

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 12-March-2006

Second Sunday Of Lent

To be asked to offer up your only Son was a terrible sacrifice. In the end Abraham was not asked to make it, but God Himself has offered it for us. It is from this sacramental gift that all our blessings come.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

The New Creation

All of us, I believe, are attracted to and fascinated by the new. In that respect we are like little children who catch sight of something for the first time. They are drawn to what is bright, shiny and colourful – just like fire. How ever old we grow, we retain this curiosity about what we discover to be new. No one knows this fact better than the advertisers and packagers of food, clothing and other articles we buy. We buy so much merchandise nowadays that is fancily wrapped or boxed. There wouldn't be display windows in our stores and markets if they were not meant to catch our eye. I am not criticising this appeal to what is new; I am merely saying this is a fact in our style of life.

But at the same time all the gleam and glitter of our affluent society is forcing upon us the things that are old. Our landscape is being cluttered up with waste. An enormous pile of waste is building up; so much that we have a mounting problem of getting rid of it. Sewage, garbage, pollutants are spoiling our rivers, seas, lands and air. As we drive through the countryside, our vision is blackened by many an advertising sign. Man, by creating the new, already prepares for the old. Before too long, because of fast change, the new turns into the old. We live by a planned obsolescence.

Christianity, on the other hand, is meant to be ever ancient and ever new. Christ came upon this earth to proclaim to his people, and through his people to all mankind, the good news of salvation. In the original language in which Christ preached, which was Aramaic, the word Gospel means Good News, which is to revolutionise the course of history. Not that Christ came as a revolutionary to overthrow earthly kingdoms and seek for himself an earthly empire. His intention and work were to revolutionise human life, to change living into trustfulness, stealing into an honest days work, foul talk into decent speech, hating into living. He was to establish for us a new creation.

One characteristic of this new life-style is that we are to live by the new commandment Christ taught. We have been given a new motive in life. It seems odd doesn't it, that we should refer to the Love of God and of Neighbour as a new commandment. This new commandment of Love One Another is mentioned by St. John in today's Gospel. Actually this was not new in the sense that he was the first to proclaim it. The people of the Old Testament already knew of it and were to abide by it. Why then was it new? Christ saw into human nature as well. He understood that our inner selfishness would prevent us from loving God and the people around us in the world. The commandment of Love therefore is always fresh and new in that it has always to be renewed. The Season of Lent is an excellent opportunity for this Renewal.

This brings us to the question of the real meaning of the new creation, the new Heaven and the new Earth. It surely does not imply only that man can bulldoze the earth and shape it to his own liking, but that man can discover and utilise the world's resources. What is most important about the new creation is that the person himself or herself must become a better person for and within Christ. The new creation is in the making if the man or woman will turn a new leaf. Has there been any improvement in your life during the past year or even in the past days of Lent? There is always room for improvement in each one of us. Christ came into the world to show us that we can become better people. By His coming among us he pointed the way for each one of us to live. Are you allowing God's new creation to take place with your life?

Insofar as we have faith in ourselves we are committed to love. People do not fail one another miserably until they give up loving. Our faith suffers most of all when we refuse to love.

A newspaper editor, commenting upon the cause for disorder in our society, concluded his column with the remark: "Violence is in the heart more than in the street". The same is true of the new creation; "it is in the heart more than in the street or the factories." St. Paul says that our hearts must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that we can put on the new self that has been created in God's way.

John O'Donovan

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

We are encouraged to pray with faith. As a people in need we bring our prayers before our loving God.

Reader

Let us pray for the church throughout the world, especially Pope Benedict.

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

Let us pray for the children who are preparing for Confirmation this week, for their parents and teachers. May they always welcome the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

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

That we will accept failure as proof of our common humanity; realising that we are not made of dreams alone.

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

We pray for all who are trying to discern the voice of God in their lives. May they be helped in their listening and find the guidance they need.

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

That young people preparing for Confirmation this week may be filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit

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

For the members of our community who have died that God's compassionate love may bring them home to heaven.

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

Priest

Father, help us allow the spirit you have given to each of us to transform our lives and our world. Give us the strength to follow him through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

WE WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY ALL THOSE WHO WERE BAPTISED RECENTLY :
Danni Jane Garrett, Castle Park, Ballincollig, Co Cork.

