

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 06-March-2005

Fourth Sunday of Lent

We walk in the darkness of this world, often assailed by fear and misgiving. But Christ, the Shepherd-King, the second David, lights up our way for us and cures our congenital blindness as he leads us to his kingdom.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

The Light Of The World

'The Light of the World' is the title of a famous picture by Holman Hunt painted in 1854. It portrays Christ, thorn crowned, and carrying a lantern, knocking at a closed door. When the artist showed the completed picture to some friends, one pointed out what seemed to be a mistake. Something missing. 'You have put no handle on the door,' he said to Holman Hunt. The artist replied, "We must open to the light – the handle is on the inside."

The theme linking the readings this Sunday is also light, not just the ordinary light of our eyes or of the sun, but also the light of understanding. Of course these things are connected. The sense of sight is the most prized of all the senses, which is why it is so hard when somebody loses their sight or is born without it. Sight allows us to appreciate the beauty of the world, which God has made. We have heard the saying, "He can't see the wood for the trees." This describes someone who is looking but is not aware.

Our eyesight can be perfect but we can still be blind to the truth. A physically blind person can be more perceptive and have a greater clarity of mind than a sighted person. God does not judge as we do, by looking at appearances only, God looks on the heart and perceives everything. So there is a 'seeing' which goes beyond physical sight.

Christ is the Light of the world. Perhaps as we approach the great feast of Easter, we could have in mind the Pascal Candle, symbol of the Risen Christ shining in the darkness.

We all have some faults in our hearts and minds, which distort our vision, cloud our minds and make our charity less than it should be. However, this should not discourage us. In this world we live by faith. But we will not enjoy the final vision and understanding until we see Christ, face to face in heaven, with Our Lady and all the saints and angels. In the meantime, however, God has given us gifts to help us on our way while we are still on our journey – our pilgrimage. Like the man in the Gospel, we not only see but we are more aware of Jesus.

Lent is a time for penance and renewal. Perhaps then we could pray for each other and ourselves that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will lead us to a greater understanding of our faith. Let us pray in this Lenten time that we will all be drawn deeper into the love and the Light of Christ.

John O'Donovan

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers of the parish

Reflection for Parents

In order to help our children follow the light of Christ, we too must open our eyes. As Jesus helped the blind man understand, it is not enough to see only with our eyes. We need also to see with our hearts and allow our every action to reflect this sight. Jesus healed the man of his blindness, but in the end the man recognised Jesus as the Messiah and worshiped him.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

We know that our prayer, made in the name of Jesus, is always answered. In confidence, then, we bring our needs and the needs of others before our God.

Reader

We pray for the Church throughout the world and for its leaders at this time, that all may truly seek the way of the Lord and be truly light to the world.

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

We pray for the gift of discernment in our lives, and for the grace to make wise decisions, guided by the Spirit of God.

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

We pray for those who are blind or have impaired vision, for those who have lost the precious gift of sight through accident or war, and for oculists, opticians, and all who are involved in medical research relating to human vision.

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

We remember all those who are still recovering from the tsunami in South East Asia and all those agencies and individuals who continue to help in the work of restoration.

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

We pray for our country. We thank God for continued economic growth and we ask for eyes to see the needy among us and hearts to help.

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

We take time to pray for our own individual needs, to pray especially for all mothers on this Mothers' Day, and for those who have died.

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

Priest

Loving God, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. Give us your gift of joy and hearts ready to do your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord is my sheperd; there is nothing I shall want.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Laura Hannah Hill, 33 The Meadows, Classis Lake.
 Eva Maria O'Connell, 32 Old Court, Greenfields.
 Caoimhe Marion Connelly, 9 The Sycamores, Classis Lake.

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Andrew Fisher, Coolroe Heights & Rowena Deasy, Coolroe Heights, Ballincollig.

† IN SYMPATHY †

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :

Mary Kearney, Beech Park.
 Sean McGeough, 13 Holly Road.

