

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 02-December-2007

First Sunday of Advent

Christ was born into the world to be the light of all people on their through life. Today we renew our dedication to live as He has shown us, so that when He comes again we will be ready to receive him.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

The Season of Advent

The Christmas lights are in place, many of the shops are already decorated and all that is fine. This week Catholics begin the season of Advent. Basically Advent is about waiting and making a little room for Christ in our lives. During these weeks we are encouraged to wait for the coming of the Lord. We continue to cry out 'Come Lord Jesus'. Most of us don't like waiting, we see waiting as a waste of time, waiting bores and irritates us; this may be one of the reasons we find it so difficult to appreciate Advent.

God himself waits and so enters into the spirit of Advent. He, who has given us all things in his Son, waits in silence for us to return his love and for the new person to be constituted. So also does nature wait, for the spring and the harvest.. When we wait we go beyond ourselves and experience that we are made in the image and likeness of God. Advent is a time to remember the creative experience of waiting in our lives or the lives of people we have known. The people who have waited for us at one time or another. We remember the great waiting experiences in human history, in the Bible and especially in the life of Jesus.

Waiting can be, as we know from our own experience, a time of suffering and sometimes of despair.. This Advent let us make a special effort to feel for those who are crying out in their agony, 'How long, O Lord'? - Those we can name and many others, 'Whose faith is known to God alone'.

The fruit of Advent is that we grow in the virtue hope, that God is present even when he is hidden from me.

George O'Mahony

First Sunday of Advent

Lord, help us to remember that YOU are near us always as we struggle, step by step, to get nearer to YOU, in this special season.
"God of Hosts, bring us back; Let Your face shine on us and we shall be saved"



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Advent is a time of waiting, but also a time of hope. In this spirit we bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader

That this advent may be a time of grace for all who look to Jesus as Saviour.

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

That we may prepare ourselves fully for the coming of the Lord.

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

That we may learn the ways of the Lord and walk in the path of righteousness.

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

That peace may descend on our world and on our homes.

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

That we may be ready to receive Christ into our hearts and homes this Christmas.

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

That those who are anxious or troubled may find consolation during this time of waiting.

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

Priest

Heavenly Father, hear these prayers we place before you. Help us to turn our hearts towards you this Advent season. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.
Amen.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The annual Christmas Indoor Church Collection for St. Vincent de Paul will take place on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December.

Please give generously.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Adam Matthew Holland, 10 The Heathers, Classis Lake.
 Robyn Elizabeth O’Keeffe, 162 Beech Park.
 Freya Hannah Cott, 43 The Green, Coolroe Meadows.

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Thomas Bernard O’Sullivan, An Caislean Drive & Nicola Mary Stafford, An Caislean Drive.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Timmy O’Reilly, Watergrasshill.
 Margaret Lehane, Mayfield.

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

John & Ellen Beamish.
 Jim, Katie & Ellen O’Grady.
 Susan O’Driscoll, Carrigidene.
 John Ross, Innishmore Park.
 Deceased members of the Legion of Mary.
 Deceased members of Cummins & O’Regan families
 Con O’Regan, Maglin.
 Yva O’Donoghue, Ovens.
 Eric Scott, Coolroe.
 Dermot O’Brien.
 James O’Sullivan, Klmichael.
 Edward O’Riordan, Carriganarra.
 Brendan Q’Sullivan, Glendower.
 Agnes Kavanagh, Fr Sexton Pk.
 Ted Roche, Inniscarra View Estate.
 Deceased Members of the McCarthy Family, Little Island.
 William Q’Dwyer, Kilmichael.
 Denis Q’Mahony, Douglas.
 Brendan Whelan, Elm Lawn.
 Kathleen Murphy, Glounthaune.
 Patrick & Kitty Fitzgerald, Connelly Road.
 Deceased Members of the O’Connell Families.
 Kathleen Fitzsimons.
 Deceased of the O’Sullivan Family, Poulavone.
 Annie Curran, Killbrittan.
 Phil Coughlan, Tower St.
 John, Nora & Joseph Fleming, Mallow.
 Mary McNamara, Mallow.
 Deceased Members of the Lucey Family, Station Rd.
 Mary Kennedy, Farmers Cross.

Reflection for Parents

There is more work for parents to do in a day than will ever get done. Some of us work outside our homes while some stay at home. In either case there are always bills to pay, laundry to wash, meals to prepare, errands to run and things to fix. Unless we deliberately set aside time to prepare ourselves and our families for Jesus’ return, we will continue with the busyness of everyday life like the people of Noah’s time and the workers in the field and at the mill. Especially at this time of year, it is easy to get caught up in the demands centred on Jesus’ birth rather than his return.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

First Week Of Advent

02 Sunday Is. 2:1-5. Ps. 121. Rom. 13:11-14. Mt. 24:37-44. Lect I: 3
 03 Monday Is 2:1-5. Ps. 121. Mt. 8:5-11. Lect I: 10
 04 Tuesday Is 11:1-10. Ps. 71. Lk. 10:21-24. Lect I: 13
 05 Wednesday Is. 25:6-10. Ps. 22. Mt. 15:29-37. Lect I:15
 06 Thursday Is. 26:1-6. Ps. 117. Mt. 7:21 .24-27. Lect I:18
 07 Friday Is. 29:17-24. Ps. 26. Mt. 9:27-31. Lect I:20
 08 Saturday Gen. 3:9-15, 20. Ps. 97. Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12. Lk. 1:26-38.
 Lect I: 1009 or Lect II:1289

Next Sunday’s Readings 09-December-2007

Is. 11:1-10. Ps. 71. Rom. 15:4-9. Mt. 3:1-12. Lect I: 24

Scout News.

