

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 18-December-2005

## Fourth Sunday Of Advent

*God's anointed was born by the power of God's Spirit. He is the Son of God and fulfills God's promise of an everlasting kingdom for his people.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

### A Time of Hope

There are quite a few people who are deeply dissatisfied with their own private lives. They have closed the door on life. God is kept outside. They have lost Hope. Are you one of them?

In the confusion of the last 20 years or so, they have drifted away from the sincere practice of their faith. Now they find themselves in apparently hopeless situations, addicted to drink or drugs, caught up in a way of life that they know is dishonest and unjust. But they see no way out. Imprisoned by their wrong choices, they are unhappy with what they have, yet are unable or unwilling to make any change. Some vent their dissatisfaction by continuous criticism of everything and everyone. Others live mechanically without energy or hope.

Christ never accepted a state of sin or misery as a permanent condition. He offered hope and a new life to every person he met. No evil, weakness or sin is beyond the power of his healing touch. There is no live so twisted that He cannot straighten it, no heart so broken that He cannot mend it again. If only we come to Him, He will wipe away the tears from our eyes so that we can see Hope in live once more.

The gospels show us Jesus going about doing good. Hope flowed from him. The sick were healed, the bereaved were consoled, the poor comforted. Sinners had a special place in His heart...."Your sins are forgiven arise....and walk". No sin was beyond the understanding of His heart or outside the reach of His redemptive power.

The same Jesus is knocking at the door of our lives this Advent Time. Do we ever stop to listed? How often do we turn a deaf ear when we hear His knock? We are now in the Holy Season of Advent, a Time of Hope, although we sometimes lose Hope when we look around at our imperfect world. We look forward now to the coming of Christ, our Saviour on Christmas Day. Let us open the door to Him and to Hope in our lives.

John O'Donovan

### 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.



### Reflection for Parents

Mary accepted the gift of Jesus with a willing and thankful heart. She is a good model for us as we approach this busy and hectic time of year. Rather than be so concerned about all the preparations for the holiday, at least for a few minutes today, take time to thank God for the gift of Jesus and the promise he brings to each of us. Along with Mary, we might be thankful for the gift of our own children and focus today on what is really valuable about these gifts.

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

#### Priest

God's love for us is without end. We bring our prayers with confidence.

#### Reader

That all Christians may be filled with new hope and joy, as the church prepares for the coming of Our Saviour, we pray.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

That Pope Benedict and all the Bishops who assist him in his teaching and guiding role may be constantly refreshed by the Spirit of God, and experience the gratitude and appreciation of all those whom they serve, we pray.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

That the needs of the poor, the weak and the marginalized may be addressed this Christmas, and that those of us who have plenty may share with the most needy, we pray.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

That children everywhere may be cherished, and that the family may be supported as the basic unit of society, we pray.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

That those who are sick or in distress of any kind may find healing and peace, we pray.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

That those who have gone before us on the journey of faith may enjoy the fullness of life in God's Kingdom, we pray.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

#### Priest

Most loving God, hear the prayers we make to you in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

*I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.*

Visit Our Website: [www.ballincolligparish.ie](http://www.ballincolligparish.ie)

**BAPTISMS**

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

John Patrick Quinlan, 13, Old Court, Greenfields

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Nora O'Donoghue, Beaumont. Mourned by her son Seamus, Island Way

John McCarthy, Leeview & Lower Farran. Mourned by Kitty and Mary McCarthy, The Square.

Sean Coakley, Muskerry Estate. Mourned by his daughter and sons.

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

Denis Hallahan, Ballingulley.

Muriel Bowen.

Pat O'Donoghue, The Crecent.

Tim Cullinane (Snr & Jnr), Elm Lawn.

Billy & Kit Foley, Essex.

Eric Scott, Coolroe.

William Tracy, Castleknock.

John & May O'Leary, Ovens.

John & Josephine Cuddihy, Silvermines, Tipperary.

Maureen Cuddihy, Coolroe.

Noreen O'Driscoll, Castle Park.

Dan & Hannah Dempsey, Leemount Cross Road.

Beatrice Shanahan, Fr. Sexton Park.

John & Maura Kelly, Beech Park.,

John & Agnes Handley, Dublin.

The Finnagan Family Intentions.

Jeremiah & Jane Callanan, Poulavone.

Mary Bridget Creed, Inniscarra View Estate.

Ciaran Brennan, Shamrock Drive.

Tim O'Mahony, Ballymacoda.

Florence & Noreen Kelly, Fr. Sexton Park.

Michael O'Leary, Sweetbriar Lane.