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

Lucy Doyle, Mallow.
 John, Nora & Joseph Fleming, Mallow.
 John Joe McCarthy.
 Charles McCarthy.
 John O'Connor, Main Street.
 Gus & Vincent O'Connell, Ballinora.
 Sid Carmody & Joe Barrett, Leo Murphy Terrace.
 Mary Lucey, Coolroe.
 Dan & Maurice O'Connor, Castlegregory, Co. Kerry.
 Nora Harrington, Leemount.
 Margaret Sexton.
 Deceased members of the Lehane family.
 Noreen & Maurice O'Riordan, Donnybrook.
 Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Fairy Lawn, The Lough.
 Daniel (Chip) O'Sullivan, Fairy Lawn, The Lough.
 Denis Hegarty, Poulavone.
 William Murphy, Blarney.
 Eileen Walsh, Muskerry Estate.
 John Lucey, Carriganarra.
 Rita Kinsella, Carrigrohane.
 James Hourigan, Co. Limerick.
 Robert Cuthbert, Douglas.
 William Dwane, Douglas.
 Eugene O'Sullivan, Ballingearry.
 Hannah O'Sullivan, Donoughmore.
 Mabel Neenan, Millstreet.
 Jerry Buckley, Meelin, Newmarket.
 Daniel McSweeney, Cathedral Road.
 Vincent Coughlan, Mill Range.
 John & Ellen Curran, Ballypnehane.
 Mary Agnes Duggan, Millstreet.
 John Kelly, Beech Park.
 Ted Corkery, Aherla.
 Patrick & Mary Kelly, Tipperary.
 Tim Cagney, Gardiners Hill.
 Patrick McCarthy, Castle Park.
 Ann Kearney, Union Hall.
 William & Margaret McNamara and family.
 Nellie Manning, Ballyvolane.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week Of Lent

06 Sunday 1 Sam. 16:6-7, 10-13. Ps. 22. Eph. 58-14. Jn. 9:1-41. Lect 1: 276
 07 Monday Is. 65:17-21. Ps. 29. Jn. 4:43-54. Lect 1: 290
 08 Tuesday Ez. 47: 1-9.12. Ps. 45. Jn. 5:1-3.5-1 6. Lect 1: 292
 09 Wednesday Is. 49:8-15. Ps. 144. Jn. 5:17-30. Lect 1: 294
 10 Thursday Ex. 32:7-14. Ps. 105. Jn. 5:31-47. Lect 1: 297
 11 Friday Wis. 2: 1 , 12-22. Ps. 33. Jn. 7: 1 -2, 10, 25-30. Lect 1: 300
 12 Saturday Jer 11 :18-20. Ps 7. Jn 7:40-53. Lect 1: 303

Next Sunday's Readings 13-March-2005

Ez. 37: 12-14. Ps. 129. Rom. 8:8-11. Jn. 11: 1-45. Lect 1: 305

Information Day

The diocese of Cork and Ross will hold an information day on the ministerial priesthood and religious life on Saturday March 19th in Ennismore 10.30 am. - 4.30 p.m. The first call to priesthood and ministry is given to each of us at Baptism. Thankfully in Ballincollig parish many are answering this call i.e. as Christian parents handing on their faith; teachers and catechists; ministers of the Word and Eucharist various other ministries in the parish. So anyone considering the ministerial priesthood or religious life is encouraged to come along on Saturday March 19th

Notice

The children's Mass is in Christ Our Light each Sunday @ 11.00 am. The parents and children use the crying room for the word of God. Parishioners might refrain from using the entrance door to the crying room during the 11.00 am Mass.

During Lent

Can you give a little more time to the Lord?

"Let my People Go".

Continues every Wednesday at 8 pm,
 Community Hall Annex
 and will finish with Passover Meal on March 23rd
 Looking forward to seeing you

Eucharistic Adoration

Church of St. Mary and St. John
 One hour per week, every Thursday during Lent.
 after 8.00 pm Mass, finishing at 9.30 pm.

CROWLEY

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Enrolment Week

Open Afternoon Wednesday March 9th

From 2 pm to 3 pm

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Beidh Failte Rompu

Scoil Eoin

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March 7th - 11th

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
 The Lord sent Samuel to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse, where Samuel was to anoint the new king of Israel. After Jesse presented each of his sons, the Lord instructed Samuel to anoint the youngest, David.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
 Live as children of light in goodness, justice, and truth. "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Gospel: John 9:1-41
 Using saliva and earth, Jesus made a paste to heal the blind man. The healing became a true conversion for the man, but created some problems for Jesus with the Jewish leaders. Because this healing took place on the Sabbath, the Pharisees accused Jesus of breaking Jewish law. The Pharisees tried to get confirmation of this action from the blind man's parents and from the blind man himself. In the end, the authorities were unable to charge Jesus with any wrongdoing and had to recognise that Jesus was gaining many disciples.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. John of God 08-March-2005

