

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



**St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road**

**Sunday 29-October-2006**

## Thirtieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

*The giving of sight in today's gospel, might also be described as the confirmation of faith. Most of us have the faith to turn to Christ when we are in need, but our faith often has to survive the negative voices around us, that would make out that he is indifferent to our needs. We see him today as the Saviour, who cares for our immediate as well as our ultimate needs.*



**Christ Our Light  
Innishmore**

## What do priests do all day?

When I calculated the time I worked in a recent week it was just shy of 60 hours! There are 2 daily weekday morning masses in the parish, one in each church. Add in extra masses for first Fridays, weddings and funerals and the weekly total has often gone as high as 15 masses in a week! But that is not all; Parish institutions like the 3 nursing homes and Westgate foundation also have regular masses and visits from the priests. (Not forgetting that the weekend mass schedule has a total of 8 masses!)

But the week isn't all about masses. Because the parish has a fast growing population, Baptisms too are numerous (annual average of 300), with ceremonies on Saturdays and Sundays. Once a booking is made parents are invited to a Pre Baptism talk. Saturdays are synonymous with weddings, especially in the summer. Up to 40 weddings a year are held in the parish. I estimate that each wedding takes a minimum of 8 hours work. From the initial booking, right through the prenuptial enquiry, form filling and other administration work, (calls, e-mails, organisation of all legal documentation) assisting the couple in planning their ceremony so that their day is personalised; the rehearsal and then actual wedding day. But there are also many hours of unseen work relating to weddings which are held elsewhere (i.e. Gougane Barra or The Honan), because the documentation process takes place in the parish of residence.

Funerals are intense and can be very moving as they are such emotionally charged times. It can be personally very draining making the emotional shift required when a funeral and a wedding occur on the one day, as is often the case. A death involves contacting the family, the rosary and removal, and then the funeral mass and burial. Sometimes a working day that begins at 8am doesn't end till 9pm. So it is very easy to have an unavoidable 13 hr day.

The 4 Primary schools in the parish require weekly visits, planning liturgies and celebration of sacraments at an age appropriate level for children. The teachers of the classes who will make first communion and confirmation need extra support and lots of preparation and planning has to be put into this work. This often involves night work with parents (enrolment celebrations etc). The priests also have a role in serving on/or nominating for Boards of Management.

As a team, all of the priests have a pastoral planning meeting every 2 weeks; just one of the many regular parish meetings. The Parish Pastoral Council and Finance committee meet regularly at night. Planning liturgies for the different seasons requires meetings with the many people in the parish who volunteer their gifts and talents. Those in parish ministries (Lectors, Ministers of Eucharist etc) need preparation and regular support (retreats, in-service days), all of which take time in planning and organising.

Appointments with people who need to discuss personal issues are often in the evenings and take a lot of time and energy. The sick and housebound are visited every month and sometimes more often, especially if close to death. Parishioners in hospital will be visited too if we are notified. Let's not forget time required for personal prayer and planning, researching and writing homilies for the weekend masses and the variety of other celebrations that occur in a typical week. (not forgetting the time to pen this column!)

The task of home visitation, as well as showing pastoral concern for bereaved families make other calls on our time. There are just 3 priests serving in the parish, and taking into account normal absences due to illness, family events, annual holidays, retreat and periodic in-service courses, it leaves the day to day running down to 2 priests for a large portion of the year.

So if you are breathless from reading this, you might wonder if there are great perks to our job? Our income is derived from the donations of parishioners received in the Dues envelopes twice yearly, plus offerings for Weddings, Baptisms, Mass stipends, and the collections at Christmas and Easter. The total brings us close to the average industrial wage or the starting salary for a teacher. Only in the context of vocation, responding to the Lord's call and the personal fulfilment it brings does it all make any sense.

**Sean O'Driscoll**

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### Priest

Just as Jesus took pity on Bartimaeus and restored his sight, so will God have pity on us and hear our prayers.

### Reader

For the Church, that all its members may walk faithfully in the footsteps of Jesus.

