THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER







SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2002

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Most sons resemble their fathers in some way, an expression, the shape of the mouth, but it is only partial.

Jesus is the perfect image of his Father, so much so that if we want to get to know God the only way is

to get to know Jesus his only Son.

THE CHAIN OF COMMAND - PART II

Following on from last week the diocesan Bishop has various duties to perform such as ensuring pastoral care for all the people who require his pastoral care in his diocese, he must offer the sacrifice of the Mass on each Sunday and on each holyday for the people entrusted to him. This, confirmations and many other tasks that involve care for his people are his duty to see to. The Bishop appoints a Vicar general to help him in the governance of his dioceses and can give some power to him.

Archdioceses are another part of the sections you hear of. This is a cluster of dioceses usually presided over by a Metropolitan or Archbishop In Ireland there are four. Dublin, Cashel and Emily (which we are part of) Armagh and Tuam. The only involvement he has is laid down in canon 436, which to summarise is to see that an individual diocese is functioning correctly and to report to Rome if not. Special power can be given to him by Rome to appoint a diocesan Administrator if the need arises in the absence of a bishop such as resignation or death. He can celebrate Mass in the diocese with the permission of the Bishop of the diocese. Canon 349 states the "The Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church constitute a special College, whose prerogative it is to elect the Roman Pontiff in accordance with the norms of a special law. The Cardinals are also available to the Roman Pontiff, either acting collegially, when they are summoned together to deal with questions of major importance, or acting individually, that is, in the offices which they hold in assisting the Roman Pontiff especially in the daily care of the universal Church." This week some of the Cardinals in America were summoned to Rome to discuss the abuse issue. Can 353 §1 states that Cardinals assist the Supreme Pastor of the Church in collegial fashion particularly in Consistories, in which they are gathered by order of the Roman Pontiff and under his presidency. Consistories are either ordinary or extraordinary. These consistories are called to discuss serious matters a a form of consultation by the Pope. The point that I am making is that the diocesan Bishop reports directly to Rome in all serious matters in relation to his diocese, not to the Archbishop, not the the Cardinal. The title "Primate" is covered in canon 438, "The title Patriarch or Primate gives a prerogative of honour, but in the latin Church (us) does not carry with it any power of governance, except in certain matters where an apostolic privilege or approved custom establishes otherwise." In other words its a title only. The same is true of other titles granted by the Church such as Canon or Monsignor. These are given for many years of good service to the diocese, or as Fr. Dooley put it...... I can't repeat his comments here!!!!!!!

From there on those that matter here are the role of Parish Priest. The model could be taken of a small diocese, in which the Parish priest reports to his Bishop about the running of his Parish including Parish Pastoral Councils. Curates work with their Parish Priests, but their appointment is in the care of his Bishop.

Pat O'Donovan

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST:

The Lord looks on those who revere him, so let us make our prayers known to him.

READER:

For those who serve the Church as deacons, that they may be good servants of God's people.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who serve humanity in the caring professions,

that they may be concerned for the spirit as well as the body. Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For people at risk: widows, orphans, the homeless, the poor, that the Christian community may always see to their care.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those are anxious in the face of suffering and death, that the Lord's words may console them.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who have left this world, in the hope of rising again that they may be where Christ is, eternally. Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

PRIEST:

Father in heaven, we place all our hope in you, as we entrust these prayers to your love, confident that you will grant them,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

BAPTISMS

WE WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY
ALL THOSE WHO WERE BAPTISED RECENTLY:
Sara Louise Young, 85a, Beech Road
Ryan Daniel Crowley, "Cuilleann", Greenfields
Tyrone Robert James O'Sullivan,

9, Innishmore Grove Emma Mary Walsh, 60, Woodberry, Greenfields

+ IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF: Dan Shine, Glenflesk & Killarney Brian Casey, "Rockville House", Carrigrohane Joe McCarthy, Tallow Fr. John Aherne, Dublin & Cork Mary Sexton, Douglas