Every Last Friday night the Scout Troop braved the bitterly cold night to go on an overnight and a night hike. We set off from the scout hall at 9 pm and arrived in Bandon scout hall, after unloading our gear, we set off once again for Courtmac, where all wrapped up against the cold we set off on a night hike around the seven heads. The night because it was cold, was grand and bright and the going was easy at first, when we got to the first head, we stopped for a rest and also to see what was all around us. The stars were all out as also were some satellites, which prompted a conversation about navigation and our use of GPS’S and how they work. We also saw an aircraft or maybe it was a UFO who knows at that time of the night/morning. On we went the ground becoming more difficult, the scouts had to be more careful. We crossed over stiles, and walked on the border of wet fields, until in the moonlight some eagle-eyed scout saw a shape on the hillside. It was decided to turn back and retract our steps to the safety of the other side of the fence, funny how some leaders quite happy to lead from the back all night, at the word bull, sprint to the head of the line, to help the scouts over the stile from the safety of the other side. After all the excitement of the night we returned to the hall for hot choc and hotdogs After a short nights sleep we packed up and cleaned up and headed out to Garretstown for some games on the beach and then back to Ballincollig.

Just in case any body does not know:

**The Scout Bazaar this Sunday
 2 pm, Community Hall.**

The Coeliac Society of Ireland

Date: Tuesday, 4th of December, 2007
 Place: SMA Hall, Wilton
 Time: 8.00 p.m.
 Christmas Party Night.
 “Bring something and taste something”
 All welcome

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The Prophet Isaiah speaks of a time when all the nations will hear the Word of God and be united.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

St. Paul issues a wake-up call for this Advent season.

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-40, 44.

The emphasis of today's Gospel is on the second coming of Jesus.

Matthew refers to three events that show we do not know when Jesus will return, but the message is clear: we are to be ready! The first reference Matthew makes is to Noah and the flood. People were occupied with their daily lives / eating, drinking, and marrying. In the second example, men were working in the field and women were grinding at the mill. Some were taken and some remained. In the final example, the master of the house could have prevented the robbery if only he had known when the thief would come. This Gospel is a stern caution for each of us to live in preparation for Jesus' return.

Bulletin Board

Advent Retreat

Ballincollig Advent Retreat in Church of St. Mary & St. John 3rd, 4th & 5th December 2007. Retreat will be conducted by the Redemptorists.

First Friday

Friday 7th December is the first Friday in the month of December. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St Mary & St John from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm, you are invited to come and spend some time with the Lord on that day. There is Mass in St Mary & St John on Friday Evening at 8.00 pm. The priests of the parish visit the sick of the parish on the first Friday of each month; please let us know if you have a family member or neighbour who is sick or housebound.

Mass Book

Diaries to book Mass intentions for January, February & March, 2008 will open in both Churches on Saturday 8th December at 9 am.

Masses

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Saturday 8th December

St Mary & St John

Vigil Friday 7th December 8 pm (Also First Friday)

Saturday 8th December

8:30 am & 10:00 am

Christ Our Light

Vigil Friday 7th December 6:30 pm

Saturday 8th December

12:30 pm

Children's Mass

Children coming to the Children's Mass at 11.00 am in Christ Our Light on 9th December are invited to bring a new toy. Please indicate the age and gender for which the toy is appropriate. **Fr. George**

Child Protection

A Child Protection Policy for the Diocese of Cork and Ross will be published shortly. This policy will ensure that all children and young people who are involved in Church related activities are safeguarded and protected. Each parish will, in the near future, appoint one or two Parish Child Protection Representatives. They will be responsible for ensuring that all information about child protection procedures will be available in each parish. Information and training sessions will be held throughout the Diocese for those interested. In a letter to the people of the Diocese this weekend, Bishop Buckley encourages parishioners to give serious consideration to volunteering for the position of Parish Representative when the posts are advertised in each parish.

Working with "The Niall Mellon Trust" and the Township experience in South Africa.

During the first week of November from the 2nd to the 10th, 1,350 Irish men and women took part in the biggest ever Township Challenge in Freedom Park, Cape Town, South Africa. This was the largest ever exodus of Irish people to a charity event overseas and was the fifth Township Challenge the Niall Mellon Township Trust has organised.

We surpassed our target of 200 houses and built 203. These 203 houses will house 1,100 children and 450 adults. One week of hard work has changed the lives of generations of some of the poorest families in the world. Over 200 families have moved from a one roomed shack to a house with 2 bedrooms, a kitchen and a bathroom. Most importantly, these houses will have running water, electricity, and sanitation - facilities we take for granted in our everyday lives.

