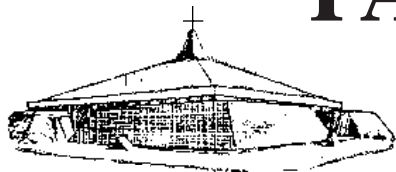


THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



CHRIST OUR LIGHT
INNISHMORE



ST. MARY & ST. JOHN
STATION ROAD

SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2003

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Christians are required to answer hatred with goodness, curses with blessings and ill treatment with prayer. As descendants of Adam, this is difficult, but through the power of Christ and his Holy Spirit, we can succeed.

IRAQ AND THE BIBLE

With Iraq as the focal point of world news it is opportune to recall the part that that country played in God's plan for salvation. Iraq lies between the two great rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, an area justly called "the cradle of civilisations". Like many countries, Iraq has changed its name periodically over the past six millennia.

Mesopotamia became Assyria, then Babylon and in modern times Iraq, each name change reflecting the political reordering of the area. A valley watered by two rivers always attracted the greedy eyes of desert neighbours.

Some fifty miles south of present day Baghdad the city of Ur was located in Biblical times. Here, about 2000 B.C., Abraham was born. God called him to be the father of His chosen people and asked him to leave his hometown and travel across the desert to the coast of the Mediterranean to what became Israel - the promised land, "a land flowing with milk and honey". God promised Abraham descendants, as many as the stars in the heavens and the grains of sand on the seashore. Today, Abraham is the acknowledged spiritual father of the world's three great religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

When God's people fell repeatedly into idolatry God used the rulers of Iraq, the Assyrians, to be his instrument of correcting them through adversity. In 721 B.C. the Assyrian armies descended on the northern part of Israel and took the population away to slavery. These exiles never returned.

About 150 years later, in 586 B.C. the Babylonians invaded the surviving southern section of Israel, captured Jerusalem, set fire to the Temple and took everyone away as captives to Babylon, near present day Baghdad. Far from their homes the people began to reflect on their ingratitude to God who had chosen them from among all other nations. Their religion became more one of the heart as they held their prayer meetings each Sabbath by the rivers of Babylon. However in 538 B.C. God used the King of neighbouring Persia (present day Iran) to conquer the Babylonians. The new ruler liberated the Jewish people and they returned to Jerusalem where they immediately set about rebuilding the Temple. It was in this very building that Jesus preached his message of love and forgiveness.

Iraq, which God in His providence used many times to further His plans, may once again play a role in bringing mankind closer to its Creator.

Leonard O'Brien

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest:

God guards us, God saves us, God gives us life - so we bring our prayers to God with confidence.

Reader:

For the health for our bodies: that God may bring healing to us and all the sick.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the health for our souls: that we may learn to trust in God's forgiveness.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the health for our spirits: that God may comfort the distressed.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and counsellors: that they may be ministers of God's healing power to all in need of help.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the suffering people of this community, that our friendship and support may show them that God has not forgotten.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who have gone before us in faith, that they enjoy God's presence for ever more.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest:

God of mercy, despite our sins you never fail to show forgiveness and mercy: Heal your people according to your will, and grant our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

IT IS THROUGH HIM THAT WE ANSWER 'AMEN' (SECOND READING)

At the end of every Eucharistic Prayer we proclaim that the Father is glorified through, with and in Jesus Christ. In his sacrifice he gathers the whole of creation and presents it to his Father. Our lives are part of that great movement, together with Jesus, to our Father's house. In each Mass, and in our whole lives, we are meant to answer 'Amen', 'Yes'.

