

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Sunday 21-December-2003

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent is an account of a very routine occurrence -- two cousins, two expectant mothers meet and in those women the Life of God and the hope of people meet. Small wonder that such glorious things are said and done. Elizabeth's cry, "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled" can apply to each of us this Christmas. May we take time to tell one another in simplicity of heart how God is present in our lives and give thanks for the wonderful things the Lord has worked for us. . WHY? I hunger for good news, a source of serenity and joy in my life. The reading from Micah provides a hope;

" He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land He himself will live in peace. "

God is truly coming at Christmas. Mary set out as quickly as she could.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Sacrament of Penance) Coming together as a family of believers to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation is one very important way of preparing for Christmas In fact we often come together to commit injustice or to gossip and take peoples good names; so coming together as a people of faith and hope to hear God's call to a change of heart, to remind ourselves of God's mercy and His call to conversion is an important part of Christmas preparations.

Advent is God entering into history... into us. It is light piercing our world and us. There is something asked of us. The Baptist tells us we must be ready; we must change to make ready for him who has been promised. Thomas Merton says" What is uncertain is not the coming of Christ but our reception of him, our response to him, our own readiness to meet him. "

Jesus you are the light in our darkness; ... may we see meaning in our struggles.

In healing and forgiveness you wipe away our tears; .. help us to be a sign of healing within the brokenness around us.

George O'Mahony

Fourth Sunday of Advent

We are about to take our final step in preparation for our Christmas meeting with Christ. In the Gospel we hear the words spoken to Mary: "Do not be afraid". Let us place our trust in God, who is very near us. With open hearts may we embrace the grace of our Saviour.



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.

George O'Mahony, John O'Donovan, Michael O'Mahony & Paul O'Donoghue

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us bring our prayers to God, the shepherd of Israel, who always protects his own.

Reader

For all who follow Christ, that they may make their hearts ready for Christmas.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

For parents who look forward to the birth of their offspring, as Joseph and Mary did, that they may have a safe delivery and the gift of a healthy child.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

For our relatives and friends travelling home, that they may travel safely, and find rest with us.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

For people who dread Christmas because of bereavement or loneliness, that our support may help them through it.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

For all those whom we have wished well, in Christmas cards and greetings, that God may look after them all.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

For our people who have gone before us in faith, that they may share in Christ's resurrection from the dead.

**Lord, Hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.**

Priest

God of hosts, you look down from heaven and see our needs, let your face shine on us and save us, we pray, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

- 21 Sunday Mic. 5: 1-4. Ps 79. Heb. 10:5-10. Lk. 1 :39-45. Lect I: 73
 22 Monday 1 Sam. 1 :24-28. Ps. 1 Sam. 2. Lk. 1 :46-56. Lect I: 88
 23 Tuesday Mal. 3:1-4,23-24. Ps 24. Lk 1 :57-66. Lect I: 90
 24 Wednesday Midnight Mass Is. 9: 1-6. Ps. 95. Tit. 2:11-14. Lk. 2: 1-14. Lect I: 104
 25 Thursday Dawn Mass Is. 62:11-12. Ps. 96. Tit 3:4-7. Lk. 2:15-20. Lect I: 107
 Mass during the Day Is. 52:7-10. Ps. 97. Heb. 1:1-6. In. 1:1-18. Lectl: 109
 26 Friday Acts. 6:8-10,7:54-59. Ps. 30. Mt. 10:17-22. Lect I: 125
 27 Saturday 1 Jn 1 :1-4. Ps 96. Jn 20:2-8. Lect I: 127

† IN SYMPATHY †
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :

Thomas Bogue, Carrigrohane & Wales.
 Monica Murphy, Highfield Lawn.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS:

Frank Kavanagh, Leemount.
 William Treacy, Castleknock.
 Tom Daly, Leemount.
 Mary & John O'Leary, Ovens.
 John & Josephine Cuddihy, Tipperary.
 Maureen Cuddihy, Coolroe.
 O'Connell & O'Leary Families.
 Patrick & Mary Howe, Kildare.
 Paul Wall, Churchfield.
 Thomas & Anne Martin, Shandon Place.
 John & Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane.
 Mick & Mary Gaffney, Limerick & Ballincollig.
 Nora, Con & Donal Ahern, Fr. Sexton Park.
 John, Mary & Harry Twohig, Farranree.
 Masie Kearney late of Farranree.
 Mary & Patrick Radley, Powdermills.
 Josephine Murphy, Castle Avenue.
 Kay Barrett, Beech Park.
 Eugene & Kitty O'Callaghan.
 Anthony McCarthy, Castle Park.
 Helen Cosgrove, Castle Park.
 Dan & Eileen Burke, Whitechurch.
 Kathleen & Denis Hayes, Bandon.
 James Prendiville, Castle Park.
 Noel Buckley, Carrigdene.
 Paul Allen, Beech Park.
 Cecily O'Sullivan, Beech Park.
 Margaret O'Connor, Carrigrohane.
 Michael & Elizabeth Fouhy, East Gate.
 Bridget Noonan, Inniscarra.
 Ellen Healy, Donoughmore.
 Peg MacDowall.
 Tim Mullane, Ballyclough.
 Elizabeth Mullane, Ballyclough.
 Joyce Moylan, Kanturk.
 Gus & Vincent O'Connell, Ballinora.
 James Lucey, Station Road.
 John & Mary Lucey, Coolroe.
 Neil, Noreen & John McGroarty, Cobh.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE PRIESTS OF THE PARISH

