

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 18-December-2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent

God's anointed was born by the power of God's Spirit. He is the Son of God and fulfills God's promise of an everlasting kingdom for his people.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The appearance of Cribbs in various public places is a reminder to us that Christmas is near. When we look at the crib everything seems so pretty, so peaceful, so orderly. Not a cry from the child, not a sound from the donkey or the cattle, not a smell of any kind. The straw is clean. With our inward ear we hear the singing of the angels.

This is pretty and we may want to believe it. But we know it is not real. Everything wasn't as neat and tidy, as that. The first Christmas was as full of hurry and worry as our Christmas is. It was full of uncertainty and fear. It was no picnic for Mary and Joseph, more like an ordeal.

Mary and Joseph had travelled a long journey. They arrived in Bethlehem unknown and without influence of any kind. There is no mention of a local midwife to help the young mother. It is easy for us to move away from the poverty of the original crib. We have a tendency to dress up the Christmas story; in doing so we remove it from us. We empty it of much of its meaning.

St Francis is credited with assembling a crib in a cave on an Italian hillside. His aim was to make the Christmas story come alive for the people of the locality. His idea was to show us how close Christmas is to us and our lives. It seems he did succeed. Christmas Eve the Friars, the local farmers and shepherds gathered with candles around the crib. Francis spoke about God's son coming among us to teach us that we too are children of God. The message that God has time for simple people gave them peace and joy.

Thomas Merton says "what is uncertain is not the coming of Christ but our readiness and capacity to go forth and meet him."

On behalf of Fr. Michael, Fr. Billy and Fr. James may I wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

George O'Mahony

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.



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

God seems to be very near us and especially loving towards us at Christmas time. Therefore, it is easier to come to him with our needs.

Reader

For the Pope and the bishops: that they may guide the people of God not only by word but also by example.

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

For all who hold public office: that they may bring a spirit of self-sacrifice to the performance of their duties.

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

For those who are addicted to alcohol or drugs: that they may recognise their problem or self help.

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

For those who for whatever reason are not looking forward to Christmas.

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

For all gathered here: that each of us may strive to imitate Mary in her obedience to God.

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

For this Congregation: that the coming of Christ may strengthen our faith in God's love for us, and help us to love one another.

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

Priest

Lord our God, take pity on our weakness. May your Son at his coming dispel the darkness of our hearts and of our world. We make this prayer through Christ Our lord. Amen

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Sam Joseph Mulligan, Willowgrove.
 Alison Mary Sheppard, Chestnut Grove, Classes Lake.
 Evan Sean Casey, The Cedars, Classes Lake.
 Ryan Robert Kerrigan, Daffodil Fields.

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Fr. John O'Callaghan, Drimoleague.
 Frank Kehily, Dublin / Newcestown.
 Nora Holland, Bishopstown / Timoleague.

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

William Treacy, Castleknock.
 Shay Graham, Glincool.
 Con & Paddy O'Sullivan, Ballyvolane & Dunbar Street.
 Pat O'Donoghue, The Crescent.
 Deceased members of the Murphy family, Station Road.
 Donie Tobin, Parknamore.
 Eileen O'Mahony, Model Farm Road.
 Jim Galvin, Model Farm Road.
 Maureen Cuddihy, Coolroe.
 Christy & Kathleen Daly, Mayfield.
 Dec Members of the Flanagan Family, Castlepark.
 Dec Members of the O'Sullivan Family, Tralee.
 Margaret Enright, Nadd.
 Jerry Delaney, Station Road.
 Jim Prendville, Castlepark.
 Kate Durcan, Charlestown, Co Mayo.
 Timothy & Josephine Murphy, Castle Avenue.
 Michael Gaffney, Castle Avenue.
 Kathleen Murray, Carrigrohane.
 Dec Members of the Ahern family.
 Denis & Ellen Hallahan, Ballingulley.
 Mary Horgan, Ballincollig.
 Pat McGrath, Glasheen Road.
 John Doab, The Crescent.
 Joan O'Riordan, Carriganarra.
 Bridget O'Regan, Carriganarra.
 Mary Murphy, Bishopstown.
 Dr Sean Crotty, Coolroe.
 Derry O'Neill, Raheen.
 Denis Riordan, Kilmichael.

Autumn Dues

The priests of the Parish would like to thank you for returning the Autumn Dues Envelopes. It is a tough financial time for many families, your generosity and your continued support is much appreciated.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week of Advent

18 Sunday 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88. Ram 16:25-27. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 70
 19 Monday Judg 13:2-7, 24-25. Ps 70. Lk 1:5-25. Lect I: 81
 20 Tuesday Is 7:10-14. Ps 23. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 83
 21 Wednesday Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18. Ps 32. Lk 1:39-45. Lect I: 85
 22 Thursday 1 Sam 1:24-28. Ps 1 Sam 2:1, 4-8. Lk 1:46-56. Lect I: 88
 23 Friday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24. Ps 24. Lk 1:57-66. Lect I: 90
 24 Saturday 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88. Lk 1:67-79. Lect I: 92

Next Sunday's Readings 25-December-2011

Is 52:7-10. Ps 97. Heb 1:1-6. Jn 1:1-18. Lect I: 109

Trocaire's Global Gifts

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself' Luke 10:27. On this fourth Sunday in Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ we are asked to help our less fortunate neighbours in the developing world through Trocaire's Global Gifts. Make a difference to someone's life from as little as €7 (£5). Gifts are available at www.trocaire.org/globalgift or by calling 1850 408 408

St James Church Choir, Ballinora

The choir have launched a CD 'A Hymn for all Seasons'. The CD contains 16 hymns and cost €10 each. For more information and availability contact Eamonn Lane at 087 2984838.