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

Eugene Courtney, Glincool Lawn Billy Holmes, Kerry Pike Mary Delaney, Maglin Kathleen Dorgan, Short Range Dan Joe & Denis O'Shea, Ballinora Jerome Desmond, Rock Farm, Carrigrohane **Donors Intention** Jack Hurley, Hawthorn Patrick & Edward Walsh, Ballinhassig Ellen Cronin, St. Mary Street Cornelius O'Regan, Carriganarra John Murphy, Station Road Patrick O'Shea, Ballinora Connie Radley, Carrigrohane Mary Ann Radley, Powder Mills Eileen O'Leary, Kilnaglory Lily Maguire, Glincool Bridget & Thomas Cosgrove, Co. Clare Daniel & Hannah O'Connor, Ballinagree Daniel & Hannah Dempsey, Leemount George O'Connor, Glanworth Patrick Sheehan John Calnan, Drinagh James, Brendan & Denis O'Donoghue Richard O'Keeffe, Blackpool

Mount Mercy College, Bishopstown CÚRSA GAEILGE 2002

One week Irish Course for Girls & Boys, 10-16 years. July 8th to 12th; 10a.m.-3p.m. Catering for Fourth to Sixth Class Primary and 1st to 3rd year Post Primary. Seisiúin teagaisc, Drámaíocht, Céilí. Apply: Secretary, Mount Mercy College. Tel: 4542366 (10am to 4pm; 4968496, 6 to 8pm)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

28 Sunday Acts 6:1-7. Ps. 32. 1 Pet. 2:4-9. Jn. 14:1-12. *Lect I:511* No one can come to the Father exceot through Christ. The Church must work so that all peoples may come to the Father. Working together in love, all God's people can build up the kingdom in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our high priest.

29 Monday 1 Jn, 1:5-2:2. Ps. 102. Mt. 11:25-30. Lect II:1011

30 Tuesday Acts 14:19-28. Ps. 144. Jn. 14:27-31. Lect I:522 "As witnesses of the Risen One, the apostles - and Peter in particular - remain the foundation stones of his Church. CCC 642

MAY 2002

1 Wednesday Acts 15:1-6. Ps. 121. Jn. 15:1-8. *Lect 1:524* The apostles and teachers come together in search of unity of faith. The branches must remain part of the vine so that life will flow to them and they will bear fruit.

St. Joseph. Gen. 1:26-2:3. or Col. 3;14-15,17,23-24. Ps. 89. Mt. 13;54-58 Lect 1:1013

2 Thursday Acts 15:7-21. Ps. 95. Jn. 15:9-11. Lect 1:526
Jesus loves his disciples with that same gift of love with which the Father loves him. Genuine love means attending to the needs and weaknesses of others.

3 Friday 1 Cor 15:1-8. Ps. 18. Jn. 14:6-14. Lect II:1017
4 Saturday Acts. 16:1-10. Ps. 99. Jn. 15:18-21. Lect I:531
The conflict between the believer and the world is part of the Christian's inheritance. The disciple can not expect other than what his Master also received. It is better to be persecuted for doing right than simply to conform to the ways of the world.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

28th Sunday - St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort 1673-1716, as a young priest discovered his true vocation preaching missions. Most important was the spirit of prayer which he instilled especially with the recitation of the rosary. A few years before his death, Louis gathered together a few priests who became the first members of his Company of Mary. He died at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre on 28 April. 29th Monday- Catherine of Siena, humble and dauntless Dominican tertiary, who brought peace to her native Siena, to Italy and to 14th century Europe, spent all her energies for the Church, being able to achieve the Pope's return from Avignon to Rome. She received a vision in which she was in a mystical marriage with Christ, and the Infant Christ presented her with a wedding ring. Counsellor to Pope Gregory XI and Pope Urban VI. Born 25 March 1347 at Siena, Tuscany, Italy. Died 29 April 1390. Proclaimed Doctor of the Church 4 October 1970 and Patroness of Europe in 2000. May 2 Thursday- Athanasius, born at Alexandria in the year

May 2 Thursday- Athanasius, born at Alexandria in the year 295. He accompanied his bishop Alexander, to the council of Nicaea and later he himself succeeded as bishop. He fought ceaselessly against the Arian heresy and as a result he had to endure much tribulation and he was several times sent into exile.