Catherine & William O'Mahony, Tudor Grove.

Gerard Delaney, Station Road & Maglin.

Deceased Members of the Flanagan Family, 5, Castle Park.

John & Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane.

Con, Nora & Donal Ahern, Fr. Sexton Park.

Josephine Murphy, Castle Avenue.

Mick Gaffney, Ballincollig & Limerick.

Mary Gaffney, Limerick.

Kay Barrett, Beech Park.

Patrick & Mary Radley, Powdermills.

John, Mary, Thomas & Harry Twohig, Farranree.

Masie Kearney, Oxford.

Eileen Twohig, Farranree.

Bridie Twohig, Farranree.

Neil McGroarty, Beech Park.

John & Mary Lucey, Coolroe.

Neil, Noreen & John McGroarty, Cobh.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Fourth Week Of Advent**

18 Sunday 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88. Ram 16:25-27. Lk 1:26-38. Lect 1: 70

19 Monday Judg 13:2-7, 24-25. Ps 70. Lk 1:5-25. Lect 1: 81

20 Tuesday Is 7:10-14. Ps 23. Lk 1:26-38. Lect 1: 83

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

22 Thursday 1 Sam 1:24-28. Ps 1 Sam 2:1, 4-8. Lk 1:46-56. Lect 1: 88

23 Friday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24. Ps 24. Lk 1:57-66. Lect 1: 90

24 Saturday 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88. Lk 1:67-79. Lect 1: 92

**Next Sunday's Readings 25-December-2005**

Is 52:7-10. Ps 97. Heb 1:1-6. Jn 1:1-18. Lect 1: 109

***Christmas Carol Service***

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December a Carol Service will be held at 8.00 pm in St. Mary & St. John's. This is an opportunity to take time out from the rushing and stress of shopping and cooking and spend some time focusing on the core message of Christmas..

***Rosary at the Crib***

The Junior Presidium of the Legion of Mary will recite the Rosary at the Crib, near the Square on Christmas Eve at 12 noon. All are welcome.

*May the Child Jesus and His Mother watch over you this Christmas and throughout the coming year. As once they came to the stable of Bethlehem, may they come to you and bring you all the desires of your heart.*

***Offertory Collection Envelopes***

The boxes of envelopes for the offertory collections for 2006 are available in both churches from this weekend. There is one envelope for each Sunday in every box and it is an opportunity for every member of the family to contribute. The offertory collection is solely for the upkeep and maintenance of both churches, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses. Thank for your generosity and looking forward to your support for the coming year

***Diary to book Masses***

St Mary & St John fully booked  
Some dates still available for Christ Our Light

**CROWLEY**

**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

*Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork  
Tel: 021-4874777 Mobile: 087-2759254*

*Email: michaelfd@eircom.net*

*Complete Funeral Arrangements  
24 Hour Service Embalming Service*

*Member I.A.F.D.*

*Golden Charter Funeral  
Pre-Planning Available*

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

**THE SUNDAY READINGS**

First Reading: 2 Sam. 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16.  
 God's promise to David is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.

Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27  
 St Paul introduces us to the mystery of Christ, once a secret, but now made known to the whole world.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38  
 Jesus' birth is foretold in this gospel where Gabriel comes to Mary and announces that within her she has the king that Israel has long awaited. To have found favour with God surprises Mary, a woman with none of the qualities valued in her society. She was female, young, poor, and didn't even have a husband or child to give her existence credibility. Not only did this puzzle her, but she knew she was a virgin and carrying a child didn't logically fit. Her puzzlement gave Gabriel the opportunity to explain that the baby she carried was conceived through the Holy Spirit. Mary accepted what was told to her, and remained open to God's will. At the same time, she learned that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also pregnant. This pregnancy was miraculous as well, since Elizabeth had been thought to be barren and was now an old woman.



**SAINT OF THE WEEK**

**St. Peter Canisius 21-December-2005**

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.

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

A copy of Fr. O'Halloran's talk on the Eucharist is available at the sacristy in both churches for all Ministers of the Eucharist. Each Minister of the Eucharist might be good enough to collect a copy.

**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.

**Christmas Collection  
 For The Priests of The Parish**

The Christmas Day and Christmas Eve collection is for the Priests of the Parish. Please give generously. The income of the Priests depends on the dues collection in the spring and autumn and Christmas and Easter church collections. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thanking you in anticipation.