Heal my soul for I have sinned against you.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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



Darragh Adam Hurley, 33 Belmont Pl., Crookstown



IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:

Peter Sherry, Bath, England

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:

Pat Donovan, Church Rd.
Elizabeth McCarthy, Park Rd.
Maureen Noonan, Cathedral Ave.
Matthew Murphy, Ballygomán, Ovens
Ellen & John O'Sullivan, Glanmire
John & Catherine McKachnie, Tower
John & Hellen Walsh, Ballinhassig
Pat Cronin, Skibbereen
Lily Lucey, Prosperity Sq.
Deceased Members of Carroll Family
John O'Regan, Poulavone
Timothy O'Regan, Poulavone
Patrick & Mgt. O'Callaghan, Dripsey
Andrew & Mgt. Doyle
Fr. Frank Doyle, S.M.A.
Elizabeth & Timothy Murphy, Carriganarra
James & Kathleen Whooley, Glanmire
Catherine Barry, Fermoy
John Dennehy
Eileen & Tom Murphy, Bishopstown
Nora Barrett, Coolroe
Jack Thompson
John Kelly
Margaret O'Donovan, Tweedmount, Blarney
Nellie Noonan, Mitchelstown
Patrick & Nancy Manning, Faranree
Jer & Margaret Burke, Ballinlough Rd.
Con & Mary Nagle, Coachford

READINGS FOR THE WEEK FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

23 Sunday Is. 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25. Ps. 40.2 Cor. 1:18-22. Mk. 2:1-12. *Lect I:752*

24 Monday Sir.1:1-10. Ps. 92. Mk. 9:14-29. *Lect II:81*

25 Tuesday Sir.2:1-11. Ps.36. Mk. 9:30-37. *Lect II:83*

26 Wednesday Sir. 4:11 -19. Ps. 118. Mk. 9:38-40. *Lect II:85*

27 Thursday Sir. 5:1-8. Ps.1. Mk.9:41-50. *Lect II:87*

28 Friday Sir. 6:5- 17. Ps.118. Mk.10:1-12. *Lect II:89*

29 Saturday Sir. 17:1-5. PS. 102. Mk. 1 0:13- 16. *Lect II:91*
See page three

Next Sunday's Readings:

Hos 2:16, 17, 21-22. Ps. 103. 2 Cor. 3:1-6. Mk. 2:18-22. *Lect I:754*

Temperance Sunday

CREDIT UNION SCHOOLS QUIZ

Last weekend Ballincollig Credit Union hosted the first stage of the 2003 Credit Union Schools Quiz in Ballincollig G.A.A. Club as part of the National Competition. Over 20,000 children under the age of thirteen participated in over 300 venues throughout the country hosted by their local Credit Union. This is the twelfth successive year that the Irish League of Credit Unions has run this Quiz, which has enjoyed immense popularity in recent years. The Quiz is unique in that Credit Unions from all 32 counties participate each year making it a truly nationwide event. The quiz consists of two "Knockout" stages, which culminate in the National Finals at which 100 teams compete. Prizes at National Level are substantial with the winning school receiving a cash grant in addition to participants receiving certificates and prizes. A total of 46 teams participated in the Ballincollig Quiz representing Scoil Barra, Scoil Eoin, Scoil Mhuire, Gaelscoil Uí Riordain and Ovens National School. All the children had a great afternoon and each child received a goody bag before they went home so every one was a winner. Two winning teams now go forward to the next stage, which will take place on March 2nd in Rochestown Park Hotel. The winning team in the A Competition was from Scoil Barra and consisted of Katie Allen, Nathan O'Regan, Cormac Manning and Kayleigh Barry. The winning team in the B Competition was from Scoil Eoin and consisted of Harry Cullen, Niall Cagney, Joseph O'Dowd and Sean O'Leary. Each team received a perpetual trophy and plaque for their school and each member of the winning team received a plaque and a Sports Gear Bag filled with loads of goodies. Ballincollig Credit Union Limited sponsored all the prizes distributed on the day. Many thanks to everyone who ensured the Quiz ran very smoothly and we wish both teams every good wish in the next stage.

