

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Sunday 25-December-2011

Christmas Day

A child is born for us, a son is given to us; dominion is laid on his shoulder, and he shall be called Wonderful-Counsellor.



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Christmas

Whether we are conscious of it or not our lives are linked together. The poet John Dunne wrote "No person is an island, each is part of the continent" Yet the world is full of division, we are divided by class, race, creed and nationality. What is it then that unites us.

Sometimes when a tragedy happens in a community, barriers can suddenly come down. For some time there are no strangers, no rich people, no poor people, just brothers and sisters in the same boat helping one another out.

The Russian writer, Dostoyevsky spent years in a Siberian prison. It was a bleak experience which brought him into contact with some desperate individuals. In his book "Memoirs from the House of the Dead" he gives a moving account of what Christmas day meant to these people. He writes that on Christmas day the mood of the prisoners was very touching. They felt they were not all outcasts or lost souls. They felt like human beings, they had bonds with another world, with all the world. Christmas day took them out of themselves. Even the most frugal among them made the effort to be open-handed on a day like this.

Christmas affects us also. It achieves a great levelling off; nobody can feel superior to another on this day. It puts an end to elitism. Christmas achieves this levelling off by raising us up. It is as if we are placed on a higher plateau. Christmas gathers us together in a great universal fellowship in the name of Christ. Christ turns a foreigner into a neighbour, a stranger into a sister. This is the miracle of Christmas. I hope and pray you will experience this miracle.

May you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

George O'Mahony

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us. Let us then with confidence place our requests before the Father.

Reader

That the coming of Christ may help Christians to walk in the light of hope and love.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

That the birth of the Prince of Peace may spread understanding and unity among all peoples throughout the world.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

That Christ, who took on himself our human weakness, may be the eyes of the blind, the strength of the weak, the friend of the lonely.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

That the coming of Christ may fill our hearts with joy, and make us heralds of his Gospel as it did the shepherds

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

That our own needs on this special day may be blessed before God.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all who feel excluded from the Christian family, that they may be aware that all are welcome in God's house.

Lord, Hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Priest

Father of mercy, Christ your Son make this day radiant with his love. May we come to share in his divine life who came on earth to share our human lives. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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, Billy O'Sullivan & James McSweeney



All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Lily Joanna Patrick Kenna, The Meadows, Classes Lake.
Benjamin Jacob Cooney Sweetbrian Lane, Inniscarra View.
Cian Ake Thessman, Stockholm.

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

Sarah Boland, Rossbrook, Model Farm Road.
Angela Duggan, Westcourt.
Norah (Bunny) Forde, Manor Hill.
Teresa Healy, Manor Hill.

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

Cecily O'Sullivan, Beech Park.
Aidan O'Grady, Castlepark.
Bernard Boylan, Maple Lawn.
Catherine O'Sullivan, Kilmichael.
Maureen Callanan, West Village.
Mary Cahalane, Muskerry Estate.
Jeremiah O'Sullivan, Avon Court.
Maureen Healy, Eastgate.
Eileen & John Murphy, South Douglas Road.
Dermot Barry-Murphy, Carriganarra
Dec Members of John A Wood workforce.
Joan & Eddie Murphy, Powdermills.
Patrick Sheehan, Kilmurry.
Vincent, Bridie & Frankie Moran, London.
Cathal O'Dowda. Rosewood.
Danjoe & Margaret O'Shea, O'Donovan Crescent.
The Lucey Family, Station Road.
William & Annie Cotter, Fr. Sexton Park.
Mathew & Bridie O'Leary, Macroom.
Betty Hanlon Powdermills, Cloghroe
Dec. Members of the Dunne Family, Muskerry.
Dec. Members of the O'Sullivan Family, Station Road.
Eddie Barry, Castle Avenue.
Con Greany, Station Road.
Danny & Josie Griffin, Roscrea.
William & Catherine Murphy, The Mills.
Derry Murphy & Family, Powdermills.
Joan & Andrew O'Keeffe, Leeview, Carrigrohane.
Michael O'Leary, Ballinlough.
Della & Sean Collins, The Crescent.
Hubert & Frances Burrows, The Square.
Dec. Members of the Twohig Family.
John & Denis McGrath, Madonna House.
David & Maud O'Brien, Spring Lane.
Billy Holmes, Kerry Pike.
Dec. Members of the O'Sullivan Family, Kilmallock.
Michael McNulty, Fr. Sexton Park.
James & Mona Hourigan, Limerick.
Patrick Barry, Ardnarostig.
Eily O'Connor, Carriganarra.
Dec. Members of the Murphy Family, Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo.
Sheila Sexton, Farnanes.
Margaret, John & Michael Donovan, Farran.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Christmas Week

25 Sunday Is 52:7-10. Ps 97. Heb 1:1-6. Jn 1:1-18. Lect I: 109
26 Monday Acts 6:8-10, 7:54 - 9. Ps 30. Mt 10:17-22. Lect I: 125
27 Tuesday 1 Jn 1:1-4. Ps 96. Jn 20:2-8. Lect I: 127
28 Wednesday 1 Jn 1:5-2:2. Ps 123. Mt 2:13-18. Lect I: 129
29 Thursday 1 Jn 2:3-11. Ps 95. Lk 2:22-35. Lect I: 131
30 Friday Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3. Ps 104. Lk 2:22-40. Lect I: 119
31 Saturday 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps95. Jn 1:1-18. Lect I: 136