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

Liam Twohig R.I.P., Kileens, Commons Road.
Mourned by daughter Anne Crockett, Glendower.
Denis Foley R.I.P., Newcestown.
Eileen Long, R.I.P, Crosshaven.
Con O’Leary, R.I.P, Kilnaglory, Kilnaglory.
Mourned by his sons and daughters
Derek Buckley, R.I.P, Beech Park.
Mourned by his sons and daughter

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

Agnes & John Handley, Dublin.
Alan O’Callaghan, Aherla.
Anne Kavanagh O’Rourke.
Anne Kavanagh, Muskerry Estate.
Bridget Barrett.
Bridie O’Sullivan, Ballingearry.
Dan O’Leary Glenville.
Deceased members of the Barry Family, Freemount.
Deceased members of the Scannell Family.
Deceased members of the Twohig Family, Kilcrea Park.
Denis Mannix, Doneraile.
Ellen Foley, Cobh.
Eugene & Margaret Teahan, Kilcummin, Killarney.
Fr. Carthach McCarthy, Ballincollig & Skibbereen.
Helen & Noreen Lane, Pouladuff.
Helen Kenneally, Beech Park.
Jim Doyle, Westcourt.
Jim Green, The Square.
Jim Spencer, West Village.
Joe & Tom Heaton, Pierce Place.
Joe Butler, Inniscarra View.
John O’Connell, Main Street.
Kathleen Dorgan, Powdermills.
Michael Bobby Linehan, Inniscarra.
Ned Keating, West Village.
Nora Vaughan, Kilnamartra.
Norah & Paddy Barry, Redemption Road.
Noreen & Eddy DaSilva, Beech Park.
Paddy & Mary Kelly, Tipperary Town.
Richard & Joan Murphy, Clash.
Richard Krauss, Aisling Close.
Richie Cronin, Kilnamartyra.
Robert Cuthbert.
Tadgh and Ellen O’Donovan, Kilmurry.
Teo Corkery, Aherla.
The Deceased members of the Murphy Family.
Thomas, Nora & Sonny Cummins, Kinsale.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Second Week Of Lent

12 Sunday Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18. Ps 115. Rom 8:31-34. Mk 9:2-10. Lect I: 225
13 Monday Dan 9:4-10. Ps78. Lk 6:36-38. Lect I: 231
14 Tuesday Is 1:10, 16-20. Ps 49. Mt 23:1-12. Lect I: 232
15 Wednesday Jer 18:18-20. Ps 30. Mt 20:17-28. Lect I: 234
16 Thursday 16 Thursday Jar 17:5-10. Ps 1. Lk 16:19-31. Lect I: 236
17 Friday Jer 1:4-9. Ps 116. Acts 13:46-49. Lk 10:1-12, 17-20. Lect I: 1015 or II: 1326
18 Saturday Mic 7:14-15, 18-20. Ps 102. Lk 15:1-3.11-32. Lect I: 241

Next Sunday’s Readings 19-March-2006
Ex 20:1-17. Ps 18. 1 Cor 1:22-25. Jn 2:13-25. Lect I: 251

TROCAIRE

In Nicaragua Trocaire is helping young people who live in severe poverty. Some of these young people work in terrible conditions on dump sites recycling the metal and plastics that are thrown out. The work is dangerous and many of these children do not attend school.

This week in the gospel we are reminded of the sacrifice that Abraham made for God in offering up his son Isaac. We should remember the small sacrifice we can make during lent to help children trying to survive on places like dumpsites.

Freds Fashions

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Ballincollig Family Centre
Station Road Ballincollig
Co. Cork.

We urgently need good quality clothes and bric-a-brac for our second-hand shop.
All donations gratefully received.

Thought for Today

The truth the disciples saw on the mountain was always there - Jesus fulfils the hopes and prophecies of the Old Testament (Moses and Elijah); he is God's beloved Son. God tells the disciples, and tells us, to listen to his Son. We need to recognise him in silent prayer.

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18
 By his command to sacrifice Isaac God proclaimed his absolute dominion over the lives of men who are the work of his hands. By the revocation of the order he manifested that he did not wish this dominion to be acknowledged by the actual sacrifice of human life. The double lesson was necessary as the neighbouring Canaanites offered such sacrifices to their gods.

Second Reading: Romans 8: 31-34
 St. Paul summarises the blessings of the spiritual life in the assurance of God's love for us in Christ. All our personal difficulties become insignificant as soon as our eyes turn away from them to contemplate that one great act of love of God in which he did not spare his own Son for our salvation. It is true that there will be an examination after death, which we all fear. Redeemed and defended by Christ we need fear no condemnation from his lips.

Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10
 The Transfiguration of Christ, together with the appearance of Moses and Elias and the declaration by the Father, was a confirmation of all that Christ had taught them concerning his own Person and his relation to the Old Law. It was intended to strengthen the faith of the Apostles and to prepare them for the trials of the Passion. According to Leo the Great the chief purpose of the Transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the Cross from the hearts of the disciples.

St. Patrick 17-March-2006

In the 1990's, Brian Keenan and John McCarthy spent years in captivity after they were taken hostage in the Middle East. When they returned after undergoing an appalling and prolonged ordeal they were like two young men who had returned from the dead. They had lost some of the best years of their youth. They had been deprived of the company of their friends and had lived under the shadow of violent death during those long bitter years. No one would have been surprised if they returned as angry embittered men calling for a crusade of vengeance against their captors and the movements they supported.

