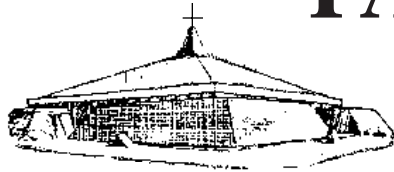


THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



CHRIST OUR LIGHT
INNISHMORE



ST. MARY & ST. JOHN
STATION ROAD

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER 2002

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.

AN UNHAPPY CHRISTMAS

What is the worst thing that could happen to you this Christmas? A sudden illness, perhaps, that would leave you in hospital on Christmas Day? A death in the family? Lose your job? Run into trouble with your mortgage repayments? Each of these possibilities is likely to strike fear into your heart. Yet all of them pale into insignificance when compared with another dreadful possibility: that you would kill someone in a road accident!

Try and imagine the train of circumstances that a fatal accident would set in motion in your life: the initial shock, getting out and rushing to the body on the road, praying that there is still life in the body, meeting the victim's family - children, or worse still, parents; making all the choices that follow, such as: should I go to the funeral? Will the mourners speak to me? On and on the horror goes. There is no escape, no running away. Christmas 2002 is ruined for ever and will never be forgotten.

Admittedly such speculation is morbid and a little melodramatic. And still it has become a reality for several hundred drivers in the past few years. The figures are high for road deaths. Each county posts the numbers on large road signs: So many hundred in the last four years; so many hundred in the previous period. The variation is negligible. There seems to be some inexorable average that evens out at one person per day in Ireland.

The driver is not always at fault. Children will always rush across the street. Drunken men will always stagger out into the traffic flow on country roads. There will always be cars that will fail mechanically at a crucial moment. But then, the careful motorist will always be alert for such human errors or mechanical failures. Looked at positively, you can save a child's life by anticipating his behaviour; or an old drunk's by driving so slowly that you will - evade his stagger at the last minute. The interval between a near miss and a tragedy is measured in seconds rather than minutes: the difference between doing thirty miles an hour or a safer twenty five in built up areas. The difference in your time of final arrival at home is of little importance when compared with a lifetime of remorse.

Leonard O'Brien

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest:

Let us pray to God, who fills the starving with good things.

Reader:

For all who follow Christ, that they may have joy as they prepare for the Lord's coming.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For people whose hearts are broken, that their friends may bring them comfort.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the members of the healing professions who care for victims of violence or abuse: that God may give them compassion and wisdom.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For asylum-seekers, immigrants, homeless and hungry people, that they may learn the good news of God's care - through our support.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who have died, that they may be raised up in glory with Mary and the saints.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who are in need, particularly those we remember now in silence

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest:

God of generous love, your mercy continues to embrace the world: let this Good News be proclaimed from east to west, and hear the prayers of your people, through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

3RD 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"



My soul rejoices in my God.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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



Eanna Maura O'Connell, 18 The Green, Coolroe Meadows
James Ocan Doyle, 199 The Gardens, Tower.

+

IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:

Hannah Marie Doyle, 7 Innishmore Grove
Nellie (Hickey) Stack, Rockchapel

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE
REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF**

Patrick & Margaret Kelly, Ivyleary
Mary Lucey, Carriganarra
Michael & Jenny Keohane, Boherbui
Mary Chapling, Schull
Con Greany, Station Rd.
Frank Kavanagh, Leemount
Bill & Kit Foley, Essex
The Buckley Family
The McCarthy Family
Michael Fouhy, East Gate
Brendan O'Sullivan, Glendower
Thomas Quinn
The Perrott & Quinn Families
Ellen Healy, Donoughmore
Daniel Coomey, Carriganarra
Dermot Andrews, Ringaskiddy
Liam Walsh, Wolverhampton
Michael O'Leary, Inniscarra View
Eugene & Kitty O'Callaghan, Main Rd.
Ellen Healy, Tralee
Rory O'Donoghue, North Mall
Farrell Dunne, Thurles
Brid & John Lehane, Wolf Tone St.
Con O'Regan
James & Catherine O'Sullivan, Kilmichael
Cummins & O'Regan Families
Eric Scott
Maureen Cuddihy
Margaret O'Connor
Sean & Geraldine Daly
Richard Ambrose, Fivemilebridge

