

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 12-December-2004

Third Sunday of Advent

The coming of Christ brought joy to the world as He healed every sickness and overcame human deprivation. For those who suffer, the joy of Christ's first coming must be tempered by patience as they await their restoration at his Second Coming.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Christmas Collection

Once again, with the kind permission and encouragement of the priests in our area, we are having our Annual Christmas Collection at all masses this Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th December 2004.

As always, at this time of year the Society asks for your generosity and this abundant generosity has never failed us. In May the Society in Ireland celebrated its 150 anniversary at which we had the privilege of celebrating mass with Cardinal Desmond O'Connell. In his homily, the Cardinal pointed out that we in the Society are very closely allied to the Church in as much as we are the Church's direct response to the call of Jesus Himself to feed the hungry. We are thus in a very privileged position to go out and meet the wounded in our community and to assist as best we can. If this is how you in our community see us also, then we gladly embrace this role. However, we serve people with a sense of deep humility, recognising that without the extraordinary generosity of our many benefactors month after month, year after year and, particularly at Christmas time, we would be unable to provide assistance to those who come to us seeking help.

This year, 2004, the number of calls seeking help from the Society of St Vincent de Paul have soared by over 60% nationwide and more than a quarter of a million households are receiving 'assistance. There seems to be a growing disbelief that poverty still exists in Ireland, but despite the nation's affluence, the number of people unable to make ends meet is growing and the number of those in permanent debt has also increased. It is so easy to insulate oneself from harsh realities such as:

There are 70,000 Irish children in consistent poverty-the figure represents 70,000 children without a warm meal every day or a second pair of shoes.

300,000 children live in a household with a total income of less than €300 a week.

The past three years has seen calls to the Society rise by 300%

During the past two years weekly household bills have rocketed. We are now the most expensive country in the Euro zone for basic foodstuffs and yet we expect people to exist on less than €200 a week. Social welfare and pension rates have not kept pace.

According to the latest UN report on Human Development, Ireland has the highest per capita income in the world after Luxembourg and Norway... and yet has the highest percentage of people at risk from poverty in the EU This is not helped by the fact that we spend less on public health, education and social welfare than any other country in the West.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul locally spends:

Over €2,000 monthly on coal during the period of October to March.

Over €12,000 annually in educational support.

Over €500 weekly on direct cash assistance to families in need.

Huge seasonal demands on the SVP at Christmas time, first Communion and Confirmation times and again, every August-September for back to school requirements.

The unstinting generosity of our benefactors to the Society locally raises in excess of €45,000 annually while our local expenditure this year exceeds €60,000, the shortfall being made up from the Society's regional funds who redistribute the surplus from parishes wealthier than our own. Again as always, we wish each and every one of you who support our work, together with your families and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

We commend to you the words of the Father as spoken by Jesus in Matthew 25 when He said "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." We believe that you who are so generous to those less well off in our community will in the fullness of time hear those very words being spoken by the Father as He welcomes you home.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us bring our prayers to God, who raises up those who are bowed down.

Reader

For all Christians, that they may know joy as they prepare for the Lord's coming.

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

For the blind, the lame, the diseased and the deaf of our world, that the Lord may bring them healing and strength.

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

For children who are in need this day, that the generosity of those with plenty may help them.

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

For those who live in fear, that courage may be God's gift to them.

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

For those who have died especially those mentioned in our Mass today, that they may be raised up to glory, we pray.

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

For our own needs, for those who have asked our prayers.

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

Priest

O God, you keep faith with those in need of your kindness and justice, Receive the prayers we make, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Come. Lord. and save us.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Sean Gregory Murphy, 9 Woodbine Lawn, Inniscarra View.

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

Kitty Alton, Cahir.
 Donal Downey, Castle Park.

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

John & Mary O Driscoll, Upton.
 The O'Connell Family, Ballingully.
 Beatrice Shanahan, Fr Sexton Park.
 David Spillane, Magazine Road.
 Mary Chapling, Schull.
 Deceased members of the Flanagan Family Castle Park
 Patrick & Annie Murray, Curaheen.
 The Linehan Family, Kanturk & London.
 Dan Murphy, Clash.
 Mary Lucey, Carriganarra.
 David Bunyan, Listowel & Killimer.
 Ellen Healy, Donoughmore.
 Muriel Bowen, Glasheen Road.
 Josie Hammond, Earlwood Estate.
 Joseph & Margaret Moloney, Athenry.
 Nellie Murphy, Station Road.
 Deceased Members of the Cuddihy Family.
 Paddy O'Flaherty.
 Denis O'Sullivan .
 John & Mary O'Leary, Ovens
 John & Josephine Cuddihy, Tipperary.
 Gus Barrett.
 Maura O Donoghue.