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

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Church of Christ Our Light

@ 6.30 pm

Church of St. Mary & St. John

@ 8.00 pm

Monday 22nd December 2003

Fatima Apostolate, Ballincollig

Wednesday 31st December 2003 – New Year's Eve

The 15 Decades of the Rosary will be recited in the Church of St. Mary and St. John at 2.30pm in front of the Crib. All are welcome to pray the Rosary with us, to thank the Lord for all the graces and blessings during the year 2003.

Monday 5th January 2004

The Monthly Meeting of the Apostolate, will be held on Monday 5th January 2004 at 7.00pm in The Youth House, Station Road, Ballincollig. All present members and new members are most welcome.

Wishing all parishioners and visitors a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year

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May the Child Jesus rest at the inn of your heart this Christmas

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Mic 5:1-4
 Jesus Christ is coming soon, as he once came to Bethlehem. His origin is ancient. His message is timeless. His truth is eternal. Jesus Christ is peace itself.

Second Reading: Heb 10:5-10
 The coming of Christ brings about our sanctification. As Jesus came to do the will of God, we too have the same purpose in life. We offer our bodies as a spiritual sacrifice to God. In his will is our peace.

Gospel: Luke 1:39 - 44
 Luke tells us much in this account of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Mary went to Judah to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who knew nothing of Mary's pregnancy before their encounter. Yet Elizabeth knew that there was something special about Mary and the baby she carried. This is made clear by her calling Mary the "mother of my Lord." The baby that Elizabeth carried leaped for joy at the sound of Mary's voice. This completes the prophecy of the angel that Elizabeth and Zechariah were expecting a baby and is symbolic of John's announcing Jesus' coming.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. John 27- December-2003

St. John, the son of Zebedee, and the brother of St. James the Great, was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He became the "beloved disciple" and the only one of the Twelve who did not forsake the Saviour in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Saviour made him the guardian of His Mother. His later life was passed chiefly in Jerusalem and at Ephesus. He founded many churches in Asia Minor. He wrote the fourth Gospel, and three Epistles, and the Book of Revelation is also attributed to him. Brought to Rome, tradition relates that he was by order of Emperor Domitian cast into a cauldron of boiling oil but came forth unharmed and was banished to the island of Pathmos for a year. He lived to an extreme old age, surviving all his fellow apostles, and died at Ephesus about the year 100.

St. John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he had learned from his Divine Master, and which he constantly inculcated by word and example. The "beloved disciple" died at Ephesus, where a stately church was erected over his tomb. It was afterwards converted into a Mohammedan mosque.

John is credited with the authorship of three epistles and one Gospel; although many scholars believe that the final editing of the Gospel was done by others shortly after his death. He is also supposed by many to be the author of the book of Revelation, also called the Apocalypse, although this identification is less certain.

Confessions

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve
 Christ Our Light – Confession 11.00 am – 12 noon
 St. Mary & St. John – Confession 12 noon – 1.00 pm

Legion of Mary

The rosary will be recited at the crib in Ballincollig at 12 noon on Christmas Eve.
 All are invited to take part

Simon Shop Christmas Opening Hours

As the season of goodwill approaches, please remember Corks Homeless People. The Simon Shop on North Main Street will accept clothes, books and bric-a-brac for resale to raise funds for the Cork Simon Community. They will also accept non-perishable food items for the Emergency Shelter and cash donations. The Simon Shop is open from 10 to 4 pm Monday to Saturday and will be open on Sundays from 2 to 4 pm from the 30th of November until the 21st of December inclusive.

Mass Book Opens

The Book for reserving Masses for January, February and March 2004 is now open.

Carol Service

Sunday 21st December
 Annual Carol Service at 8 pm.

St. Mary & St. John's Church

Our local choirs will be joined
 by *Cantairí Mhuscraí*

Thank You

The priests of the parish would like to say a sincere "Thank You" to all the members of the Parish of Ballincollig for their support and fidelity to the Church during 2003. Many young parents bring their newly born babies for Baptism; the churches were packed for the First Communion and so many wished attend the Confirmations that the Bishop had to come to the parish on three occasions as the churches would not hold the invited guests.

There is a great test of Christianity it is the test that Jesus himself applied when he said: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, naked and you clothed me..." The sincerity of our belief in Jesus is ultimately tested by our generosity to those in need.