Fr. George O'Mahony, PP

**The Penitential Service for Christmas  
 Christ Our Light St. Mary & St. John**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 6.30 pm      Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 8.00 pm

There are many ways to prepare to welcome the LORD. One of those is by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you are invited to come along to a Penitential Service to give thanks to God for his mercy and forgiveness and ask for his help in the weeks ahead.

**St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection**

Last weekend's St. Vincent DePaul Christmas Collection amounted to €18,525. This amount is an increase on the contributions from 2004. The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are delighted with your generosity. You can be assured that your generosity will bring lots of happiness and smiles to many hard pressed families. Well done to the care and time given by the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in helping the less well off in our midst. Thank you

**Christmas Safety  
 CHRISTMAS TREES**

Place real Christmas trees securely in a sturdy base filled with water - metal stands cause trees to dry out and become flammable. Check the water level daily. If choosing an artificial tree, make sure it has been pre-treated to increase flame resistance. Keep the tree away from candles, heaters, fire places or other heat sources. Dispose of the tree properly. Never burn a real tree in the fire place.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

**Indoors:** Only buy Christmas lights marked with a safety standard. Check all connections on Christmas lights, and ensure that all electrical work (plugs, etc) are carried out by a competent person. If you are using lights from previous years examine the wiring to ensure they are not worn. If in doubt throw them out. Don't overload sockets. Unplug all Christmas lights and electrical appliances before leaving your home or going to bed at night.

**Outdoors:** If using lights outdoors ensure they are suitable for outdoor use. If reusing outdoor lights check all wiring and throw them out if worn. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing outdoor lights. Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up. Never use indoor extension leads outside. Keep outdoor electrical connections above ground and out of puddles and snow. If you have to replace a light bulb unplug the light string beforehand. Ensure trees hung with Christmas lights are not touching power lines.

**Ballincollig Drain Services**

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 Phone (021) 487 0867  
 Mobile (087) 247 6468  
 24 Hour Service

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Dec-24 & Dec-25-2005

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

6:00 pm (Vigil)  
Grace Buttimer  
10 pm  
Oliver O'Donovan  
8:30 am  
Niamh Gallagher  
10:00 am  
Sandra Walsh  
12:00 Noon  
Sean Hennessy

8:00 pm (Vigil)  
Aisling Courtney  
12 Midnight  
Bernard Vallely  
11:00 am  
Margaret Healy  
12:30 pm  
Tadhg Buckley  
5:30 pm  
No Mass

**MASS TIMES**

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon	<b>Sunday</b>	11 am, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm
9:30 am	<b>Monday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Friday</b>	8:30 am
10:00 am, 6 pm & 10 pm	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	9:00 am, 6 pm, 8 pm & 12 Midnight
8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon	<b>Christmas Day</b>	11:00 am & 12:30 pm No 5:30 Mass

**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

**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**

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Dec-24 & Dec-25-2005



**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

6.00 pm Eileen Murphy  
Ted Nelligan  
Angela Murphy  
Ann O'Connell  
Sheila Walshe  
Betty Sheehan

10:00 pm Seamus O'Shea  
Tony O'Leary  
Michael Crowley  
Betty Flavin  
Triona Collins  
Catherine Green

8:30 am Helen Kelly  
Annette Murphy & Mary O'Connor

10:00 am Miriam Maunsell  
Mary Buckley  
Breda Ring  
Mary O'Regan  
John Henchy  
Martin O'Leary

12 Noon John Walshe  
Pat Kelleher  
Irene O'Brien  
Ellen O'Sullivan  
Chris Cotter  
Sally Crowley

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

12:00 John O'Regan  
Midnight Mary Twomey

11:00 am Mary O'Mahony  
Mona Bowen  
Billy Barry  
Mary Aylward

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

5:30 pm



**Ballincollig Hardware**

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**Parish Office, The Presbytery, Ballincollig is open Monday - Thursday from 9 am - 3 pm. Saturday 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206**

**Ballincollig Credit Union Ltd.**

**Harrington Street**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 9.30am – 5.00pm  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 9.30am – 5.00pm  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Closed**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Closed**  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Closed**  
**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Closed**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Closed**  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – 5.00pm  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – 5.00pm  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> 9.30am – 12.30pm  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Closed**

**Harrington St. Ballincollig, Co. Cork.**

Tel: 021-4872305. Fax: 021-4872532.

**Business as usual from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January  
In both offices.**

*We wish all our members  
the compliments of the season!*

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 9.30am – 7.30pm  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 9.30am – 7.30pm  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Closed**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Closed**  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Closed**  
**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Closed**  
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Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – 7.30pm  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> 9.30am – 12.30pm  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Closed**  
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Closed**