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

For world leaders, that they may work co-operatively for peace and justice in our world.

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

For all who are sick, that they may experience the healing touch of Jesus.

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

For those who suffer from impaired vision or loss of sight, for all individuals and agencies who assist them, and for all who work as researchers and medical teams in the field of optics and related areas .

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

For the needs of this community and safety on our roads this holiday weekend.

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

For our beloved dead, that the light of God's glory may shine on them.

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

### Priest

Merciful God, you hear the prayers of those who cry out to you. Be with us as we seek to follow Jesus, and grant us what we need in the name of him who is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

***What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.***

**BAPTISMS**

**WE WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY ALL THOSE WHO WERE BAPTISED RECENTLY :**  
 Jenna Annabel Quinn, 13 Chestnut Lawn, Classis Lake.  
 Ronan Robert Nagle, 38 Fernwalk, Greenfields.  
 Zach Q O'Mahony, 46 Willow Grove, Coolroe Heights.

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

Kay Fitzsimons, England.  
 Gerry O'Leary, Knockburden.  
 Mourned by his wife Louie and family.  
 Bernard Carroll, 22 Glendower.  
 Mourned by his daughter Patricia.  
 Jerry O' Leary, Knockburden.  
 Gertrude Riordan, Glasheen.  
 Mourned by her daughter Pauline of Beech Park.

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

Jim Butler, Inniscarra.  
 Breda, James & Denis O'Donoghue, West Village.  
 James Dillon, Sunday's Well.  
 Con & Bridie O'Sullivan, Westcourt.  
 John Cremin, Inniscarra.  
 Tom Ryan, West Village.  
 Colette Cox.  
 Sheila & Tim Coakley, Castlehaven.  
 John McSweeney, Kerry Pike.  
 Mary McCarthy, Kerry Pike.  
 Kathleen O'Keeffe, Aylsbury.  
 Michael McCarthy, Dripsey.  
 Dan and Mary Dwyer, Leo Murphy Tce.  
 Michael Ring, Castlepark & Dungourney.  
 Arthur Collins, Church Road, Carrigrohane.  
 Paddy Forde, Castle Park.  
 Tom Walsh, Maglin.  
 Maura Creed, Ballingearry.  
 Mrs. Forde, 109 Castle Park.  
 Rita Fouhy, Glincool.  
 Marie Daly, Maple Lawn.  
 Diarmuid O'Hegarty, Wilton Avenue.  
 Agnes & John Handley, Dublin & Mayo.  
 Billy Kelly, Fr. Sexton Park.  
 Jeremiah Carroll, 8 Castle Avenue.  
 Morgan O'Callaghan, Kanturk.  
 Daniel O'Callaghan, Clash Cross.

***First Friday***

**Friday 3rd October, 2006,**

As well as the morning and evening Masses the priest's of the parish visit the sick and housebound and take communion to them. Please let us know if you have a sick relative and if necessary a priest will visit.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Thirtieth Week In Ordinary Time**

29 Sunday Jer 31:7-9. Ps 125. Heb 5:1-6. Mk 10:46-52. Lect I: 817  
 30 Monday Eph 4:32-5:8. Ps 1. Lk 13:10-17. Lect II: 838  
 31 Tuesday Eph 5:21-33. Ps 127. Lk 13:18-21. Lect II: 840  
 01 Wednesday Apoc 7:2-4, 9-14. Ps 23. 1 Jn 3:1-3. Mt 5:1-12. Lect I: 999 or II: 1244  
 02 Thursday Readings are chosen from Masses for the Dead. Lect III: B49 - 890 (or Lect I: 1002)  
 03 Friday Phil 1:1-11. Ps 110. Lk 14:1-6. Lect II: 846  
 04 Saturday Phil 1:18-26. Ps 41. Lk 14:1-7-11. Lect II: 848

**Next Sunday's Readings 05-November-2006**  
 Deut 6:2-6. Ps 17. Heb 7:23-28. Mk 12:28-34. Lect I: 820

***Novena for The Dead***  
***November 2nd to 10th, 2006***

November is a month dedicated to our deceased relatives and friends. It is the time of year when we are asked to pray for our dead and thank God for their efforts and goodness to us. Christ's prayer to his Father is "I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me." I would encourage everyone to make a special effort to come to daily Mass during the Novena for the Dead and maybe even keep up the effort for the month of November.