After a late departure from Shannon and a three hour delay in Ghana en route, we eventually reached Cape Town at approximately 2.00am where we were greeted by Niall Mellon himself. We were quickly ferried off to hotels as we had to report for our briefing at 9.00am. The first day was to be the easiest day!! The typical day from there onwards was breakfast at 6.30am, bus at 7.15am to arrive at the township for work at 7.45am. Work commenced at 8.00am and finished at 5.30pm.

On the worksite, we were broken into teams which were clearly identified by the colour t-shirt that was provided. We wore royal blue. Then each team was sub-divided into groups of 8 people. My team consisted of 3 solicitors from Dublin, 1 stone mason from Kerry, myself, and ironically, by pure chance, 3 block layers from Ballincollig. They were James Barrett, Geoff Barrett and Donal Hegarty.

Life in Cape Town for the volunteers is very different to that of the tourist experience. We didn't get to visit Robben Island and while we could clearly see Table Mountain, only very few had the time to take the cable car ride to the top. Cape Point was only one hour away but again, time was too restricted.

However, what we saw and the places we visited are the places the tourist wouldn't dare go.

There were security concerns as this part of Cape Town is quite dangerous and we were not allowed outside the perimeters of our worksite unless we were accompanied by security.

Each day, a small group of people were allowed to visit the people in the township to experience exactly how life is on a daily basis. So we visited their shacks, sat and spoke with the family and played with their kids. The two most striking things about these people are firstly, despite the fact that they have no running water, electricity or sanitation, they are very clean people and secondly, despite the fact that they have nothing, they are very happy. The children in particular always had great big smiles on their faces and absolutely adored having their photograph taken. They particularly enjoyed looking at the picture afterwards on the screen of your digital camera and sometimes the teenagers would request that you take it again if they weren't happy with the first result. However, at times, there was a little confusion amongst the younger children because they couldn't understand why the people that were still working with 35mm film could not show the pictures immediately as is with the digital camera.

The conditions in which we worked were pretty harsh at times. November is the beginning of the South African summer and therefore, the weather can vary a lot. We had some days that began with rain and then later changing to temperatures of 28°C when the sun cream had to come out. However, the worst conditions were sand storms. The area in which we were working had very little soil. In fact, it was more like a desert. This township was established in 1998. Because of the fact that they have no sanitary facilities, it's normal to use a bucket and then bury it in the sand. When the sand storm begins, the risk of infection from the contaminated sand is very high. Particularly if you have an open wound caused by injury. Many people were put on anti-biotics as a result of this where infection during a sand storm could set in within 3 minutes if the wound had not been attended to.

In appreciation for the support I received from the people of Ballincollig, and to fulfil my promise from last October when I first asked for your support, I would like to invite you all to a special mass at 12.30 pm on Sunday 9th December 2007 where I will make a presentation to show you the full impact of this project. There, we will perform some authentic African music as we did last October when I first asked for you donations to enable me to participate in this years "Niall Mellon Township Challenge". I will also make the presentation at all the other masses in the "Church of Christ Our Light" on December 8th & 9th. I look forward to seeing you there.

Brendan O'Halloran.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-08 & Dec-09-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Derval Spillane
Muireann Nelligan
8:30 am
Pat Fennell
10:00 am
Sean Collins
Katie Collins
12:00 Noon
Thomas Miller
Niall Hartnett

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Rebecca Feely
Jessica Lingard
11:00 am
Dave Murphy
12:30 pm
Joseph Manning
5:30 pm
Marlyn O'Connor

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 & 8 pm (Vigil)	Friday	8:30 am & 6:30 pm (Vigil)
8:30 am, 10 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	12:30 pm & 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. Ted Sheehan	021-4876171



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dec-08 & Dec-09-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Michael Maher
Ber Bell
Betty Casey
Frank Riordan
Siobhan Riordan
Sr. Martha

8:30 am Mary Buckley
Theresa Lucey
Triona Collins

10:00 am Anne Cahill
Pat Lee
May Delaney
Cathy Horgan
John O'Donovan
Betty Flavin

12 Noon Joan Barrett
Sheila Carroll
Seamus O'Donovan
Joe Coghlan
Geraldine Graham
Catherine Greene

8:00 pm Geraldine Lynch
Charlie Vaughan
Joan Stephenson

11:00 am Marie Ui Chrualaof
Neil Jeffers
Eileen O'Donoghue
Bridie O'Donnell
Bridie Hanrahan

12:30 pm Con O'Connell
Denis O' Mahony
Christine O'Mahony
Tom Murray
John O'Regan

5:30 pm Patsy Galvin
Bernard Curran
Clare Curran



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Parish Office, The Presbytery, Ballincollig is open Mon - Wed from 9 am - 1 pm & 2 pm - 3 pm. Sat 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206, Office Secretary Catherine Crowley.

Ballincollig Credit Union Ltd.

Harrington Street
Tel: 021-4872305
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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