

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 12-December-2010

## Third Sunday of Advent

*The coming of Christ brought joy to the world as He healed every sickness and overcame human deprivation. For those who suffer, the joy of Christ's first coming must be tempered by patience as they await their restoration at his Second Coming.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

## Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

This weekend the Word of God has several comforting messages for each of us. In the first reading from Isaiah we are urged to "strengthen all weary hands; Courage! Do not be afraid." St James urges us in the second reading to "Be patient! Do not lose heart." The Gospel Jesus speaks to John the Baptist "Happy the person who does not lose faith in me". The comforting words in today's readings are addressed to us now. We need to be guided by these words, because like John we can find ourselves in dark situations.

We might be going along nicely but then a storm suddenly hits us, unemployment, a serious illness, a suicide in the family, break up of a relationship. These kind of things shatter our faith in the right order of things and even in God. At times like this may we hear the words of Isaiah "Courage! Do not be afraid",

John the Baptist was a God fearing man, yet he ended up in prison under sentence of death. We can do our best but things may still go wrong. We feel let down by God. We can doubt God's love for us and perhaps even doubt His existence. At times like these may we hear the words of Jesus, "Blessed is the person who does not lose faith in me".

Alcoholism is a terrible affliction. So too is drug addiction. Addiction to gambling brings untold pain, suffering and hardship. These addictions cause misery to the sufferer and to those who live with them. The addict needs help and the courage to ask for help. May they hear the words of Isaiah "Courage! Do not be afraid".

The scandal of child abuse by clergy and religious has angered and traumatised people of faith and non believers. Many people are shattered that such pain is inflicted on children and their families. May we hear the words of Jesus "Blessed is the person who does not lose faith in me".

May the Word of God today inspire and nourish us in our daily struggles.

George O'Mahony

### The SVP Annual Christmas Collection

Will be taken up at all Masses this weekend the 11th / 12th December. May we take this opportunity to thank our priests, sacristans, our church gate collectors, the indoor church collectors and all who help in various ways and to whom we are greatly indebted.

**We wish you all, Peace and Goodness for Christmas.**

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

SVP Ballincollig

### Third Sunday of Advent

We are a step nearer to our celebration of His coming. As we approach Him we must bring Him everything! Our dreams, our successes, our rejoicing. If we have little to rejoice over, bring Him that little. If you feel you have only empty hands - bring Him those empty hands.

IN HIS HANDS ALL ARE MADE GOOD!

"Let us rejoice in the Lord"



## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### Priest

Let us present our needs before the Lord, who gives bread to the hungry and sets prisoners free.

### Reader

We pray for the Church; that it will continue to bring the good news to the poor and spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.

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

We pray for our political leaders; that they may govern with justice and protect the interest of the most vulnerable members of society.

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

We pray for all those who are struggling as a result of poverty; that they may receive what they need.

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

We pray for prisoners; that they may be treated with justice and respect.

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

We pray for those who mourn; that the Lord may remove their sadness.

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

We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith; that they may be raised to eternal life with the angels and saints in heaven.

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

### Priest

Heavenly Father, we wait patiently, ready to rejoice in the coming of your Son this Christmas. Look kindly on our prayers today, which we make as always through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Come. Lord. and save us.*

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

**BAPTISMS**

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

Emma Marie Cremin, Mill Range, Powdermills.  
 Daniel John Cremin, Mill Range, Powdermills.  
 Jamie David O’Sullivan, Shamrock Drive, Muskerry Estate.  
 Darragh Patrick Walsh, Elm Lawn, Muskerry Estate.  
 Charles Edward O’Mahony, Clash, Carrigrohane

† **IN SYMPATHY** †

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

Pauline O’Neill, Castleknock.  
 Dan Twomey, Clash.  
 Mairead Brosnan, Glanmire.

