

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 22-March-2009

Fourth Sunday of Lent

*Jesus came among us to light our way to true humanity, our way to God. Our reaction to him is a sign of the kind of people we are. It is also a sign of what our future will be. Our judgement will depend on our faith in him.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

## Alpha

Ballincollig Parish plans to run an Alpha course after Easter. This is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal, fun and friendly environment. The course starts on Wednesday April 15th, and continues in Colaiste Choilm on each Wednesday evening from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm for ten weeks. The Alpha course explores some of the basic truths of the Christian faith – “Who is Jesus?” “Why Did Jesus Die?” “How does God guide us” and “What about the Church?” During the programme there is an option of a day away to explore the work of the Holy Spirit. The course is Christ centred and scripturally based.

The course is relaxing, non-threatening, low key, friendly and fun. Participants meet weekly and listen to a talk lasting 40 minutes, followed by a tea/coffee break and participants then break into small groups to discuss the talk and questions arising from it. Alpha is for everyone; no question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. We don't assume any background knowledge of or belief in Christianity and everyone is welcome. You don't have to come to the whole course – just pop along for the first night and see what you think. No pressure!

Alpha has been run in this area by the Carrigrohane Union of Parishes (Church of Ireland) for many years. I remember attending my first Alpha course there in 1995, I went along with some reluctance, but found to my surprise that it was friendly and enjoyable, fun really. It explored the faith in a “non-Churchy” and thoroughly adult way. I subsequently helped to run courses and found the Alpha experience to be enriching in terms faith and friendship.

Billy O'Sullivan

## History of Mother's Day in Ireland

The history of celebrating Mothering Sunday or Mothers Day in Ireland can be traced to the medieval practice where children from poor families were sent to work as domestic servants and apprentices to work with the rich. Once in the year in the middle of the Lent these children were given a day off to visit their 'Mother Church' and worship Virgin Mary. After visiting the Mother Church or Cathedral of their home town these children visited their mothers and presented them with flowers they picked along the way. Girls bake special Mothering Cake on the day. Pattern of living changed after the Industrial Revolution and Mothering Sunday celebration almost lapsed. The custom was revived after World War II. Americans too helped to bring back the charm of the festival in European countries as their tradition and way of celebrating Mothers Day spread far and wide.

*"Best Wishes To All Mothers Today"*

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### Priest

Through the ages the Lord has cared for his people. We turn now with confidence to present our needs before him.

### Reader

We pray for the Church; that it may continue to inspire people across the world to follow the light of Christ.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For leaders, especially those who rule in lands where conflict reigns; that they may strive to build peace.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who preach the gospel and as a consequence suffer ridicule; that they may receive strength and guidance from the Holy Spirit to continue their mission.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For vocations; that all those whom the Lord calls may respond positively to their calling.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who are sick, especially the terminally ill; that they may receive strength and healing from the Lord.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the dead; that they may be brought to life with Christ and that they may be given a place with God in heaven.

**Lord, Hear us,**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

### Priest

Heavenly Father, you turn hatred to love, conflict to peace and death to eternal life. Hear the prayers we make today in the name of Jesus, your Son, Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

*O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!*

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

**BAPTISMS**

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

Erin Margaret Fleming, Caislean Drive.  
 Ciaran Patrick Doyle, The Willows, Classes Lake.  
 April Rose O'Brien, Greenfields.  
 Sophie Anna Wall, Hillsboro, Model Farm Road.

**MARRIAGES**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Paul Britton O'Driscoll, Muskerry Estate & Joanne Nicola Arnold, Mahon.

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Margaret Harley, Westgate.  
 Martin Power, Ovens.  
 Dominuque Fallett Blandine, USA.