The extraordinary response to the Christmas appeal of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference proved the sincerity of our parish's response to the words of Christ. Seventeen Thousand and 25 euro (€17,025.00) was contributed at the Masses last weekend. This great contribution was given discreetly, anonymously and without any extra emotional appeals or promotions. It was simply a massive vote of confidence in the members of the local Conference.

The list of those who contribute their time to parish activity is too long to mention here. Choirs, Altar Societies, Parish Council, "Parishioner", Offertory Collectors, Counters, Envelope Distributors, Legion, S.V. de P., Ministers, Servers, Parish Organisations and Boards, etc. etc. are all volunteers who work for God and the parish. You will not see their pictures in the Newspapers. You may not know their names. But you do see the results of their contribution in the liturgical, educational, cultural and social life of our community.

Our wish is that the Lord will reward you all with a happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-27 & Dec-28-2003

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Karen Sheehan
8:30 am
Annette Collins
10:00 am
Dave Murphy
12:00 Noon
Tony Hegarty

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Jacinta Jeffers
11:00 am
Jack Dorgan
12:30 pm
Marlyn O'Connor
5:30 pm
Tom Reck

MASS TIMES

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon

Sunday

11 am, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm

9:30 am

Monday

8:30 am

9:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

9:30 am 6 pm & 10 pm

**Wednesday
Christmas
Eve**

8:30 am, 6 pm, 8 pm &
12 Midnight

8:30 am, 10 am & 12
noon

**Thursday
Christmas
Day**

11 am & 12:30 pm

9:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)

Saturday

9:00 am & 8 pm (Vigil)

CONFESSIONS

After 10:00 am Mass &
before 6:00 pm Mass

Saturday

After 9:00 am Mass

BAPTISMS

5:00 pm

Saturday

7:15 pm

12:45 pm

Sunday

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty

087-2479140

Fr. George O'Mahony 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

NO

EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

CHILDREN'S MASS

The Children's Mass will be celebrated at 6 pm
Christmas Eve in the Church of Christ Our Light

**MINISTERS OF THE
EUCHARIST**

Dec-27 & Dec-28-2003

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Aisling Kelly
Tony O'Leary
Eileen Murphy
Ted Nelligan
Angela Murphy
Ann O'Connell

8:00 pm John O'Donoghue
Eleanor O'Donoghue
Kathleen Daly

8:30 am Helen Kelly
Roddy Martin

11:00 am Mary O'Mahony
Margaret Brown
Rose Cotter
Billy Barry

10:00 am Miriam Maunsell
Mary Buckley
Breda Ring
Jerry O'Connor
Mary O'Regan

12:30 pm Mary Twomey
Terry O'Driscoll
Bernie O'Driscoll
Maura O'Driscoll

12 Noon Louie O'Leary
John Walshe
Pat Kelleher
Irene O'Brien
Ellen O'Sullivan
Imogen Ryan

5:30 pm Garreth Irish
Shelia Curran
Bridie O'Donnell



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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.

Church Collection Envelopes

Boxes are available in both churches this weekend. Each box contains an envelope for each Sunday, plus a separate envelope for the special church collection. I am asking families to please take one box and be good enough to use one envelope weekly to make your family contribution to the offertory collection. The offertory collection goes exclusively towards the maintenance, heating, lighting, insurance and other running costs associated with buildings and a parish. Thanking you for your support.

Ballincollig Entertainment Theatre Presents

‘Aladdin’

December 27th – January 4th
Nightly at 8.00 pm

Matinees: 27th, 28th, 1st, 3rd and 4th at 3.00 pm

No Night Show: 31st and 4th

Info: 086-1960312

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!

Annette’s Hair Salon

Annette, Maeve & Linda would like to wish all our clients a Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Christmas Opening Hours

Monday 22 nd December	9.15am – 6.00pm
Tuesday 23 rd December	9.15am – 6.00pm
Wednesday 24 th December	8.30am – 2.00pm
Tuesday 30 th December	9.15am – 5.30pm
Wednesday 31 st December	9.15am – 4.00pm
Saturday 3 rd January	9.15am – 5.30pm

**3A, Sunningdale, Station Road, Ballincollig.
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REFLECTION

I pray Lord, for the needy of our world:
come among us as one who will help,
and call us all to help the hungry and sick,
the uneducated and homeless,
those who are victims of violence and war,
the lonely and depressed.
May your coming this Christmas be for them a
time of peace and love;
may we bring to them, in what way we can
the joy of your coming.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

We wish to thank all those people who contributed to our Toy Mass on 7th December 2003 and also our thanks to those who handed in toys before and after. *May God bless you all and shower his peace on your hearts and homes during the coming year.*

REFLECTION

God is supremely great. Yet He is happy to reach out humbly towards the little ones. Thus in His plan for His Son, He willed but also that He should become a little child.
-Nicolas Barre-