3 Friday- St. Philip, asks to see and, having seen, he tells the Good News to others. He was born at Bethsaida. Formerly a disciple of John the Baptist, he became a follower of Christ. **St. James**, was the son of Alphaeus and a cousin of the Lord, ruled the Church at Jerusalem, wrote an Epistle, and led a life of penance. He converted many of the people of Jerusalem to the faith and was martyred in the year 62.

4 Saturday- St. Conleth, Conleth is believed to have come from the Wicklow area, While living as a hermit he was persuaded by Brigid to act as a priest for her community in Kildare. He was venerated as a great saint and Cogitosus in his Life of Brigid calls him bishop and abbot of the monks of Kildare. He was buried beside Brigid in the great church there.

CROWLEY'S FUNERAL HOME

BALLINCOLLIG Telephone: 021-4874777
Mobile: 087-2759254
FLORAL TRIBUTES,
FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING
REMOVALS TO ALL CHURCHES
CREMATION AND REPATRIATION ARRANGED
For personal attention contact
Michael or Patricia

PILGRIMAGE

"Very prayerful, very peaceful and truly uplifting". - The Wrenne Family

To:

'OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE HOUSE OF PRAYER'

Achill, Co Mayo. On Sat 1st June 2002

Staying Overnight,

SATURDAY 1st June Bus Departs Kinsale 6.15am

6.30am Stop at BELGOOLY, for passengers.

6.35am Stop at RIVERSTICK, for passengers.

6.40am Stop at FIVE MILE BRIDGE, for passengers.

6.45am Stop at PARNELL PLACE, for passengers.

6.55am Stop at COMMONS ROAD, The Commons Inn, for passengers. 7.00am Stop at BALLINCOLLIG, The White Horse Inn, for passengers.

Phone: Margaret Murphy at 021-4771606 or 087-7806435

Will You Follow Me?



REASONS FOR OUR HOPE
A DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION
PRESENTED BY

GALILEE PRAYER GROUP

SPEAKERS: FR. MATT CUNNINGHAM

FR. MICHAEL FITZGERALD

MUSIC MINISTRY: JIM KEOHAN

VENUE: BALLINCOLLIG

COMMUNITY HALL

DATE: MAY 11TH 2002

TIME: 10:30 A.M TO 9:30 PM

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN **EACH SUNDAY CHRIST OUR LIGHT** Masses **Masses** ROSARY RECITED **Sunday:** 11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm AT BOTH CHURCHES **Sunday:** 8.30, 10.00, 12.00 Mon-Thurs: 8.30am EACH SUNDAY Mon-Thurs: 9.30am **Fri:** 8.30am, 6.30pm 3.00P.M. Fri: 9.30am & 8pm **Saturday:** 10.00am, 8.00pm Everyone most welcome Saturday: 10.00am, 6pm (Vigil) FRIDAY 3RD MAY 2002 Confessions Confessions (First Friday) Saturday: **Saturday:** after 10am Mass **EXPOSITION OF THE** after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass BLESSED SACRAMENT Church of St. Mary & St. John Following 9.30a.m. Mass **Baptisms** Baptisms Concluding with Rosary & Saturday: 5.00pm Saturday: 7.15pm Benediction at 7.40p.m. **Sunday:** 12.45pm & Mass 8.00p.m.

PARISH CLERGY

£087-2479140 CHURCH NO. Fr. Leonard. O'Brien P. 021-4871206 Fr. Pat. O'Donovan C.C 021-4872808 Fax: 021-4872808 Fr. Paul O'Donoghue **2** 021-4876055 Fr. John O'Donovan **2** 021-4870434

EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

This year's Eucharistic Procession will take place on Saturday 25th May 2002, following 6.00pm Mass at St. Mary & St. John's Church. The procession will be from the Church to East Gate followed by Benediction in Car Park.