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

Richard Murphy, Innishmore.  
 Bernie O'Connell, Kilnaglory.  
 Julia & Dan Desmond, Farran.  
 Irene White, Leemount.  
 Neil McGroarty, Beech Park.  
 Tadhg and Ellen O'Donovan. Kilmurry.  
 Deceased Members of the Parish Choir.  
 Pat & Billy Coomey, Carriganarra.  
 Deceased members of the Twohig family, Kilcrea Park.  
 Pat Mc Namara, Inniscarra View.  
 Tom McAuliffe, The Square.  
 Thomas Holmes, Leo Murphy Tce.  
 John Emperor, Rockchapel.  
 Fr. Des Cantwell.  
 Margaret Keating, Leeview.  
 Ellen and deceased members of the Cronin family.  
 Tim & Catherine McCarthy, Dunmanway.  
 Ann Horgan, Tipperary.  
 Eddie & Noreen De Silva, Beech Park.  
 Nellie Murray, Ballingearry.  
 Deceased members of O'Mahony family, Macroom.  
 Ina O'Shea, Innishannon.

**Book Shop**

The shop in Christ Our Light church is open this weekend. The shop carries a variety of religious goods including children's Bibles, Rosary beads, Baptism candles and a variety of religious Icons.

**CROWLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Fourth Week Of Lent**

22 Sunday 2 Chron 36:14-16, 19-23. Ps 136. Eph 2:4-10. Jn 3:14-21.  
 Lect I: 281

23 Monday Is 65:17-21. Ps 29. Jn 4:43-54. Lect I: 290

24 Tuesday Ex 47:1-9, 12. Ps 45. Jn 5:1-3, 5-16. Lect I: 292

25 Wednesday Is. 7: 10-14, 8: 10. Ps. 39. Heb. 10:4-10. Lk. 1 :26- 38.  
 Lect II: 985

26 Thursday Ex 32:7-14. Ps 105. Jn 5:31-47. Lect I: 297

27 Friday Wis 2:1, 12-22. Ps 33. Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30. Lect I: 300

28 Saturday Jer 11:18-20. Ps 7. Jn 7:40-52. Lect I: 303

**Next Sunday's Readings 29-March-2009**

Jer 31:31-34. Ps 50. Heb 5:7-9. Jn 12:20-30. Lect I: 310

***The following is food for thought...***

The most destructive habit is worry.  
 The greatest joy is giving.  
 The greatest loss is that of self respect.  
 The most satisfying work is helping others.  
 The most endangered species are dedicated leaders.  
 Our greatest natural resources are our young people.  
 The greatest boost we can get is encouragement.  
 The greatest problem to overcome is fear.  
 The most effective sleeping pill is peace of mind.  
 The most crippling parasites to progress are excuses.  
 The most powerful force in life is love.  
 The greatest soother and comforter is prayer.  
 The most dangerous pariah is a gossiper.  
 The world's most incredible computer is our brain.  
 The worst thing to be without is hope.  
 The deadliest weapon is a sharp tongue.  
 The two most powerful words are 'I can'.  
 Our greatest asset is faith.  
 The most worthless emotion is self pity.  
 The most beautiful attire is a smile.  
 The most appreciated word is 'Thanks'.  
 The most contagious spirit is enthusiasm.  
 To the world you may be one person but to one person you may be the world.  
 Finally, I am never ever on my own. No matter how dark, sad or impossible my personal story is, I can always turn to someone to share my burden.

*Following many requests above is reflection used by Fr. James in his homily last weekend.*

**TROCAIRE**

In the Old Testament we hear many stories of exile. The Jewish people were very familiar with being forced to flee from their home. The exiles to Babylon and to Egypt are the most famous examples of this. They knew what it was to be without the comfort and security of being in their own home. Jesus too was familiar with the type of experience Khalid had. He was a refugee as a child in Egypt and all throughout his public ministry he was an itinerant preacher. Since 1962 Burma has been ruled by the army who have continued to attack religious and ethnic minorities, burning villages, arresting people and forcing thousands into forced labour. Almost 1 million people have been forced to leave their homes and more than 150,000 have fled to temporary refugee camps along the Thai/Burma border. This Lent we ask that you support the people of Burma and other oppressed minorities around the world by donating to Trocaire this Lent. For more information log onto [www.trocaire.org/lent](http://www.trocaire.org/lent)