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24 Hour Service Embalming Service
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**READINGS. Sunday Cycle B Weekday Cycle 1
Third Sunday of Advent**

15 Sunday Is.61:1-2, 10-11. Ps. Lk. 1. 1 Thess. 5:16-24. Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28 *Lect 1:48*

16 Monday Num. 24:2-7, 15-17. Ps 24. Matt. 21:23-27 *Lect 1:53*

17 Tuesday Gen. 49:2. 8- 10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1 - 17 *Lect: 1:76*

11 Wednesday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. *Lect 1:79*

St Flannan, bishop, lived in the seventh century and was the son of a king of Thomond. He entered Molua's monastery at Killaloe and seems to have become abbot there. He is remembered as a great preacher.

12 Thursday Jg. 13:2-7, 24-25. Ps. 70. Lk. 1 :5-25. *Lect 1:81*

13 Friday Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Lk.1:26-38. *Lect 1:83*

St Fachanan Although little is known with certainty about Fachanan, a strong tradition from early times links him with Kilfenora and records that he founded a church or monastery there in the sixth century. He is venerated as the patron of the diocese.

14 Saturday Song. 2:8-14 or Zeph. 3:14-18. Ps. 32. Lk. 1:39-45. *Lect 1:85*

See page 3

CAROL SERVICE

*Keep Sunday 15th December
Free for our Annual Carol Service at 8p.m.
St. Mary & St. John's Church
Our local choirs will be joined
by Cantairí Mhuscraí*

**BUMPER
CHRISTMAS
EDITION**

*Sunday 22nd December
to
Sunday 5th January*

Articles for inclusion should be
submitted to the Editor's office,
over sacristy, St. Mary & St. John,
by Tuesday 17th December 2002

(8.00pm)

THE SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61: 1-2; 10-11
 The Prophet announces his mission of consolation. The joy of salvation is the joy of a wedding day. The garments of salvation are like those of a bride and groom. As surely as the earth produces its fruits so will God produce good works in His people.

SECOND READING: 1 Thess. 5: 16-24
 Saint Paul coming to the end of his letter to the Christians of Thessalonica gives an exhortation to live the christian life in happiness and with a mind always open to new manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the community.

GOSPEL: John 1: 6-8, 19-28
 St. John uses the term "the Jews" in his Gospel to refer to official Israel, the leaders of the people who from the beginning formed a hostile body to the mission of Christ. It is they who sent out this delegation to question John the Baptist in the desert. He explains that he is not the promised Redeemer but rather the herald who calls on the people to prepare the ground for Jesus. "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness", he says. The voice sounds and vanishes. John's role was to fade away before One greater than himself.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

December 21st - ST. PETER CANISIUS
 St Peter Canisius lived in one of the most troubled centuries for the Catholic Church: 1521-1597. As a Dutch Law student he decided to join the newly founded Jesuit Order. While many of the early members of the Order went to the foreign Missions in the Far East, he believed that it was as important to defend Catholic truths with the pen as it was to convert the Hindus. A truly modern man, he realised the importance of the newly invented printing press in spreading Catholic teaching and defending it against the Protestant preachers. There was, however, no bitterness in his opposition to the Protestant movement. He requested Catholic authors to advocate the truth with modesty and dignity without scoffing or ridicule.
 The Saint's most famous work was a catechism of 211 questions and answers which was published in 1555. This showed his lifelong concern for the religious education of children.