Mass Times

A meeting of the Cluster Area (Kilmurry, Cloughduv and Canovee; Ovens/Farran; Ballinora; and Ballincollig Parishes) was held on Wednesday 23rd November, 2011. The main item discussed at the meeting was the proposed reduction of Masses at weekends for the New Year. Presently there are twenty masses each weekend serving eight churches in four parishes. Following the meeting and in consultation with Bishop Buckley Ballinora parish has decided to reduce its mass schedule by one mass; Ovens/Farran parish has decided to follow a similar course. Ballincollig Parish has decided not to reduce its masses at present. This arrangement will be reviewed after Easter.

CROWLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: 2 Sam. 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16.
 God's promise to David is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.

Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27
 St Paul introduces us to the mystery of Christ, once a secret, but now made known to the whole world.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
 Jesus' birth is foretold in this gospel where Gabriel comes to Mary and announces that within her she has the king that Israel has long awaited. To have found favour with God surprises Mary, a woman with none of the qualities valued in her society. She was female, young, poor, and didn't even have a husband or child to give her existence credibility. Not only did this puzzle her, but she knew she was a virgin and carrying a child didn't logically fit. Her puzzlement gave Gabriel the opportunity to explain that the baby she carried was conceived through the Holy Spirit. Mary accepted what was told to her, and remained open to God's will. At the same time, she learned that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also pregnant. This pregnancy was miraculous as well, since Elizabeth had been thought to be barren and was now an old woman.

Bulletin Board

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.

Carol Service

Church of St Mary & St John
 Sunday 18th December at 7.30 pm.

Offertory Collection Boxes 2012

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

Ballincollig Parish Christmas Programme

Sacrament of Reconciliation for Christmas

Monday 19 th December	8.00 p.m.	St Mary & St John	Penitential Service
Friday 23 rd December	6.00 - 8.00 p.m.	St Mary & St John	Confessions
Saturday 24 th December Christmas Eve	10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.	St Mary & St John	Confessions
	12.00 noon - 1.00 p.m.	Christ Our Light	



Mass Times



Church of St Mary & St John	Saturday 24 th December Christmas Eve	6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		10.00 p.m.	Midnight Mass
	Sunday 25 th December Christmas Day	8.30 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
10.00 a.m.			
12.00 noon			
Church of Christ Our Light	Saturday 24 th December Christmas Eve	6.00 p.m.	Children's Mass
		8.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
		12.00 midnight	Midnight Mass
	Sunday 25 th December Christmas Day	11.00 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
12.30 p.m.			
No 5.30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day			

**Faith Development Group of
The Parish Pastoral Council**

We would like you to join us for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. We are arranging a series of informal chats on ideas for the development of our parish, with tea/coffee and biscuits immediately after parish week-end Masses. The first of these will be held after ten o'clock Mass on today Sunday December 18th in Scoil Eoin, at the other side of the car park adjoining the Church of St Mary & St John. All are welcome and we look forward to meeting you

The 12 Days of Christmas

Religious symbolism of The Twelve Days of Christmas

1. True Love refers to God
2. Turtle Doves refers to the Old and New Testaments
3. French Hens refers to Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
4. Calling Birds refers to the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
5. Golden Rings refers to the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
6. Geese A-laying refers to the six days of creation
7. Swans A-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
8. Maids A-milking refers to the eight beatitudes
9. Ladies Dancing refers to the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
10. Lords A-leaping refers to the ten commandments
11. Pipers Piping refers to the eleven faithful apostles
12. Drummers Drumming refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

Troubled by someone else's drinking?

Try Al-anon. Local Meetings S V de P Centre Station Road
Thursdays 8.30 pm. Phone: 021 4311899.

PARISH CLERGY

Priest on Duty	087-2479140
Fr. George O'Mahony P.P.	021-4871206
Fr. Michael O'Mahony C.C.	021-4877161
Fr. Billy O'Sullivan C.C.	021-4876171
Fr. James McSweeney	021-4873308

Pieta House

**The Centre for the Prevention of
Self-Harm or Suicide**

T: 6010000 | A: Lucan Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin
E: mary@pieta.ie | W: www.pieta.ie

Pieta House opened its doors in Lucan in January 2006. It provides one-to-one counseling for people who have tried to take their life, those who are thinking about it, and those who self-harm, This solution focused approach takes the person in crisis, out of crisis.

Suicide: We work to move the suicidal person away from ideas of suicide as quickly as possible.

Self-Harm: Self-harm is seen as a way of expressing an incredibly strong pent-up emotion; it is an act of survival.

Our ground-breaking approach can involve daily therapy sessions if needed.

Our service is completely free of charge.

Reflection for Parents

Mary accepted the gift of Jesus with a willing and thankful heart. She is a good model for us as we approach this busy and hectic time of year. Rather than be so concerned about all the preparations for the holiday, at least for a few minutes today, take time to thank God for the gift of Jesus and the promise he brings to each of us. Along with Mary, we might be thankful for the gift of our own children and focus today on what is really valuable about these gifts.

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 and all the desires of your heart



**For Families of Children Preparing
for First Holy Communion**

Learning About the Mass with Kath and Qumen

Gloria

The Gloria is a very old prayer of praise and thanksgiving. The first few lines will sound familiar because it was the song sung by the angels when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We do not pray the Gloria during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Opening Prayer

After the Gloria the priest will invite us to pray. The prayer begins in silence. This gives us time to talk to God in our hearts. We might want to thank God for something good that has happened or we might want to ask God to take care of something that we are worried about. Then the priest takes all our prayers and offers them to God. The words of the Opening Prayer differ from Sunday to Sunday and reflect the theme of the Mass. We respond by saying 'Amen'. Amen means that we believe that whatever God does is OK with us.