The Pope posed the question: "How does man affirm himself?" He affirms himself most completely by giving of himself. This is the fulfilment of the commandment of love. This is the full truth about man taught to us by Christ and lived out by so many saints ever since.

Christmas is the happiest time of the year because we are happiest when we give to others. Mothers are happy organising family celebrations; fathers are happy bringing home their Christmas bonuses, children are happy putting their savings together to buy their parents some little present, old people are happy as they write greeting cards and send gifts to the youngest additions to their extended families. Only by giving of ourselves do we understand why God loved us more than any other creature.

*Leonard O'Brien*

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### PRIEST

My brothers and sisters,  
Mary did the will of God perfectly, and when he spoke to her, she was prompt to obey. As we stand on the threshold of celebrating Christ's coming among us, we pray to God our Father for the needs of the Church and the world.

### READER

For the Church and her leaders,  
may they always be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and, like Mary, strive to do God's will perfectly.  
Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those in authority in society,  
may they be humble as Mary was when she went to visit Elizabeth, and so perform their function without any exaggerated sense of self-importance.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those unjustly dismissed from their employment, may they still appreciate their human dignity and value in our world, forgiving those who dispensed with their services and avoiding all bitterness of mind and heart.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the community in which we live,  
like Mary, may we serve it humbly, meeting human need with our Christian care and making present the love of Christ to those around us.

Lord, hear us;

Lord, graciously hear us.

Visit Our Website: [www.ballincolligparish.ie](http://www.ballincolligparish.ie)

*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.

*Leonard O'Brien, Eugene Crowley, Pat O'Donovan, Paul O'Donoghue*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE  
REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

**Noreen O'Driscoll, Castlepark**  
**David Brosnan, Muskerry Est.**  
**Arthur O'Leary, London & Dunmanway**  
**Maureen Cuddihy, Coolroe**  
**William Tracey, Castleknock**  
**John Frances Lynch, Ballyburden**  
**Elizabeth Fouhy, Eastgate**  
**Christy Burns, St. Lukes**  
**Deceased members of J.A. Wood Staff**  
**Mattie Twomey, Coolea**  
**Michael O'Connell, Ballinguilly**  
**Thomas O'Connell, Pouladuff**  
**Tony O'Connell, Pouladuff**  
**Jonathan & Annie Knight, Bandon**  
**Paul Barry-Murphy, Maglin**  
**Denis Murphy, Fr. Sexton Park**  
**Jim Spencer, West Village**  
**Maureen Callanan, West Village**  
**John & Baley Coleman, Coolroe**  
**Alice Kelly, the Lough**  
**Paddy O'Connor**  
**John Barry Murphy**  
**Kitty Kingston**  
**Tim Mullane**  
**Michael Hickey, Greenfield**  
**Kathleen Day, Essex**  
**Relatives and friends of Eileen Lynch, Carriganarra**  
**John O'Regan, Westcourt**  
**Daniel & Margaret Murphy, Knockburden**  
**Jeremiah & Mary Keohane**  
**Sean Crowley, Poulavone**  
**Mary Murphy**  
**Eddie & Joan Murphy, Powdermills**  
**Charles Lynch, Spriggs Road**  
**Daniel & Margaret Sheehan, Caherciveen**  
**Deceased members of Maguire**  
**& Twomey families**  
**Bernard Boylan, Maple Lawn**

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION  
FOR THE PRIESTS  
OF THE PARISH

According to the Diocesan custom,  
the collection at Christmas Day Masses is one  
of the two occasions during the year when  
the offertory collection goes to the  
priests of the Parish

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

24 Sunday Mic. 5:2-5. Ps. 79. Heb. 10:5-10. Lk. 1:39-45. *Lect 1:731*  
**We prepare for Christmas with the attitudes of Elizabeth and Mary. Like Elizabeth we are open to receive the Child with wonder and joy. Like Mary we are ready to do the will of God as it is made clear to us. That may mean standing by the cross before we come to the glory of the resurrection.**

THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

24 Sunday Christmas Eve  
 EVENINGIs. 62:1-5. Ps. 88. Acts 13:16-17, 22-25. Mt. 1:1-25 *Lect 1:99*  
 25 Monday Christmas Day  
 Midnight Mass Is. 9:1-6. Ps. 95. Tit. 2:11-14. Lk. 2:1-14. *Lect 1:104*  
**I bring you news of great joy. This night a child is born for us, a so given to us.**  
 Dawn Mass Is. 62:11-12. Ps. 96. Tit. 3:4-7. Lk. 2:15-20. *Lect 1:107*  
**The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the baby: and glorified God.**  
 Mass during the day Is. 52:7-10. Ps. 97. Heb. 1:1-6. Jn. 1:1-18. *Lect 1:109*  
**The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory.**  
 26 Tuesday Acts. 6:8-10. 7:54-59. Ps. 30. Mt. 10:17-22. *Lect 1:125*  
 27 Wednesday 1 Jn. 1:1-4. Ps. 96. Jn. 20:2-8. *Lect 1:127*  
**St. John, brother of James, son of Zebedee, the disciple whom Jesus loved, is traditionally said to have died at Ephesus. He is considered to be the author of the fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation and three letters. The Letters especially teach the law of love; he is said in his old age to have preached only one message - Love one another.**  
 28 Thursday 1 Jn. 1:5-2:2. Ps. 123. Mt. 2:13-18. *Lect 1:129*  
**"The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the Holy Innocents make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light: 'He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.' Christ's whole life was lived under the sign of persecution. His own share it with him. Jesus' departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents him as the definitive liberator of God's people." CCC, 530**  
 29 Friday 1 Jn. 2:3-11. Ps. 95. Lk. 2:22-35. *Lect 1:131*  
**Christmas has its origins in a feast of light to celebrate the victory of the Sun of Justice, a light shining in the darkness**  
 30 Saturday 1 Jn. 2:12-17. Ps. 95. Lk. 2:36-40. *Lect 1:134*  
**Jesus grew in wisdom and God's word indeed made its home in him. Obedient to the will of God, he could be declared to be his beloved Son.**

SAINTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 26th - St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was one of those in charge of the poor and needy. He is outstanding for his forgiveness of his enemies. Patron of deacons, stonemasons and bricklayers.  
 Friday 29th - St Thomas á Becket 1118-70, was made Archbishop of Canterbury and came in conflict with King Henry II. He was killed in his cathedral on this date.

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 it had been real!

**NOTICES**

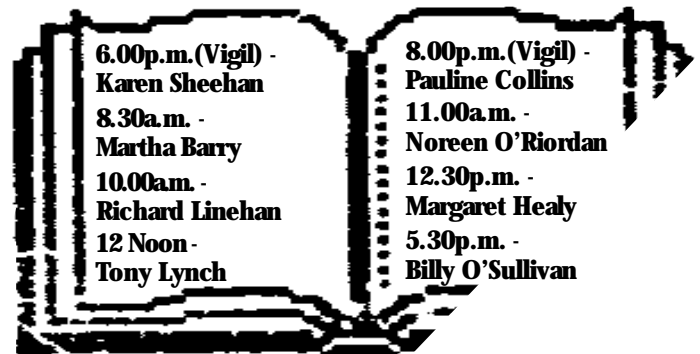
**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
*say Sincere Thanks*

You, the people of Ballincollig have for many years now, 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 Collection, 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 last Sunday amounted to £11,000. 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. We would also like to especially thank our parish priest, Fr. Leonard O'Brien and the other priests of the parish for allowing the indoor collection and also for their quiet and unstinting support during the year:

**ST. JOHN'S SCOUT UNIT**

**We would like to thank  
all those who helped support  
our unit during the year  
& would like to wish you all  
a very happy Christmas  
and New Year**

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD 30TH/31ST DEC**  
**ST. MARY & ST. JOHN CHRIST OUR LIGHT**



**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST 30th/31st December 2000**  
**ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

**SATURDAY 30TH**  
6p.m.  
Helen Kelly  
April Ryan  
Eileen Murphy  
Ted Nelligan  
Angela Murphy  
Ann O'Connell

**SUNDAY 31ST**  
8.30a.m.  
Mary Buckley  
Josie Halligan

10a.m.  
Miriam Maunsell  
Mary McLean  
Breda Ring  
Jerry O'Connor

12.00 Noon  
Louie O'Leary  
Mary Buckley  
Will Casey  
Rose Doyle  
Anne O'Sullivan  
Ellen O'Sullivan



**CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH**

**SATURDAY 30TH**  
8p.m.  
Charlie Vaughan  
Joan Stephenson  
Maura O'Driscoll

**SUNDAY 31ST**  
11a.m.  
Ann O'Regan  
Neil Jeffries  
Eileen Byrne  
Mary Coleman  
Dan 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	CHILDREN'S MASS	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
<p><b>Masses</b></p> <p>Sunday: <b>8.30, 10.00, 12.00</b>  <b>6pm, 10pm</b></p> <p>Christmas Day: <b>8.30am, 10.00</b>  <b>12.00</b></p> <p>Tues-Fri: <b>10.00am</b></p> <p>Saturday: <b>10.00, 6pm, (Vigil)</b></p>	<p><b>The Children's Christmas Mass will be celebrated at 6p.m. (Sunday) in the Church of Christ Our Light</b></p>	<p><b>Masses</b></p> <p>Sunday: <b>11.00, 12.30, 6.00pm</b>  <b>8.00pm, Midnight</b></p> <p>Christmas Day: <b>11.00, 12.30</b></p> <p>Tues-Fri: <b>8.30am</b></p> <p>Saturday: <b>10.00am, 8.00pm</b>  <b>(Vigil)</b></p>
<p><b>Confessions</b></p> <p>Saturday: <b>after 10am Mass</b>  <b>before 6pm Mass</b></p>	<p><b>NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY</b></p>	<p><b>Confessions</b></p> <p>Saturday: <b>after 10am Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Baptisms</b></p> <p>Saturday: <b>5.00pm</b></p> <p>Sunday: <b>12.45pm</b></p>	<p><i>The Editorial Team of the Parishioner and the website would like to thank all our advertisers for their support and wish them and all our readers a very Happy Christmas</i></p>	<p><b>Baptisms</b></p> <p>Saturday: <b>7.15pm</b></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

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.