**THE SUNDAY READINGS**

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23  
 The Sacred Writer sees the misfortunes of God's people as a well deserved punishment for their infidelity and sins. The King of Babylon (present day Iraq) conquered them, burned the Temple and took them away to his country between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers where they languished for seventy years. God, however, did not abandon his people. He brought about their liberation when the Persians came to power (present day Iran) and liberated them.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2: 4-10  
 Just as God liberated and purified his people by sending the King of Persia to help them so he sent his only Son Jesus to liberate us from our sins. We did nothing to deserve this great gift. We are God's work of art.

Gospel: John 3: 14-21  
 Salvation not judgment is the direct purpose of the mission of the Son of God. Men make their own judgment by their attitude to him. He who believes incurs no damnation. The unbeliever is already in a state of damnation because he has established himself as an unbeliever in the mission of Jesus. The person who confesses and accuses his sins is already on the side of God.

**Ballincollig Scouts**

Last Sunday the Tuesday night Macoimh went on a day hike to Gouganebarra. The pack was divided into 4 groups and each was set tasks which they had to complete, the tasks were tree identification, brain teasers, signalling and naming everything in the forest. Afterwards some of the group went river walking, it was very cold, wet and a lot of water spilled over the tops boots and wellies. When every one was dry there was a big game of manhunt. Everyone was loaded on to the bus and returned to Ballincollig.

**Another day on camp:** The Troop went to Mass on the Sunday; we returned to the village of Le Rozier, the older Scouts along with some of the leaders had planed to hike back to the house we were staying in. They started off at about 12 noon hiking along the Tarn River for an hour and then started to climb upwards on narrow paths. The going was very tough and the heat did not help. Along the way the group had to climb steel rungs in the rock and up ladders bolted onto the rock to reach the top of the gorge. Spectacular views of the river nearly 500m below them, sheer cliffs and vultures (some eyeing the scouts) overhead. Once they had reached the top, they had another two hours hiking to reach La Caxe above the house and then it was all down hill to a well earned dinner.

*And use your brains. It's the little things that count..*

**Muskerry Local History Society**

March Lecture

Subject: **In Footsteps of St. Finbarr. Historical Journeys in Lower Lee Valley With illustrations**  
 Speaker:- Kieran McCarthy- Author and Historian  
 Venue:- Ballincollig Rugby Club Function Hall  
 Date & Time:- Tuesday 24th March @ 8 pm  
 Admission :- €2.00 for non members  
 Everyone most welcome.

**Bulletin Board**

**Confirmation 2009**

Monday 23rd March 2009 - Scoil Eoin  
 Please keep the boys, their parents, families and teachers in your prayers.

**Masses during Lent**

For the duration of Lent there will be evening Mass in **Christ Our Light at 6.30 pm** and **St Mary & St John at 8 pm.**

**Mass Book**

Diaries to book Mass Intentions for April, May & June are now open in both churches.

**Priesthood in Cork & Ross**

Information day about becoming a priest in Cork & Ross

**Date:** Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2009  
**Venue:** Ennismore Retreat Centre Cork  
**Time:** 11 am to 5 pm ( Lunch Provided)

**For more information telephone:**

Fr Tom Deenihan: 021 4301717 or  
 Fr Bertie O'Mahony: 021 4371684

**Ballincollig Parish Pastoral Council**

AGM will be held on Monday 30th March 2009 at 7.45 pm in the Annex Parochial Hall. All welcome.

**Car Parks**

Due to recent vandalism in car parks adjacent to the churches parishioners are reminded not to leave handbags or personal items in their cars. We ask people to be vigilant with a view to protecting other people's belongings.