**Envelopes are available in both Churches.**

***Irish Heart Foundation***

The "Over 60's Show" featuring past winners of the competition will take place at the Cork Opera House on Sunday November 26th at 8.00 p.m. Also on stage will be Sonny Knowles and Comedian Sean Connors.

Tickets on sale at the Opera House €20, €18 and €15.

Proceeds to the Irish Heart Foundation.

Sponsored by Chi - Sullivan's Quay.

***Diabetes Federation***

Diabetes Health Awareness Exhibition will be hosted by Diabetes Federation of Ireland in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Douglas, Cork on Sunday the 12th of November from 12 to 5 pm. All are Welcome and Admission is free. Diabetes Screening available as well as free testing for Retinopathy & Glaucoma, Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, A1c, BMI and Carbon Monoxide/Smoking cessation. For further information, Lo-call 1850 909 909.

**CROWLEY**  
**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

*Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork*  
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**THE SUNDAY READINGS**

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

Today's reading tells us to exult, that God has gathered and saved his people.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6

We are told of the selection of the Priest as mediator between God and man.

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Today's gospel the restoring of his sight to the blind beggar. His sight is restored to Bartimaeus but just as important he becomes the symbol of "those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death" Bartimaeus expresses his conviction by his repeated cries, by his leap of faith which makes him reject every support and takes him towards the one who calls him and is going to heal him. No sooner is he cured than Bartimaeus gets ready to follow Jesus on the way, his cure leads him to conversion and type of model disciple.

**Annual Graveyard Masses**

Will take place in St. Oliver's Cemetery at 2.00 pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 and in St. Mary & St. John Cemetery on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2006

**Annual Mass for Recently Deceased**

The annual Mass for the recently deceased of Ballincollig Parish will be held at 8.00 pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 in St. Mary & St. John. If you would like to include a relative please hand the name into the Sacristy or the Parish Office.

**Mission Sunday**

Today we are seeing the changing face of mission.

Young churches are now missionaries to themselves, replacing missionaries from the Older Churches, like the Church in Ireland. These missionaries serving on the front line of spreading the Gospel are accompanied and assisted by the prayers and sacrifices of many in the home Churches. Thank you for your contributions & response on Mission Sunday.

**It really does make a real and lasting difference.**

**Feast of All Saints**

November 1<sup>st</sup> we remember all the saints who share the happiness of heaven. We are called to be saints by becoming more like our Father. This is our greatest possible fulfilment. It begins already, if we allow ourselves be moulded by the Beatitudes.

**Please observe New Mass Schedule**

**St. Mary & St. John Church**

8.30 am, 10.00 am & 8.00 pm

**Christ Our Light Church**

Eve 8.00 pm (Vigil), 12.30 pm & 6.30 pm

**Society of Saint Vincent De Paul**

Monthly collection will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2006

**Welcoming the newcomer to the parish of Ballincollig.**

Mission Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> marked a special occasion in the parish of Ballincollig. For the first time an open invitation was given to all newcomers in the parish, to attend a welcoming Mass, followed by an informal get together in the Scout Hall.

Preparation for the occasion began several months previously when a group of parishioners formed a committee to discuss and prepare an appropriate welcoming event. Contacting the newcomers was a difficult task in such a large parish. Great efforts were made and on Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> in the parish church of St Mary and St. John, all those who graciously accepted the invitation, were welcomed by Fr Michael. Ten nationalities were represented ( Ivory Coast; Nigeria; Cameroon; Congo; Ghana; Mexico; Philip-pines; Malaysia; Italy and Russia ).

