

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 23-December-2007

Fourth Sunday of Advent

It was through Our Lady's faith and perfect obedience to God's will that Christ was born, the promised Emmanuel, God - with - us. God continues to be with us if we receive His Son in faith.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Matthews Gospel - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matthew's Gospel opens with a puzzle. In the first section, a genealogy is presented tracing Jesus back through Joseph to David. The claim is made through the paternal line from Jesus back to David. No other Gospel presents such a list or such a genealogy and one wonders why it is there. The next section presents an entirely different reading of the credentials of Jesus. This time it is stated that he is the son of Mary and indeed that he was conceived before she came to live with Joseph (Mt 1: 18) by the power of the spirit. The text stresses the fact that Joseph was not the natural father of Jesus, a strange conclusion in view of the genealogy story above. A third story is equally strange and is presented in Mt 2:1 as astrologers saw a sign in the sky. They interpreted the sign as saying that something extraordinary was about to happen and when they came to Herod we are told that he was very disturbed.

Three signs or accounts, all pointing to the same fact, that the birth of Jesus Christ was significant. There is a mixture here of three stories that would carry special meaning to three specific religious groupings. The first are orthodox Jews and a group known as Ebionites who believed that Jesus was an ordinary human being, naturally conceived and born. The second are those who believed that Jesus was specially elected by God in a manner they did not yet understand but which involved both the promise of God, the faith of Mary and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The third were the pagan believers particularly Zoroastrians who paid particular attention to the importance of star signs. All of these groups are being pointed towards Jesus, the son of Mary, mother of the Church, and are being called to pay attention to his particular message..

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to save us. Having gone to such great lengths for love of us, he will not refuse our requests.

Reader

For the Church throughout the world and for all who seek to live by the gospel, that their faith may be re-kindled during the coming season.

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

For Pope Benedict, that he may continue joyfully to lead the faithful by his teaching and example.

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

For unity among Christians, and for an end to the scandal of divisions.

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

For our civic leaders and all who work for justice and peace in our world, that the Christ of Bethlehem may seal their dreams and bless their efforts.

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

For families this Christmas time, that they may celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

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

For those who travel during the coming days, that they may travel safely.

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

Priest

Most loving God, you care for your people and supply their every need. Hear the prayers we make today in the name of Jesus, your son, who is Lord forever and ever.
Amen.

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.



Best Wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

The priests of the parish join in sending their Christmas greetings to all members of the parish and to all readers of the Ballincollig Parishioner. We thank you all for your help and co-operation during the past year.

You will be remembered in our Christmas Masses.

George O'Mahony, Michael O'Mahony, Sean O'Driscoll & Ted Sheehan



Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Jerry Bermingham, Blackrock.
Molly Wilkinson, Wicklow.
Timothy O'Riordan, Ballyvoumey.
Gene Fitzgerald, Bishopstown.
Liam Leamey, Ballyduff Waterford.

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

Alex McSweeney.
Bernard Boylan, Maple Lawn.
Billy Greene, Station Road.
Bridget O'Regan, Carriganarra
Bridie & Michael O'Regan, Carriganarra
Bridie O'Driscoll, England.
Catherine O'Sullivan, Kilmichael.
Cecily O'Sullivan, Beech Park.
Con, Nora & Donal Ahern, Fr Sexton Park.
Dan Jo & Margaret O'Shea, The Crescent.
Dan & Mary Gaffney, Limerick.
Deceased members of John A Wood.
Deceased of the Moran family, England.
Denis & Ellen Hallahan, Ballingulley.
Denis O'Riordan, Kilmichael.
Dermot & Barry Murphy, Carriganarra.
Eileen & Tommy Long, Crosshaven.
Eileen Pageth, Australia.
Farrell Dunne, Thurles.
Gerry Phelan, Dublin.
Hilda & Ned Allen, Turners Cross.
James & Catherine O'Sullivan, Kilmichael.
Jim Spencer, West Village.
Joe Barrett, Inniscarra View Estate.
Joe O'Leary, Classes.
John & Ellen Kingston, Clonakilty.
John & Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane
John Doab, The Crescent.
John, Mary, Thomas & Harry Twohig, Farranree.
John O'Sullivan, 37 Castle Park.
Joseph Guerra, Portugal.
Josephine Murphy, Castle Avenue.
Kay Barrett, Beech Park.
Lil O'Mahony, Bandon.
Mary Cahalane, Muskerry Estate.
Mary Creed, Inniscarra View.
Mary McEvoy, Ballincollig.
Mary O'Mahony, Castlepark.
Masie Kearney, Oxford.
Maureen Callanan, West Village.
Michael Crowley, Togher.
Michael Gordon, Glasheen Road.
Michael O'Leary, Inniscarra View
Mick Gaffney, Limerick & Ballincollig.
Pat McGrath, St Finbarr's Park.
Patrick, Margaret & John O'Mahony, Carriganarra.
Patrick & Mary Radley, Powder Mills.
Peter & Hannah Crowley, Leemount.
Sean Crowley, Poulavone.
Sean Forbes.
Sean Ruane, Dublin & Mayo.
Tadgh O'Connor, Friars Walk.
Theresa Strahan, Dublin.
Tony Allen, Inniscarra View Estate.
William Treacy, Castleknock.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week Of Advent