A Child's Christmas Prayer

I've prayed to Jesus, oh so hard,
 to bring me Christmas morn,
 a little baby brother like
 Himself when he was born.
 But Christmas came and Jesus said,
 I cannot find another,
 and so I've come my very self
 to be your little brother.

By the late Cecil McCracken

Bookshop – Christ Our Light

Now in stock Christmas cards, candles, cribs, rosary beads, crucifixes, CD's, tapes, children's bibles, books and a variety of religious objects.

Why not give a religious gift this Christmas!
 Shop open weekends before and after all masses.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week of Advent

12 Sunday Is. 35:1-6, 10. Ps. 145. Jm. 5:7-10. Mt. 11:2-11. Lect 1:46
 13 Monday Num. 24:2-7, 15-17. Ps. 24. Mt. 21:23-27 Lect 1:53
 14 Tuesday Zeph. 3:1-2, 9-13. Ps. 33. Mt. 21:28-32 Lect 1:56
 15 Wednesday Is. 45:6-8, 18, 21-26. Ps. 84. Lk. 7:19-23. Lect 1:58
 16 Thursday Is. 54:1-10. Ps. 29. Lk. 7:24-30. Lect 1:61
 17 Friday Is. 49:2, 8-10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:17 Lect 1:76
 18 Saturday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect 1:79

Next Sunday's Readings 19-December-2004
 Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Rom. 1:1-7. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect 1:68



Third Sunday of Advent

God's coming at Christmas is a time of forgiveness for His People. It is also a call to Reconciliation among His People.

Hymns This Sunday

12 noon Mass St. Mary & St. John
 Please join in with the Cantor.

Entrance	“All people that on earth do dwell”
	“Irish Alleluia”
Offertory	“As I kneel before you”
Communion	“Be thou my vision”
	“Christ be beside me”
Final Hymn	“Morning has broken”

Mass Book Opens

The Book for reserving Masses for
 January, February & March 2005
 Is now open in both Churches

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can read *Mark Twain*

CROWLEY

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
 Isaiah now describes the joy of the kingdom. Advent is a time of gladness because we know that Christ is coming.

Second Reading: St. James 5:7-10
 The prophets of old were teachers; they spoke God's truth. The second reading reminds us to take them as our models.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11.
 John the Baptist had disciples of his own and while in prison he sent some of them to Jesus. At John's request, the disciples asked Jesus if he was the Messiah or were they to wait for another. Jesus did not answer them directly, but pointed to the miracles he had performed in the name of God's love. If John himself did not wonder, it was likely that his followers did. Jesus did not fit the image of "Messiah," and so it was possible that people began to doubt their original perception.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. John of the Cross 14-December-2004

Born in 1542 at Fontiveros, a wind-swept Spanish village in Old Castile, he joined the Carmelite Order in 1563, but was persuaded by St. Teresa of Avila, who discerned his spiritual gifts, to join her reform (the 'Discalced' or barefoot Carmelites) as a chaplain. Externally his life then consisted of hastening from one impoverished new foundation to another, punctuated by an interlude when he was 'captured' by the unreformed Carmelites in 1575 and imprisoned at Toledo (where allegedly he was placed under the table during meetings of the friars' Chapter in order to be kicked by all the members). After St. Teresa's death in 1582 he met with almost as much hostile treatment from the superior of the reform, and died in virtual exile in Úbeda (northern Andalusia) in 1591. His body was taken to Segovia, where it is enshrined; in "Don Quixote" there is an incident where the spindly knight and his fat squire Sancho Panza are frightened by witnessing a ghostly procession passing them in the night, and it is believed that this is a description of the translation of St. John's remains. St. John is above all a mystic poet, seeking God in the nada, the 'nothing'. In his 'Spiritual Canticle', 'Ascent of Mount Carmel', and 'Dark Night of the Soul', he seeks to find God beyond the outer limits of human experience; it is a quest, which can seem morbid or frighteningly lonely until we realise that it is the ultimate search for the companionship of God. 'In order to arrive at having pleasure in everything, desire to have pleasure in nothing'. St. John, diminutive in stature and vast in spirit, he was canonised in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.