In fact both men returned as crusaders for peace and international understanding. Far from hating the men who inflicted so much suffering on them they had developed a respect for them and the points of view they held. The years of captivity had brought a new spiritual dimension to their lives.

Today we think of another man in another age yet similar in his experience of captivity. Patrick, in his autobiography, tells us that as a young man he had no interest in religious matters. He was too busy enjoying the good life of a young man in the comfortable and wealthy Roman world. All that ended when an Irish raiding party invaded his village and carried him off to slavery. In the cold and loneliness of his captivity he found the one from whom life takes its meaning. He wrote: "When I came to Ireland I was tending herds every day and I used to pray many times during the day. In the course of a single day I would say as many as a hundred prayers and almost as many in the night. Before dawn I used to be roused up to pray in snow or frost or rain. I never felt the worst for it."

Patrick suffered greatly at the hands of the Irish, yet he held not the slightest trace of bitterness towards them. This ability to forgive enabled him to be open to God's call to go back to the Irish to bring them the true Faith. The flowering of that Faith is still to be seen today in sophisticated works of art like the Ardagh chalice, the cross of Cong and the Book of Kells.

Diary for Mass Intentions

The diary to book mass intentions for April, May & June is now open in both churches.

Irish Red Cross Society

Church Gate Collection will be held on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th March, 2006

Parking at St. Mary & St. John Church

The yellow line at the side of the church is there to deter people from parking in that space. Its there to ensure the flow of traffic at all times. People might be kind enough to abide by this request of not parking on the yellow line.

Scoil Barra Enrolment Week

13th – 16th March 2006

Any parents wishing to enroll their child in Scoil Barra are invited to call to the school any day, 13th to 16th March, between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm. There will be an 'Open Night' on Wednesday, 15th March from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm when prospective parents may come and visit the school and meet some of the staff. All are welcome including the potential 'new arrivals'. Please note that in line with Scoil Barra's Enrolment/Admission Policy all Applications for Admission to next September's Junior Infants Classes must be received on/before 31st March 2006.

Donal O'Sullivan (Principal).

**Scoil Barra, Innishmore, Ballincollig, Co. Cork.
 Tel.: (021) 4873459**

St Patrick's Day

Friday 17th March 2006

St. Patrick was set apart by God to bring his word to the end of the earth. He brought faith in Christ to our land and the message of peace for those who accept that faith. Today we thank God for Patrick who was true to his vocation and so made it possible for our names to be written in heaven.

Confirmations 2006

Scoil Mhuire

Wednesday March 15th 2006

Lenten Programme

The Lenten Programme continues every Tuesday.
 Venue: Upstairs Room of the St. Vincent DePaul premises.
 Time: 10.00 – 10.30 am.
 The programme is based on the readings for the coming Sunday.

All are welcome.

Cork Simon Community

Volunteer required for the fundraising office of Cork Simon Community for general office duties, Monday or Wednesday morning for 3 hours approx. For more information please call Mairead on 021 4321166 or email fundraising@corksioncommunity.ie

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Mar-18 & Mar-19-2006

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Aine Sheehan
8:30 am
Niamh Gallagher
10:00 am
Jessica Looney
Grace Buttimer
12:00 Noon
Sean Hennessy

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Aisling Courtney
11:00 am
Joseph Manning & Aideen O'Connor
12:30 pm
Tadhg Buckley
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 & 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 & 6 pm (Vigil)	Thursday	8:30 am & 8 pm (Vigil)
8:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon & 8 pm	Friday	11 am, 12:30 pm & 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**

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

Mar-18 & Mar-19-2006

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6.00 pm	Eileen Murphy Ted Nelligan Angela Murphy Ann O'Connell Sheila Walshe Betty Sheehan	8:00 pm	John O'Donoghue Eleanor O'Donoghue Kathleen Daly
8:30 am	Helen Kelly Annette Murphy Mary O'Connor	11:00 am	Mary O'Mahony Mona Bowen Billy Barry Mary Aylward
10:00 am	Miriam Maunsell Mary Buckley Breda Ring Mary O'Regan John Henchy Martin O'Leary	12:30 pm	Mary Twomey Terry O'Driscoll Bernie O'Driscoll Maura O'Driscoll Mary Lehane
12 Noon	John Walshe Pat Kelleher Irene O'Brien Ellen O'Sullivan Chris Cotter Sally Crowley	5:30 pm	Garreth Irish Sheia Curran



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Saturday 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206**

Ballincollig Credit Union Ltd.

Harrington Street
Tel: 021-4872305
Fax: 021-4872532



New Town Centre Office
Tel: 021-4208300
Fax: 021-4872532

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.30 – 5.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Friday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Saturday	9.30 – 12.30 pm

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Monday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Tuesday	9.30 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.30 – 5.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 – 7.30 pm
Friday	9.30 – 7.30 pm
Saturday	9.30 – 5.00 pm