GALILEE PRAYER GROUP

Who meet weekly in Ballincollig, will be holding a day of Prayer and Reflection in the Community Hall on Saturday 11th May 2002. We have invited two speakers to talk on faith today, and how it compares to the faith of the Apostles.

All are invited to attend, but we would especially like to welcome anyone in the surrounding area, young or old, who has never been to a meeting like this before, to join us, so please be assured that you will be more than welcome to drop in at any time during the day.



HOME HEATING OIL

- Commercial
- Agricultural

Centre Park Road, Cork

Tel: 021-4911700

Fax: 021-4911701

Home Heating Budget



Payment Plan





Cork Marriage Counselling Centre

Cork & Ross Family Centre 34 Paul St., Cork Tel: 021-4275678 Fax: 021-4274917

On behalf of the clients and staff of the Cork Marriage Counselling Centre we would like to thank the parishioners who contributed so generously to our recent collection.

The Cork Marriage Counselling Centre will hold an evening for Parents in Marital Breakdown on Thursday 16th May. For further details or to book a place on the course please contact 4275678.



MOST REV. JOHN BUCKLEY DD BISHOP OF CORK AND ROSS

This Monday 29th April marks the 18th Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop John

We wish him continued good health and spiritual guidance.

Ballincollig Tidy Towns

The Cork County Council Inter Town Challenge begins on Thursday 9th May.

The Town Centre will be judged each week and in the first week Muskerry Estate will be judged also. We have 2 weeks to make a huge effort to clean up around the various parts of Muskerry and improve on the marks we received last year.

A big community effort is required from everyone.

Next week we will have the full fixture list available but your estate must "Be Prepared"

We would appeal to each and every resident and trader to make an **Extra special effort this year.**

You could start by organising a clean up in your estate or area.

We are organising <u>Community Clean Ups every Wednesday</u> at 7.30pm from L & N Car Park and the Community Hall

We hope people will come out and lend a hand.

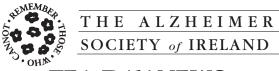
We all have a part to play. Please play your part.

EPISCOPAL COMMISSIONS

A collection for the above will be included in the Offertory Collection of all Masses on This Weekend.

ROSARY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

The Rosary will be recited each evening, Monday to Friday, in the Church of St. Mary & St. John at 6.30pm. All are welcome



TEA DAY NEWS

Remember us on the day!

A message from An Tea-shock

"On May the 2nd 2002, we are going to the people to raise funds to help The Alzheimer Society. You can help by becoming TD's (Tea Day Supporters) and having Alzheimer Tea-Party fund-raisers at home, at school, in the office, on the farm or anywhere people drink tea." Put your collection box somewhere people can see it and don't be shy of asking your guests to pop in a couple of euro.

The money you raise locally will be used locally, to help The Alzheimer Society of Ireland build and extend Day Care Centres, expand the network of Home Support Teams and open new information and support centres.

Thank You. Your support makes things happen.

REGISTER NOW - www.alzheimer.ie

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Monthly Collection

Next Weekend 4th & 5th May 2002

PLEASE SUPPORT

NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS:

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17. Ps. 65. 1 Pet. 3:15-18. Jn. 14:15-21. Lect 1:534
Jesus promises another Advocate, the Spirit of Truth.

THE APOSTOLATE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA, CORK MONTHLY DEVOTIONS, MASS AND HOLY HOUR

"Jesus wishes to make me known and loved."

"He wants to establish in the world Devotion to my Immaculate Heart."

"Do not be disheartened, My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."

"In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph."

"People must amend their lives and ask forgiveness for their sins."

"Do not offend God Our Lord anymore for He is already deeply offended."

"Pray, pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners, for souls may go to hell because they have nobody to pray and make sacrifices for them."

ST. MARIES OF THE ISLE CHAPEL

Date: Monday 29th April 2002

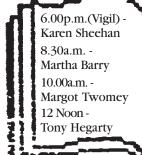
Time: 7.30p.m.