23 Sunday Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Rom. 1:1-7. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I: 68
24 Monday 2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps. 88. Lk. 1:67-79. Lect I: 92
25 Tuesday Is. 52.710. Ps. 97. Heb. 1.1 6. Jn. 1.1 18. Lect I: 109
26 Wednesday Acts 6:8-10, 7:54 - 9. Ps 30. Mt 10:17-22. Lect I: 125
27 Thursday 1 Jn 1:1-4. Ps 96. Jn 20:2-8. Lect I: 127
28 Friday 1 Jn 1:5-2:2. Ps 123. Mt 2:13-18. Lect I: 129
29 Saturday 1 Jn 2:3-11. Ps 95. Lk 2:22-35. Lect I: 131

Next Sunday's Readings 30-December-2007
Eccles (Sir) 3:-6, 12-14. Ps 127. Col 3:12-21. Mt 2:13-15, 19-23. Lect I: 114

To all our Readers & Parishioners

Happy Christmas

Nollaig Shona Dhuit

Feliz Navidad

Boas Festas

Sretan Bozic

Ruumsaid juulup\hi

Hyvaa joulua

Joyeux Noel

Buone Feste Natalizie

Priecigus Ziemas Svetkus

Linksmu Kaledu

Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia

Sarbatori vesele

Cestitamo Bozic

*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.

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

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

The first reading contains Isaiah's prophecy of the events we celebrate at Christmas.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul's message is another reminder of what we are preparing to celebrate.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Matthew recounts the circumstances of Jesus' birth by telling us the story of Mary's engagement to Joseph and the child she carried originating from the Holy Spirit. This reality made no sense to Joseph, but he did not want to dishonour Mary so he planned to quietly divorce her. An angel came and told Joseph not to be afraid, that Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and that they should call him Emmanuel meaning, "God is with us."

Bulletin Board

Confessions

St. Mary & St John

Monday Christmas Eve 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Christmas Day Masses

St. Mary & St. John

6.00 pm (vigil)

10.00 pm

8.30 am

10.00 am

12 Noon

There will be no 5:30 pm Mass on Christmas Day in Christ Our Light

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm (Children's)

8.00 pm

12 Midnight

11.00 am

12.30 pm

Christmas Collection

According to the Diocesan custom, the collection at Christmas Vigil / Day Masses is one of two occasions during the year when the offertory collection goes to the priests of the Parish.

Toy Mass

Sincere thanks to all the children and families who brought toys to the 11 am Mass in Christ Our Light on Sunday December 9th. The toys have been donated to Barnardos and your generosity has been greatly appreciated.

Offertory Collection

Envelopes for the offertory collections for 2008 are now available in both churches. 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, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches. Thank for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year. Families who have signed a Direct Debit are not expected to contribute to this collection and can refrain from taking a box.

Ministers of the Word

The Sunday Missal is available in the Sacristy of both Churches please collect one in your own time.

St Mary & St. John

Parking is at a premium with the great number of cars used. We request church users to be careful not to obstruct exits in the car park adjacent to Church. Be extra careful when parking adjacent to Madonna House, be sure not to obstruct exit as this is the only point of entry for ambulance.

Fr. George

Scout News.