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

Christy Callanan, Muskerry Estate.  
 Patrick O’Donoghue, The Crescent.  
 John O’Donnell & family, Donegal  
 Deceased Members of The Legion of Mary.  
 Susan O’Driscoll, Carrigdene.  
 Dan Gleeson, Mullingar.  
 Martin Cuddihy, Tipperary.  
 John & Josephine Cuddihy, Silvermines, Tipperary.  
 Eric Scott, Coolroe.  
 Don Gleeson, Galway.  
 Joseph & Nan Casey, Friars Walk.  
 Margaret & John Donovan, Farran.  
 Mary Creed, Healy’s Bridge & Iniscarra View.  
 Beatrice Shanahan, Fr Sexton Park.  
 Sheila Woods, Westcliff.  
 Kitty, Denis & William O’Mahony, Tudor Grove.  
 Betty Hickey, Los Angeles.  
 Bridie Sexton, Hillsboro.  
 Mary Lucey, Carrigrohane.  
 Edwin McDermot, Poulavone.  
 Dec Members of the Casey family, Kiskeam.  
 David & Mildred McCarthy, Union Hall.  
 Sean Coakley, Muskerry Estate.  
 Mairtin De Nogla, Wyndham Downs.  
 Sean Cunningham, Wilton.  
 Paddy Barry, Redemption Road.  
 Pat Barry, Mayfield.  
 Jim Cotter, Ballingearry.

***Reflection for Parents***

It would have appeared to Jesus that John began to doubt. Perhaps it was the confinement of prison that let his mind question what he once so clearly understood. But even so, Jesus affirmed John in this scripture as the greatest of all prophets. From this experience, it is reassuring as parents to know that even when we doubt, either ourselves or God, we are still great in God’s eyes. Our strength is in knowing God is with us as a loving parent.

***Trócaire’s Christmas Global Gift Appeal***

This Advent Trócaire is asking us to remember children in Somalia. Somalia is desperately dangerous with only 30% of children able to attend school and many are forced to become child soldiers. This Christmas through its Global Gifts Trócaire is hoping to keep 15 primary schools **open giving 3,500 children the chance to go to school for a year and stay safe.**  
[www.trocaire.org/globalgift](http://www.trocaire.org/globalgift)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Third Week Of Advent**

- 12 Sunday Is. 35:1-6, 10. Ps. 145. Jm. 5:7-10. Mt. 11:2-11. Lect I: 46
- 13 Monday Num. 24:2-7, 15-17. Ps. 24. Mt. 21:23-27 Lect I:53
- 14 Tuesday Zeph. 3:1-2, 9-13. Ps. 33. Mt. 21:28-32 Lect I:56
- 15 Wednesday Is. 45:6-8, 18, 21-26. Ps. 84. Lk. 7:19-23. Lect I:58
- 16 Thursday Is. 54:1-10. Ps. 29. Lk. 7:24-30. Lect I:61
- 17 Friday Is. 49:2, 8-10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:17 Lect I:76
- 18 Saturday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I:79

**Next Sunday’s Readings 19-December-2010**

Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Rom. 1:1-7. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I:68

**Preparing for Christmas with Youth 2000 Youth Retreat to be held in Newbridge, Co Kildare**

Youth 2000 are preparing to host their ever popular National Christmas Retreat in Newbridge College, County Kildare on the weekend of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of December next. Over 500 young people from all over Ireland are expected at this event which offers 16 to 35 year olds a great opportunity to prepare for Christmas and experience the Catholic faith in a new and exciting way.

Young people are invited to take some time away from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas preparations to meet new people, enjoy uplifting music, drama, games, inspiring talks, time in prayer and come away refreshed to celebrate the real meaning for the season. For young people attending the event for the first time one of the most remarkable things that they notice is the smile on the faces of those they encounter, the warmth and friendliness of the volunteers, the joy of the speakers, the enthusiasm of the band and the welcome from the organisers. Many friendships are made over cups of tea and there is a sense of belonging to something greater. As one 18 year old said after the hugely successful Summer Festival in August “Youth 2000 has helped me to realise that the Catholic Faith is a something which gives great joy. The happiness in my heart was overwhelming and will stay with me forever.”

The Christmas Retreat is organised on a donation only basis. Those hoping to attend are advised to bring a sleeping bag. Free buses to Newbridge will run from each province. For more details regarding bus-stops and to book online, check out [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) or the call the Youth 2000 Office on 01-6753690. Youth 2000 is an international movement of Catholic young people. In Ireland there are thirty-five weekly prayer groups, weekend regional retreats throughout the year, a summer festival, an annual ball, as well as various other social events - all organised by young people, for young people.

**CROWLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

*Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork*  
 Tel: 021-4874777 Mobile: 087-2759254

**Email: [michaelfd@eircom.net](mailto:michaelfd@eircom.net)**  
**[www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie](http://www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie)**

*Complete Funeral Arrangements*  
 24 Hour Service Embalming Service  
 Member I.A.F.D.

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**THE SUNDAY READINGS**

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10  
Isaiah now describes the joy of the kingdom. Advent is a time of gladness because we know that Christ is coming.

Second Reading: St. James 5:7-10  
The prophets of old were teachers; they spoke God's truth. The second reading reminds us to take them as our models.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11.  
John the Baptist had disciples of his own and while in prison he sent some of them to Jesus. At John's request, the disciples asked Jesus if he was the Messiah or were they to wait for another. Jesus did not answer them directly, but pointed to the miracles he had performed in the name of God's love. If John himself did not wonder, it was likely that his followers did. Jesus did not fit the image of "Messiah," and so it was possible that people began to doubt their original perception.

**Tension Awareness**

**Give the other person a chance...**

When people are under emotional tension, they often feel that they have to be first – to edge out the other person, even if the goal is as trivial as getting ahead on the road. Competition is contagious but so is co-operation.

**Cork Institute of Technology**

Keen to work in one of these premium Industry sectors? Need new skills and knowledge to match the demands of the Industry? CIT may have the course for you! Higher Certificate in Science, in Good Manufacturing Practice & Technology, full-time, 18 months. Commencing in February 2011. Closing date Friday 17th December 2010. Please contact Louise Byrne, 021 4335150 or louise.byrne@cit.ie for further information.

**Liam Lawton at St. FinBarre's Cathedral**

On Tuesday 14th December

Christmas at the Cathedral with Liam Lawton and special guests ~ St. Colman's Cathedral Chamber Choir at 8.00 pm. Hear Liam in this beautiful setting performing songs from his new album *Courage Can Cry*, with some of his other well loved songs and of course some great Christmas Carols. Why not come along with your Choir and enjoy an evening of reflection and music in preparation for this beautiful season.

Tickets €20 available from Carey's Lane: 021 – 4251255 or St. Finbarre's Cathedral Shop: 021 – 4963387

**Cork Simon Community**

This Christmas why not buy a star from Cork Simon Community. By purchasing a Cork Simon Community Christmas Gift, you can choose to cover the cost of providing someone who is homeless with basic personal essentials or a winter coat and shoes, you could cover the cost of a hot nutritious meal for the 11 residents of one of our high support houses, or even cover the cost of providing all 44 residents of our Emergency Shelter with Christmas dinner and a small gift this Christmas Day. We will then send you a Christmas card and a Christmas tree decoration which you can give to your friend or loved one.

You can purchase a star from  
Cork Simon Community, St. Nicholas House,  
Cove Street, Cork,  
by ringing (021) 4321166  
or by emailing elaine@corksioncommunity.ie.

**Bulletin Board**

**Penitential Service**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2010

Church of Christ Our Light at 7 pm  
Church of St Mary and St John at 8 pm

**Carol Service**

Church of St Mary & St John  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm.

**St Vincent de Paul**

Second collection this week-end at all Masses for St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas collection.

**Christmas Cards**

Christmas Cards are available for sale in both Churches and Parish Office.

**Mass Book**

Diaries to book Mass Intentions for January, February and March 2011 are now open in both churches.

**Offertory Collection Boxes**

The boxes of envelopes for the Offertory Collection are available in both churches. Families are asked to take one box. Please use the envelopes for the Offertory Collection for the Vigil and Sunday Masses during the year, families who avail of the Direct Debit system are not expected to take one. The Offertory Collection is solely for the upkeep, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches. Thanks for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year.