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Home Heating Budget Payment Plan

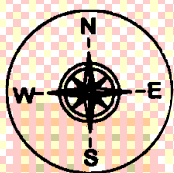


MARY McLEAN'S  
SALON  
3, Sunningdale

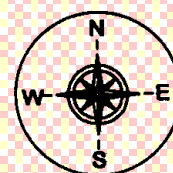


A Happy and Peaceful  
Christmas to all our Clients

from Jean, Annette & Mary



## BALLINCOLLIG TIDY TOWNS



*We extend our thanks to all concerned who helped us achieve excellent results in the Cork County Council "Inter Town Litter Challenge" & "The National Tidy Towns" competitions during the past year, especially our named sponsors for their generous contributions. We look forward to your continued support throughout 2001.*

**Allied Irish Banks Plc**  
**Ballincollig Credit Union Ltd.**  
**Ballincollig GAA Club**  
**Ballincollig Health & Beauty Centre**  
**Ballincollig Lions Club**  
**Ballincollig Travel Services**  
**Bank of Ireland**  
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**Finbarr O'Neill Ltd.**  
**Fiona Foley & Co. Solicitors**  
**Frank Joyce Solicitors**  
**Gaelscoil Uí Riordan**  
**Global Properties Ltd.**  
**Jim Carroll Plant Hire**  
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**John Walsh Carpets**  
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**Marys O'Connell's Bar & Lounge**

**Maurice Healy**  
**McCarthy & McCarthy Solicitors**  
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**Michael O'Leary, Electrician**  
**Micheál Ó'Crualaoi**  
**Money Concepts**  
**Muskerry Leader Newspaper**  
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**O'Dwyer's Pharmacy**  
**O'Mahony, Walsh & Associates**  
**O'Riordan Darby Arms**  
**O'Sullivan M.C. & Co. Ltd.**  
**P.J. Bohan Roofing Services**  
**Paddy O'Shea**  
**Phelan's Pharmacy**  
**Pratt Financial Services**  
**PrintXPress Printers**  
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**The Foto Shop**  
**The Reel Picture**  
**Tim Murphy (The Fry)**  
**Tim O'Donovan Office Supplies**  
**Trustee Savings Bank**  
**Twomey's Spar**  
**West End Cycles**  
**West End Shoes**  
**Westfalia Separator Ireland Ltd.**  
**Westward Cleaners**

*Wishing you peace this Christmas time and success in the New Year ahead.*

**BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB  
NOTES & FIXTURES**

**LADIES**

On Thursday last, our Junior ladies played Glanmire in the Parochial Hall. In the first half both teams looked very strong but Ballincolligs more experienced side showed their form in the second half and Glanmire were left with too much to do. A good win for the Ballincollig ladies.

Friday night saw our Un-18 team play Carrigaline. After a poor start, Ballincollig eventually began to get back into the game and went on to lead for most of the second half, however, Carrigaline managed to snatch those ever important last points and the victory was theirs.

Our Un-15's played Cobh on Sunday 17th. The Ballincollig girls were not strong enough from the start and Cobh had an easy win.

With only the minimum 5 players, our Un-16 team had an uphill struggle in their game against Cobh, but while they had a slow start and were at one stage 17pts down, the girls worked really hard and brought the score back to a three point difference. If there had been more fresh players, Ballincollig would certainly have won the game. The Un-14 girls met Bantry in their game on Sunday. It was a good, close game and both sides were evenly matched. Ballincollig dominated the first half but slipped back slightly in the last quarter and gave Bantry the advantage and the match.

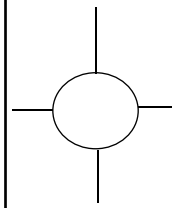
**MEN**

The Div. 2 men's team had a great game against Neptune in Neptune Stadium on Thursday night. Ballincollig dominated the match from the start and did not give the ever strong Neptune team any opportunities to take the lead; coach, Francis O'Sullivan was very pleased with their performance.

Due to having played a tough game the night before, our Div. 2 team did not play to their full potential when they met East Cork Glen Mary on Friday night. It was a good fast game, but Ballincollig began to struggle in the closing minutes and lost the game by 3 pts

On Saturday the Un-17 team went to Limerick with only 5 players. St. Colms took full advantage of this situation and went on to win the game by a very considerable margin.

The Ballincollig Basketball Club Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish members of the club, the coaches, and their families, a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and many thanks to the people of Ballincollig for their support.



SOLAS DÉ CHOIR

**WEST AID**

**Price £8**

*All proceeds in aid of Sheltered Housing Project, Ballincollig*

**ON SALE AT**

**Maurice Healy's Post Office,  
McNamara's Super Valu and  
New Gift Shop, West Village**

**PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

will be presented at the Blarney Park Hotel on January 27th 2001 by Minister Micheál Martin, T.D. Minister for Health and Children.

Categories for awards are Community; Sport; Arts/Culture; Business; Employee of the Year.

Forms are available in the library and from Angela Corcoran at West End Shoes

**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 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*