During the beautiful sung Mass, the celebrant Fr. Michael made sure all newcomers felt welcome on this special occasion. The church was decorated with appropriate symbols of universality; the word welcome was displayed in many different languages as well as a display of memorabilia from many countries. Various items reminding us of our missionary calling were displayed also in Christ our Light church. The newcomers were very pleased with the effort made to welcome them into the life of the parish.

They were also delighted to meet one another and form new friendships. It was an experience for the parishioners present to experience first the multi - racial, multi - cultural and multi- religious aspect of Ballincollig and to realise that God's kingdom of unity and diversity is taking place in our midst. There still remains much to be done in contacting other newcomers who have come and are still coming to the Parish, but a start has been made.

Special thanks to the Mulcahy family who provided the lovely music in the Scout Hall and to the Scout leaders who kindly made their facilities available. Thanks to Ballincollig Community school and Scoil Barra who helped decorate the churches, Last but by no means least, thanks to the many generous women who helped in providing the refreshments and seeing to the needs of the newcomers, especially as we were blessed with a big number of small children who enlivened the occasion.

Fr. George

**Knock**

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Night Vigil in Knock. A coach will leave St. Mary & St. John Church, car park, Ballincollig, @ 2 pm on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2006 for a Night Vigil in Knock. The fare is €18.00.

**For more information please contact  
Caroline on 021 4884443 or 087 6377169**

**49<sup>th</sup> Cork Ballincollig Scout Group**

**Extract from camp log**

My favourite activity at camp was when we went to the island of Cape Clear. It was very enjoyable especially the trip to the island on a people ferry (boat) because you could stick your head out the side of the boat and get sprayed by the water. When we got there we went to the shop. Then basically walked around the island. Then when the day was almost over we went home. We had some laugh.

By Alan Linehan

**Cub Scouters know that patience is a quality, which is most needed when it is exhausted.**

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Nov-04 & Nov-05-2006

**St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light**

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Aine Sheehan  
**8:30 am**  
Niamh Gallagher  
**10:00 am**  
Margot Twomey  
**12:00 Noon**  
Sean Hennessy

**8:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Aisling Courtney  
**11:00 am**  
Cormac Manning  
Marie Ni Niada  
**12:30 pm**  
Bernard Vallely  
**5:30 pm**  
Brian O'Donoghue

**MASS TIMES**

<b>St. Mary &amp; St. John</b>		<b>Christ Our Light</b>	
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 & 8 pm (Vigil)	
8:30 am, 10 am & 8 pm	<b>Wednesday</b>	12:30 pm & 6:30 pm	
9:30 am & 8 pm	<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am & 6:30 pm	
9:30 am & 8 pm	<b>Friday</b>	8:30 am & 6:30 pm	
10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	<b>Saturday</b>	8 pm (Vigil)	

**CONFESSIONS**

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

**BAPTISMS**

4:30 pm **Saturday** 4:30 pm  
Except First Saturday of Month First Saturday of Month  
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. Sean O'Driscoll C.C. 021-4870434**  
**Fr. Anthony O'Mahony -**



**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Nov-04 & Nov-05-2006

**St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light**

6.00 pm	Steve Wills Margaret O'Sullivan Rita Aherne Rose Doyle Jim Walsh Frances O'Brien	8:00 pm	Anne O'Regan Mairead Murphy Finbarr Murray
8:30 am	Mary Buckley Rita Murphy Mary O'Keefe	11:00 am	Seamus O'Connell Mary O'Connell Alan O'Riordan Geraldine Keohane
10:00 am	Christina Walsh Peter Reilly Mary Collins Christy Roche Katie O'Shea Claire Creedon	12:30 pm	Lucy O'Callaghan Jackie Sheehan Mary Green Michael O'Leary
12 Noon	Oliver O'Donovan Barbara Kelly John Jeffers Mary McLean Ellen Seymour Nora Hennessy	5:30 pm	Noelle Buckley Mary Breen Siobhan Burke



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

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<b>Monday</b>	<b>Closed</b>
Tuesday	9.30 - 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.30 - 5.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 - 5.00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9.30 - 5.00 pm</b>
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