**Fr. George**

**An Evening of Carols and Classics**

Tuesday 14th December at 8 pm

In the wonderful surroundings of the Devere Hall, University College Cork why not join us for a night of carols and classics with Cork's well known performers - Hugh Moynihan, Terry McCarthy, Deirdre White and Lorraine Manley. Also performing will be an award winning barbershop chorus, Champagne Cork, and the wonderful choir from Cholaiste Choilm, Ballincollig.

All proceeds to Brú Columbanus, home from home for relatives of seriously ill patients in Cork Hospitals. Tickets €20 available from Brú Columbanus, Tel 021-4345754

**L'Arch Community Cork.**

Thank you for your ongoing support for our community. We are happy to announce that our **Craft Fair this year will to be held on today Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2010** at our Community Workshop in Togher, Cork

**Advent Early Morning Prayer**

**Q.** What makes Christmas perfect?

**A.** Preparing well during Advent

Let's prepare well

Come to MORNING PRAYER of the CHURCH, taking place during Advent.

St Mark's Centre (opposite Christ Our Light Church).  
Mon- Fri. @ 6 am.  
Everyone welcome.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Dec-18 & Dec-19-2010

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

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Karen Sheehan  
Padraig Graham  
**8:30 am**  
Triona Collins

**10:00 am**  
Hannah Bunyan  
Stephen Bunyan  
**12:00 Noon**  
Declan Chalmers  
Chloe Dalton O'Connor

**7:30 pm (Vigil)**  
Fiona Feely

**11:00 am**  
Chide Ebili  
Karen Flavin  
**12:30 pm**  
Joseph Manning  
Robert Murphy  
**5:30 pm**  
Emily Hardman

**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
9:30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am
9:30 am	<b>Friday</b>	8:30 am
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**

<b>Priest on Duty</b>	<b>087-2479140</b>
<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>

**Ballincollig Parish - Gospel of John**

Our series of talks on St John's Gospel will be concluded in December and January. As before, the talks will be held in the St Mark Centre, opposite the Church of Christ Our Light in Innishmore. These will include presentation of the material by Fr Billy O'Sullivan followed by tea and group discussion. Copies of information leaflets will be available for everybody. The final schedule of meetings for December is as follows.

	Monday, 7.30 pm	Wednesday, 10.00 am
Talk 6	13 <sup>th</sup> December	15 <sup>th</sup> December

**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.**

**Scoil Barra's Trip Down Memory Lane !**

Why not choose the perfect Christmas present for all friends and past pupils of Scoil Barra? Scoil Barra recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and has published a commemorative book entitled "Scoil Barra-A Coming of Age" to celebrate its silver Jubilee year. The publication is a narrative and photographic celebration (over 800 photos included) of the first 25 years with many golden moments captured for posterity. It looks back and reflects on the school's journey since 1985 and celebrates the many milestones achieved along the way. The perfect gift to fill your Christmas Stocking. Great value at €15 and available to purchase at Maurice Healy's, Down's Super Valu, Liam Ruiseal's and at the Scoil Barra school office. (021-4873459)

**Age Action's Care & Repair Programme**

Free Handyman Service for Older People Are you 65+ years of age and living in Cork City and suburbs, Ballincollig, Kinsale, Carrigaline, Glanmire or Carrigtwohill? Do you have a small repair job that you would like to have done for you? Age Action's Care & Repair service uses a pool of trustworthy volunteer handypersons to carry out minor repairs and odd jobs for older people who find it difficult to do these jobs themselves. Some of the jobs that our volunteers can do include changing light bulbs, changing locks, minor painting and decorating, hanging curtains, minor gardening, minor carpentry and installing smoke alarms. The service is free; you only pay for the materials used. For your bigger jobs that are beyond the scope of our volunteers, we maintain a register of reliable and honest tradespersons whose contact details we can provide for you. We can also arrange regular social visits to older people. All volunteers are Garda vetted and carry official Age Action identification cards. You can arrange to have a job done for you by phoning the Age Action Care & Repair number, 1890 369 369. Age Action is Ireland's leading charity for older people. We believe that Ireland should be the best place in which to grow older. We work to fight discrimination, promote positive ageing and improve policies and services for all older people. Care & Repair is sponsored by Irish Life.