St. John of God was born Joao Cidade in Portugal in 1495. For many years he led the life of a wanderer, adventurer and book-seller. However, after a spiritually enlightening experience at the age of 44, he resolved to devote the rest of his life to serving the poor and ill in Grenada, Spain.
 John of God understood the sufferings of people firsthand. In 1538 he experienced a brief period of hospitalisation in the Royal Hospital, Grenada. His "treatment" for a supposed psychiatric condition gave him a very deep sense of purpose and direction. Psychiatric illness was a mystery in medieval times and the prevailing therapy - or rather torture - for mental illness was a program of floggings and drenching with cold water. The theory was that if sufficient pain was inflicted on patients it would shock them out of their "madness".
 On his release from hospital, John of God made contact with those people most needing his help by roaming the streets and leading the needy back to refuge - his first hospital beginning on the veranda of a wealthy patron's home. Simple acts of hospitality, charity and deep compassion are what earned him the titles "of God" and "Father of the Poor" and, later, sainthood.
 Behind John's outward acts of total concern and love for Christ's sick poor was a deep interior prayer life which was reflected in his spirit of humility. These qualities attracted helpers who, 20 years after John's death, formed the Brothers Hospitallers, now a world-wide religious order.
 John became ill after 10 years of service but tried to disguise his ill health. He began to put the hospital's administrative work into order and appointed a leader for his helpers. He died under the care of a spiritual friend and admirer, Lady Anne Ossorio.

Confirmation

The boys from sixth class in Scoil Eoin will receive the sacrament of confirmation on Tuesday March 8th. Archbishop White will administer the sacrament. The ceremony will commence at 10.30 a. m.

Parish Council

The meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 28th of February was well attended. Michael Crowley facilitated the meeting. Frances O'Brien and Fiona Feely gave a resume of the previous meeting. Each subgroup nominated a contact person to liaise with the parish committee and also a convener for their meetings. It was decided that a notice board be erected outside church and that a notice board in each church will be used just for parish information i.e. Mass times, contacts etc.
 The Liturgy group is planning a display for Mother's day as well as preparation for the penitential services and Holy Week. The organisers of the ministers of the Word and Eucharist rotas are also in the process of recruiting new ministers. Volunteers for either ministry are very welcome. The setting up of a parish office is considered a priority; a group of people are planning this so again suggestions or comments very welcome. Next meeting April 11th 2005.

Getting to Know our Visitors

On Tuesday March 1st a meeting with non-nationals was organised by the Saint Vincent De Paul in the community centre. This informal meeting was an opportunity to listen and learn from some of the people who have come from various places in the world to find work in Ireland. Some of the difficulties faced by people are

1. Isolation from family and friends, leading to depression
2. Culture - food (shock)
3. Attitude to family and extended family.
4. Qualified but not recognised if from outside EU
5. Lack of basic information, buses, shops, schools. Language difficulty.

We consider ourselves a caring community and many of the above issues are within our capability to be addressed. Again many hands make light work we can all do something.

The Wounded Healer

A time to reflect and heal the wounds and weakness we carry.
 Martina Lehane
 Weekend Retreat
 March 18th - 20th
 Fri. 8.00pm - 9.00pm
 Sat. 10.00am - 5.30pm
 Sun. 10.00am - 12.30
 Res. €100.00 Non Res. €70.00
 Place: St.Dominic's Retreat Centre, Montenotte, Cork.
 Booking: Tel. 021 4502520

Mass Book Opens

The Book for reserving Masses for April, May and June 2005 will be opened on Saturday morning, March 12th @ 9 am
 Perhaps parishioners who can attend daily Mass might consider booking a weekday Mass to give an opportunity to those who cannot attend daily Mass.

Fatima Apostolate Group

The monthly meeting of the Apostolate will be held on Monday 7th March 2005 at 7 pm in the Youth House, Station Road.
Present members and new members are all welcome to attend

Society of St. Vincent De Paul Monthly Collection

This Weekend 5th & 6th March 2005

Please Support

Ballincollig Secular Franciscan Order

The monthly Mass and meeting will be held on Thursday 10th March at 11.00 am in St. Mary & St. John Church
 Rosary will be recited at 10.40 am (Sharp)

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Mar-12 & Mar-13-2005

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Karen Sheehan
8:30 am
Elizabeth Daly
10:00 am
Ciara Buttimer
12:00 Noon
Declan Chalmers

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Pauline Collins
11:00 am
Liam Hayes
12:30 pm
Bernard Vallely
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 & 8 pm	Monday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Tuesday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Wednesday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Thursday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	Friday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
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

Mar-12 & Mar-13-2005



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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Monday	10:30 - 5:00 pm
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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