CHRIST OUR LIGHT RELIGIOUS SHOP

(situated just inside main entrance to Church)

We now have a very large selection of Christmas items in stock at very reasonable prices -

- Cribs - various sizes and prices
- Candles and candlesticks/holders.
- Large selection of pictures /crucifixes /statues /books.
- Fr. Tom Brownes CD's and Tapes - Church Hymns and Melodies of Ireland.

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards and large selection of other cards -we sell SVP and Guide Dog Christmas cards.

*All very worthwhile gifts - gifts that will last!
 Do pay it a visit and take a look for yourself.
 Open before and after all week-end Masses.*

**Upstairs
 Downstairs**



**CORK'S NEWEST
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 in Solid Mahogany, Walnut and Teak*

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OPENING TIMES:

Monday-Wednesday: 9.30am-6.00pm

Thursday & Friday: 9.30am-7.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am-5.30pm

Sunday: 2.00pm-6.00pm

Gift Tokens Available

**WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
 A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

**THE LIGHT
 WITHIN**

GUIDED ADVENT PRAYER

by

Fr. Donagh O'Shea O.P.

“LOOK AGAIN”

Wednesday 18th December

1.10pm-1.30pm

Snack and chat afterwards

**CHURCH OF THE
 HOLY SPIRIT
 Dennehy's Cross**

MINISTERS OF THE WORD DEC 21ST/22ND
ST. MARY & ST. JOHN CHRIST OUR LIGHT

6.00p.m.(Vigil) - Karen Sheehan 8.30a.m. - Elizabeth Daly 10.00a.m. - Elaine Murphy 12.00noon. - Tony Hegarty	8.00p.m.(Vigil) - Pauline Collins 11.00a.m. - Fiona O'Connor 12.30p.m. - Pat Mc Geogh 5.30p.m. - Tom Reck
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MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST



21st/22nd December 2002

St. Mary & St. John	Christ Our Light
6.00pm: Patsy Murphy Breda Foley Ger Graham Sr. M. Carmody Ger Hegarty Cathy Horgan	8.00pm: Jim Cahill Kit Cahill Sheila O'Connor
8.30am: Theresa Lucey Rita Murphy	11.00am: Maura McNamara Angela Cunningham Laurence Cunningham Margaret Mullins
10.00am: Tadgh Murphy Mary Murphy Joan Tobin Betty Sheehan	12.30pm: Anne O'Connell Eileen Garvey Sally Power Breda Callanan
12.00 noon: Michael Crowley Breda Lenihan Noel Hennessey Marie O'Callaghan Rena O'Connor Angela Roche	5.30pm: Neil O Donoghue Patricia O Donoghue Statia O Callaghan

**SCOIL PHOBAIL
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Ballincollig Community School**
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OPEN DAY

For Prospective Parents and the general public

**on Sunday 15th Dec. 2002
2.00pm to 5.00pm**

IN THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

*Application forms and prospectus
available from the school.*

Closing date Fri 10th Jan 2003

ANNETTE'S HAIR SALON

*Annette & her staff would like to wish
all our customers a Merry Christmas
and a peaceful New Year*

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Tel: 4874229

Open Tues - Sat 9.15am-5.30pm

MASS TIMES

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
Sunday: 8.30, 10.00, 12.00	Sunday: 11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm
Mon-Fri: 9.30am	Mon-Fri: 8.30am
Saturday: 10.00am, 6pm (Vigil)	Saturday: 10.00am, 8.00pm (Vigil)

CONFESSIONS

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
Saturday: after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass	Saturday: after 10am Mass

BAPTISMS

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
Saturday: 5.00pm	Saturday: 7.15pm
Sunday: 12.45pm	

PARISH CLERGY

CHURCH NO. 087-2479140
Fr. Leonard. O'Brien P.P 021-4871206
Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C. 021-4877161
Fr. Paul O'Donoghue 021-4876055
Fr. John O'Donovan C.C. 021-4870434

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Church of Christ Our Light
@ 6.30pm
Church of St. Mary & St. John
@ 8.00pm
on Monday 16th December 2002



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