Reflection for Parents

It would have appeared to Jesus that John began to doubt. Perhaps it was the confinement of prison that let his mind question what he once so clearly understood. But even so, Jesus affirmed John in this scripture as the greatest of all prophets. From this experience, it is reassuring as parents to know that even when we doubt, either ourselves or God, we are still great in God's eyes. Our strength is in knowing God is with us as a loving parent.

Reconciliation Service

Church of Christ Our Light @ 6.30 pm
 Church of St. Mary & St. John @ 8.00 pm
 on Monday 20th December 2004

Annual Toy Mass

organised by
 Secular Franciscan Order
 Sunday 12th December 2004
at 11.00 am. in Christ Our Light Church
 Do you have any new or nearly new toys you could do without? If so, we ask you to be generous this Christmas and bring them along to our Mass. Thank You.

**Scoil Barra
 Innishmore,
 Ballincollig,**



Scoil Barra Carol Concerts

Church of Christ our Light
 Wednesday 15th December & Thursday 16th December
 @ 7.30 pm
 All are welcome to join in the festive spirit

ISPCC Holly Days Appeal

Unfortunately, this Christmas will not be a happy one for many Children in Ireland today. The holiday season is the most difficult to deal with for some. During the festive season, the ISPCC is there to help. Year after year, Childline is inundated with calls around Christmas time, and we offer help and support to those who need it most. Leanbh, which aims to stop child begging, and our many other services for Children, are also at their most active at this time of year. You can help the ISPCC to make this a happy Christmas for Children in Ireland by supporting our Holly Days Appeal. We urgently need volunteers to sell Holly badges at local supermarkets, shopping center, or town center, or to place a box locally in shops, factories, or place of work. We will provide you with badges, boxes and posters. Before you celebrate Christmas.....celebrate Childhood The ISPCC believes that abuse of children can almost always be prevented, provided the will to do so is there. Please help us to help Children this Christmas For further information please contact John O'Mahony, 12 Mary St. Cork, (021) 4962949, or johnispcc@eircom.net.

Afternoon Ceili

Fundraiser for Munster Fleadh-Macroom 2005
 Sunday December 12th
 Coolcower House Macroom. 3.30 to 6.30pm
 Music Tim Joe and Ann.

Carol Concert Sunday 19th December

St. Mary & St. John Church @ 8.00 pm
 Parish Choir
 Scoil Mhuire
 Cantoiri Muscraí

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-18 & Dec-19-2004

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Aine Sheehan
8:30 am
Elizabeth Daly
10:00 am
Grace Buttimer
12:00 Noon
Sean Hennessy

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Pauline Collins
11:00 am
Ciara O'Neill
12:30 pm
Con O'Connell
5:30 pm
Michelle Beamish

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	Wednesday	8:30 am
9:30 am	Thursday	8:30 am
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**

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dec-18 & Dec-19-2004

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Patsie Murphy
 Breda Foley
 Mary Walsh
 Geraldine Hegarty
 Betty Sheehan
 Ann O'Reilly

8:30 am Theresa Lucey
 Rita Murphy

10:00 am Tadgh Murphy
 Mary Murphy
 Joan Tobin
 Tony O'Leary

12 Noon Michael Crowley
 Breda Lenihan
 Noel Hennessey
 Marie O'Callaghan
 Rena O'Connor
 Angela Roche

8:00 pm Jim Cahill, Kit Cahill
 Sheila O'Connor
 John Canty

11:00 am Brid Healy-Harris
 Angela Cunningham
 Laurence Cunningham
 Nell Cantillon Murphy

12:30 pm Anne O'Connell
 Eileen Garvey
 Sally Power
 Breda Callanan
 Marie O'Brien

5:30 pm Neil O'Donoghue
 Statia O'Callaghan
 Phil O'Connell

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



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Tuesday	9:45 - 5:00 pm
Wednesday	9:45 - 5:00 pm
Thursday	9:45 - 5:00 pm
Friday	9:45 - 7:00 pm
Saturday	9:45 - 12:00 pm

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