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SOCIETY of IRELAND

THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND (CORK BRANCH)

CARERS SUPPORT MEETING

MONDAY 10TH MARCH 2003, IN JURY'S HOTEL AT 8P.M.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD MAR 1ST/2ND
ST. MARY & ST. JOHN CHRIST OUR LIGHT

6.00p.m.(Vigil) - Muireann Nelligan	8.00p.m.(Vigil) - Fiona Feely
8.30a.m. - Marian Daly	11.00a.m. - Phil O'Connell
10.00a.m. - Declan Chalmers	12.30p.m. - Con O'Connell
12.00noon. - Oliver O'Donovan	5.30p.m. - Tom Reck



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST



1st/2nd March 2003

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6.00pm: Mary O'Donoghue Steve Wills Margaret O'Sullivan Rita Aherne Rose Doyle June Walsh	8.00pm: Anne O'Regan Marion O'Sullivan Finbarr Murray
8.30am: Mary Buckley Rita Murphy	11.00am: Seamus O'Connell Mary O'Connell Alan O'Riordan Geraldine Keohane Pat Manning
10.00am: Maureen Roche Chris Walshe Peter Reilly Mary Collins Christy Roche	12.30pm: Maura Lombard Jackie Sheehan Mary Green Michael O'Leary Lelia O'Brien
12.00 noon: Oliver O'Donovan Barbara Kelly John Jeffers Mary McLean Ellen Seymour Ita Walsh	5.30pm: Catherine Green Mary Breen Siobhan Burke

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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: 9.00am, 8.00pm (Vigil)

CONFESSIONS

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
Saturday: after 10am Mass before 6pm Mass	Saturday: after 9am Mass

BAPTISMS

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

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty 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

Notices, articles, etc. for publication in our next issue should be handed in on or before 8p.m. each Tuesday to The Office, over sacristy, St. Mary & St. John



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THE SUNDAY READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:18-25

In the introduction to this extract from Isaiah the prophet recalls the wonders God worked for His people when he helped Moses to lead them out of Egypt. However, there is no need to recall the past because God is now doing a greater miracle because He is going to blot out all their sins. Instead of offering God sacrifices they only burdened Him with their sins.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians: 1: 18-22

Paul is answering some calumnies that were put out about him. One such is that he has been fickle and inconsiderate, that he was a man who said "yes" to something today and said "no" to it the day after. On the contrary, he says, he always tried to be like Christ who never changed but always said "Yes" when he meant "yes". He fulfilled all his promises.

GOSPEL: Mark 2:1-12

The dispute with the Scribes which took place on the occasion of this miracle was the first of a series of such conflicts and gives the earliest indication of the growing opposition to Our Lord. He had begun to conduct his mission in complete independence of the traditional religious guides of the Jews. The Scribes watched him continually and finally determined to have him put to death. The miracle which Jesus works is clear proof that he is really the Son of God and can therefore forgive sins.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

1st - MARCH - 03

SAINT DAVID

Saint David, the patron of Wales, is said to have died in the year 601 A.D. He was Bishop of Menevia, later known as "St. David's", then the chief point of departure for Ireland.

Very little is known about his life except that according to tradition he founded twelve monasteries, among them the great names of Glastonbury, Bath and Leominster, in which the monks adhered to a rule of extreme austerity. Because of the location of his principal monastery in Pembrokeshire it is highly probable that he influenced the monastic life of Ireland which was also noted for its austerity.

All we are saying is...

Pray

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Peace

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SIMPLICITY

I have used too many words in my prayers, Lord.

I have tried to fit in too many ideas.

I employ too many arguments.

I have tried to get my prayer,

All neatly tidied up.

I have kept my eye on the clock.

Now I need to return

To the simplicity of childhood.

Not childish, but childlike.

Could it be that I have made the intellect

You gave me to find you,

An obstacle to seeing you?

I don't think myself better than others.

I don't pretend to know it all

I am quiet now before the Lord,

The thoughts of a child on its mother's breast,

A child's thoughts were all my soul knew.

'I have kept my whole being quiet and silent,

Like an infant quieted at its mother's breast,

Like an infant quieted in my whole being.'

Reflection from Psalm No. 131

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