Conducted by: Fr. John O'Donovan C.C. Ballincollig

All Welcome

FATIMA: MORE RELEVANT, MORE URGENT THAN EVER

MINISTERS OF THE WORD MAY 4TH/5TH ST. MARY & ST. JOHN CHRIST OUR LIGHT



8.00p.m.(Vigil) -Joy O'Driscoll 11.00a.m. -Noreen O'Riordan 12.30p.m. -Marlyn O'Connor 5.30p.m. -Christine O'Brien



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST 4th /5th May 2002 ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



SUNDAY 5TH SATURDAY 4TH 8.30a.m. 10a.m. 12.00 Noon 6p.m. Vera Allen Mary Buckley Anne Cahill Joan Barrett Bernadette Bell Theresa Lucey Pat Lee Sheila Carroll Oliver Delaney May Delaney Marsie Curling **Betty Casey** Seamus O'Shea Pat Keenan Frank Riordan Sean O'Donovan Will Casev Steve Wills Siobhan Riordan

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

SATURDAY 4TH SUNDAY 5TH 12.30p.m. 5.30p.m. 8p.m. Geraldine Lynch Maire Ui Chrualaoi Con O'Connell Patsy Galvin Bridie O'Donnell Charlie Vaughan Neil Jeffries Denis O'Mahony Christine O'Mahony Phil O'Connell Joan Stephenson Eileen O'Donoghue Mary Coleman Tom Murray

Dan Coleman Maura Lombard

BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB

The end of the season is near and most teams are busy completing their fixtures.

Div. 2 men having won their league were most unlucky to lose in the

championship semi-final to Cobh. Ballincollig never got into their stride and struggled to stay with their opponents who played well on the night. A one point defeat was very disappointing as this was their first loss of the season. This defeat was quickly forgotten when they reached the top four final against Blue Demons. This was a game of contrasting halts which saw Ballincollig come good after the break and collect their second trophy of a very successful year.

Boys U. 15 had a tremendous year contesting all competitions up until the final stages against the traditionally stronger clubs. Ballincollig boys versus Blue Demons was the final pairing in the three competitions in this age group. Demons proved too strong in the championship final when Ballincollig tired late in the game. Both teams tied for the league title having lost one game to each other. In the play-off Ballincollig despite fielding an understrength side were unlucky to lose to a Demons side which had to pull out all the stops for victory.

Top four final provided Ballincollig with their last chance to claim a trophy at the end of a tough season. Both teams started well and scores were hard earned with neither team giving anything away. After halftime Ballincollig opened up a lead only for Demons to come back and threaten to pull away. Great defence by Ballincollig stopped their opponents from stretching their lead and enabled them to turn the game in their favour. Showing great confidence Ballincollig gained a well deserved victory after a most entertaining final.

Boys U. 13 and U. 11 were most unlucky to lose their top four semi-finals after a very good semi-final performance Girls U. 18 qualified for their championship final after defeating Mallow in a close game. A highly rated Glanmire team were the opposition in what was a very good final. Ballincollig were the underdogs, but they carried the game to their opponents and led until just before halftime. Glanmire stretched their advantage after the break but Ballincollig never gave in and made Glanmire work hard for their win. Despite losing, the girls played well and can be proud of their efforts. In other championship semi-finals our Girls U. 12 lost to Donoughmore,

U.14 Girls lost to Glanmire, Inter lost to Pandas, and Senior lost to Skibbereen. U.12 girls tournament was held last week and a great day of basketball was enjoyed by all. In our first game we played poorly and were well beaten by a very strong Glanmire side.

We improved in our second game and defeated Carrigaline 2 showing greater determination. Our next match saw some lovely scores which gave us victory over Carrigaline 3 and a semi final match against Brunell. This game turned out to be the match of the day between two sides who gave everything they had in their quest for victory. Both teams started nervously and early scores

were hard earned before the game opened up into a thriller. The lead changed hands on numerous occasions before Brunell took command early in the second half and looked set for a final spot. Roared on by a large crowd the entire Ballincollig team raised their game. With six seconds left and one point behind Ballincollig were awarded two free throws. Our young girl took her first shot, it hit the ring, bounced around the edge and fell off, no score. With shouts of encouragement ringing in her ears she shot the ball it hit the board and fell into the ring. A sharp blast of the whistle and we were into overtime.