**Car Parking, Station Road & Environs**

Cork County Council has engaged Consultants to develop a parking plan for Station Road, Church View & Tudor Grove. These plans were made public a few months ago at a meeting of invited guests. Basically the plan is to develop park and pay in the areas adjacent to St Mary & John's Church and Station Road. This system may change the parking patterns for the patrons of St Mary & St John Church. There is limited parking around the Church, in the play ground of Scoil Eoin and around the Parochial house.

Last year there were seventy two funerals and thirty seven weddings. Most take place on weekdays and people generally travel. I envisage that park and pay in areas around the Church will cause major difficulties for parishioners during morning mass, funerals and weddings.

I am aware that Cork County Council has made adjustments to their parking plans in other towns to take into account the parking of parishioners for daily mass, funerals and weddings. I think it would help if parishioners spoke to our local council representatives to highlight the issues raised by the proposed park and pay by Cork County Council. The importance of accommodating the parking needs of worshippers at St Mary & St John need to be emphasised to the Councillors and Council Officials.

**Catholic Paper**

Copies of the Catholic Paper -**The Universe** - are available in both Churches every week.

**Fr. George**

**Early Morning Prayer for Lent**

Take advantage of this special time of LENT, and begin your day and preparation for EASTER the best way possible with the MORNING PRAYER of the CHURCH.  
 Taking place during Lent in St. Mark's Centre (opposite Christ Our Light Church)  
 Monday to Friday at 6 am.  
 Everyone Welcome

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Mar-28 & Mar-29-2009

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Aine Sheehan  
Mark Prendergast  
**8:30 am**  
Susan Fennell  
**10:00 am**  
Louise McCarthy  
Robert Noonan  
**12:00 Noon**  
Miriam Maunsell  
Even Smith

**7:30 pm (Vigil)**  
Michael Greene  
**11:00 am**  
Meabh Nic Mheanmain  
Maire Buckley  
**12:30 pm**  
Bernard Vallely  
**5:30 pm**  
Brian O'Donoghue

**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 & 8 pm	<b>Monday</b>	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am & 6:30 pm
9:30 am & 8 pm	<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am & 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>	7:30 pm (Vigil)

**CONFESSIONS**

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

**BAPTISMS**

4:30 pm	<b>Saturday</b>	4:30 pm
Except First Saturday of Month		First Saturday of Month
12:45 pm	<b>Sunday</b>	

**PARISH CLERGY**

**Priest on Duty 087-2479140**

<b>Fr. George O'Mahony P.P.</b>	<b>021-4871206</b>
<b>Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C.</b>	<b>021-4877161</b>
<b>Fr. Billy O'Sullivan C.C.</b>	<b>021-4876171</b>
<b>Fr. James McSweeney</b>	<b>021-4873308</b>



**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Mar-28 & Mar-29-2009

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

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

**7:30 pm** Geraldine Lynch  
Charlie Vaughan  
Joan Stephenson

**11:00 am** Neil Jeffers  
Eileen O'Donoghue  
Bridie O'Donnell  
Bridie Hanrahan

**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

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

**12 Noon** Joan Barrett  
Sheila Carroll  
Seamus O'Donovan  
Joe Coghlan  
Rose Moore  
Catherine Greene

**5:30 pm** Bernard Curran  
Clare Curran



**Ballincollig Hardware**

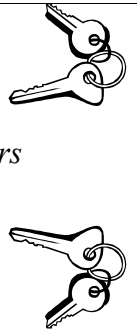
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Parish Office, The Presbytery, Ballincollig is open Mon - Wed from 9 am - 1 pm & 2 pm - 3 pm.  
Sat 10:30 am - 12 Noon. Phone No. (021) 4871206, Office Secretary Catherine Crowley.



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€10,000	456.82	317.97	248.82	207.55
€20,000	913.62	635.92	497.62	415.09
€30,000	1370.43	953.87	746.43	622.23

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