The last overnight activity for the scout section took place last Saturday night. The troop met at the Scout hall and we set off to Clonmel where we went swimming, the leaders took to the sauna to try and lose a few pounds, we then went to a fast food outlet where we put back on all those pounds. We then travelled to Mount Melleray Scout Centre where we are staying over night. As usual been on the side of the Knockmealdown's it was very cold, so we wrapped up very well and headed off on a night hike. We were climbing high up on Knocknafada where there was a cross. We had to take a wide detour as not to wake the Monks living in the Abbey near the Scout Centre. Having climbed to the Cross the wind was bitterly cold we returned to the centre, we had something hot to eat and we watched a D.V.D. The time at this stage was 3 am and all went to bed. Sunday morning we cleaned up and packed our gear and just had time to have a go on the climbing wall before we returned to Ballincollig.

Whatever your past has been, you have a spotless future.

Christmas Day approaches with its message of joy and happiness – a reminder that our future will be narrow and of little use if we do not allow the Christmas message to be part of our life, not only on Christmas Day, but also on every day throughout the coming year. Scouting sends you, wherever you may be, our wish that you will have a very Happy Christmas and that your Christmas happiness may remain with you until next Christmas.

Vacancy for the position of Sacristan

at St. Mary and St John's Church, Ballincollig.

Applications are invited for the position of sacristan in Ballincollig parish at St. Mary and St John's Church, Station Rd. Ballincollig.

Applications are invited in writing to Fr George O'Mahony, The Presbytery, Station Rd. Ballincollig. Co. Cork.

Closing date for applications 23rd December 2007.

St. Vincent De Paul

On behalf of the Ballincollig Conference of St. Vincent de Paul I want to thank most sincerely the people of Ballincollig for their support and generosity throughout the year, and especially for the contribution of over €17,500 at our recent annual indoor church collection. A word of thanks to all our collectors for their assistance.

There are many deserving calls on the society especially at this time of year, and your generosity will go towards helping those in need in our community.

Wishing you all God's blessings and a Happy Christmas from all the conference members.

Tim Meehan - President Ballincollig St. Vincent De Paul.

Wish as you Pray and Pray as you wish

Offer a Prayer of Peace through the infant Jesus. In the baskets at the back of the Church you will find a stack of notelets on which you can write your very own private message or prayer for Christmas. Write your message and fold it over and then place it in the transparent box on the Alter. There they will remain during the Christmas Season.

You may wish to make a very private prayer or pray perhaps for somebody who can't be with you this Season. Maybe say thanks for something or somebody!

It is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body.
Colossians 3:15

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

from The Parishioner Editorial Team

Our Next publication will be on Sunday January 6th 2007

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-29 & Dec-30-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Sandra Walsh
8:30 am
Susan Fennell
10:00 am
Hannah Bunyan
Stephen Bunyan
12:00 Noon
John Dorgan
Fearghal Monahan

8:00 pm (Vigil)
Fiona Feely
11:00 am
Lisa Madden
12:30 pm
Brian O'Donoghue
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, 6 pm (Vigil) & 10 pm	Monday	8:30 am, 6 pm, 8 pm & Midnight
8:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon	Tuesday	11 am, 12:30 pm
9:30 am	Wednesday	
9:30 am	Thursday	
9:30 am	Friday	
10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	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-29 & Dec-30-2007

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Steve Wills
Margaret O'Sullivan
Rita Aherne
Danny Farrell
Jim Walsh
Frances O'Brien

8:00 pm Anne O'Regan
Mairead Murphy
Finbarr Murray

11:00 am Seamus O'Connell
Mary O'Connell
Alan O'Riordan
Geraldine Keohane
Gerard Murray

8:30 am Mary Buckley
Rita Murphy
Mary O'Keefe

12:30 pm Lucy O'Callaghan
Jackie Sheehan
Mary Green
Michael O'Leary

10:00 am Christina Walsh
Peter Reilly
Mary Collins
Christy Roche
Katie O'Shea
Claire Creedon

5:30 pm Noelle Buckley
Mary Breen
Siobhan Burke

12 Noon Oliver O'Donovan
Barbara Kelly
Sean Hennessy
Mary McLean
Ellen Seymour
Nora Hennessy



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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

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