The excitement and drama continued throughout overtime with both teams hitting great scores from play and the free throw line. Both teams were in foul trouble and had players fouled out, but neither side wanted to lose. Ballincollig were in arrears but fought back to win the game by converting two free throws with four seconds remaining to play. A very tired Ballincollig side were defeated by Glanmire in the final which was never going to be as interesting as the semi final. Our Inter Ladies team travelled to Cobh and gave one of their best performances for some time. Cobh started strongly but Ballincollig stayed with them. An inspirational score just

before the break and some early scores in the second half saw Ballincollig win easily.

U. 14 girls had two great wins against Cobh in their recent league meetings. This team are having a good run of results recently but unfortunately comes too late in the season to affect their league.

Junior 1 ladies are playing very well at present and gaining some valuable experience for the future. They recently played table toppers Donoughmore and showing great commitment won narrowly to severely damage their opponents league challenge. A very experienced Kelts team were lucky to defeat them by two points after overtime.

Brunell were unfortunate to meet them on a good night and were convincingly beaten by an in form team.

ARE YOU A NEWCOMER TO BALLINCOLLIG?

If so, you may not have discovered BALLINCOLLIG COUNTRY MARKET Ltd., and don't know what you are missing!

The Market is a co-operative, one of a countrywide network which was originally set up to provide a market for the small producer - at that time mainly farmer's wives, to earn additional income. All Country Markets have earned a reputation for quality home grown and home made products.

Ballincollig, which has functioned since 1973, is no exception.

The Market is open every Friday in the Community Hall, from 10.00 -11.30 am.

There is a wide selection of home baking, jams & preserves and prize winning honey.

This is the time of the year to start serious gardening. Our range of herbaceous, herb and vegetable plants are well worth a visit. They will soon be joined by a big variety of bedding plants. Cut flowers and flower arrangements are also popular.

Looking for an unusual gift? Visit our handcraft section—see quilts, cushion covers and a beautiful range of original pottery. Free range eggs and chickens are much in demand.

After browsing, enjoy coffee, tea or herbal tea with homemade cakes in the coffee room.

New customers and members (suppliers) are very welcome especially anyone with surplus vegetables. Membership can make new friends (and some extra money) for those who have time on their hands. Pay us a visit— we'd love to meet you.

You really can tell the difference!

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, Whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt, before the throne of God. I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ Our Lord. So that, having engaged here before your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss his dear head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves shall never die a sudden death or be drowned nor shall poison take affect on them:

neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say this prayer for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never known to fail, so be sure you really want what you ask.

BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB

In recent years our club has expanding greatly and at present are fielding fourteen teams in local County Board competitions. We are also involved in Cork Community Games in which we will have three teams representing Ballincollig. We enter National Cup competitions and play in various tournaments nationwide for boys and girls. One of the main reasons for the growth in our membership is the use of Ballincollig Community School Gym for which we are extremely thankful to the school for accommodating us. Many of our members attend the school and are looking forward to moving into the new school when it is completed. We are delighted that the youth of the surrounding area will have the most up to date facilities available to them during their school years. We are aware that a new gym will be part of the new building and will be available for hire. The new gym will be run by a private company after school hours. We are concerned that the cost of hiring the gym might not be financially feasible for our club. We are confused why a gym which is considered by visiting teams, referees and supporters to be one of the finest in the county and further afield has to be demolished.

It would not take a major financial undertaking to make the present gym available at a reasonable cost. At election time money becomes available for many causes, especially groups working with youths. We consider ourselves a vital part in shaping the future of the children who play with our club. Our club members are now appealing to all political parties to help us to protect our club and members futures by supporting our call to save the gym.

To those people who say "It cannot be done" We say "Where there is a will, there is away"