Next Sunday's Readings 01-January-2012

Num. 6:22-27. Ps. 66. Gal. 4:4-7. Lk. 2:16-21. Lect I:139

**Society of St. Vincent De Paul
A Sincere Thank You**

You, the people of Ballincollig have for many years now, been most generous to the society by donating monies, goods for our shop, toys, food and so on. Many have helped with our Church Gate Collection, our Youth Clubs, and our other activities and to one and all we say thanks. But it is especially at Christmas that we have been overwhelmed by the generosity shown for our Church Collection, our Christmas Appeal last Sunday week amounted to £20,000. Your unfailing generosity is a simple but powerful endorsement of our work and at the same time a statement of your love and concern for those who, through no fault of their own, are not as fortunate as ourselves. In the name of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and of the people we help, we thank you all for your generosity. May peace and love be with you all this special Christmas.
We would also like to especially thank our parish priest, Fr. George O'Mahony and the other priests of the parish for allowing the indoor collection and also for their quiet and unstinting support during the year.

Reflection

I pray Lord, for the needy of our world: come among us as one who will help, and call us all to help the hungry and sick, the uneducated and homeless, those who are victims of violence and war, the lonely and depressed. May your coming this Christmas be for them a time of peace and love; may we bring to them, in what way we can the joy of your coming.

**CROWLEY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

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

Email: michaelfd@eircom.net

www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:
The prophet Isaiah announces the future coming of the Messiah.

Second Reading:
St Paul reminds us that we are saved through the kindness and love of God.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14
This portion of Luke's infancy narrative contains two distinct components. First we are given the setting. Decried by the rulers of the day, people were to journey to their hometown and be counted in the census. For Joseph, this meant taking his pregnant wife to Bethlehem. No sooner had they gotten to Bethlehem than the baby, Jesus, was born. Next, an angel visited shepherds in a nearby field. At first the shepherds were frightened but the angel calmed them with the good news of a saviour born in Bethlehem. This saviour has come to bring peace for all people.

Reflection for Parents

The angels brought good news to the shepherds, a part of the population not well respected. As Christmas Day approaches parents often feel exhausted and stressed out. We too may feel low as the shepherd only because we have demanded so much of ourselves. Looking into the faces of our children, is it possible for us to see the true meaning of Christmas? Can their plea to "read one more story" or "play one more game" be a clue for us to enjoy the time we have with them? How hard it is for us to focus only on the joy of their company and not be leaping ahead to the many chores awaiting us after we tuck them in. For us to realize the peace that God has in mind this Christmas Day, we might first make peace in our own home. Maybe this is the year to do something totally daring, like spend more time in pyjamas playing all the new games found under the tree. Let Jesus truly come among you.

Fire Safety Tips

Smoke Detectors (battery powered)

- Once a week, test each alarm by pressing the test button until the alarm sounds.
- Once a year, change the battery.
- Twice a year, open the case and gently vacuum the inside using the soft-brush attachment to remove dust from the sensors. If your alarm case doesn't open, vacuum through the holes.
- After 10 years or if in any doubt, it's best to fit a new alarm.

Two smoke detectors, properly located (one on each floor) should suit the average home.

Position smoke detectors where they can be clearly heard from key positions in your home.

Manufacturer's instructions will normally indicate the recommended locations.

Make sure you can hear the smoke alarm throughout your home, especially in the bedrooms.

Cooking, Smokey ovens or cigarette fumes may trigger the smoke alarm when there is no real danger.

However, don't ever assume that it is a false alarm. Always act immediately and do a thorough check. It may save your life!

Bulletin Board

Christmas Collection

According to Diocesan Custom, the collection at Christmas Vigil and Day Masses is one of two occasions during the year when the offertory collection goes to the priests of the parish. The Priests of the Parish would like to thank you sincerely for your generosity to them. Your support and encouragement is much appreciated. Thank you in anticipation.

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.

Bank Holiday Monday

Tuesday 26th December, 2011 only one morning Mass 9.30 am Mass in Church of St Mary & St John.

Feast of the Epiphany

Holy Day of obligation Friday 6th January

Masses

St Mary & St John 8.30 am, 10.00 am & 8.00 pm

Christ Our Light

Vigil: Thursday 5th January 7.30 pm, Friday 6th January 12.30 pm & 6.30p m

First Friday

Friday January 6th is the first Friday of the month. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St Mary & St John from 6.30 pm to 7.45 pm, you are invited to come and spend some time with the Lord. 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.

Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism preparation will recommence on **Saturday 28th January, 2012 at 12.00 noon** in the **Library Room, Community Hall, Station Road**. The presentation lasts for approximately forty minutes. The following questions are addressed, What is Baptism? What are the symbols used in the Sacrament of Baptism? How can the family become involved in the ceremony? Parents might book the baptism a few weeks in advance to give ample time to take part in the preparation.

Fr. George

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.

May the Child Jesus rest at the inn of your heart this Christmas

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Dec-31 & Jan-01-2012

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Brendan Collins
Michael Collins
8:30 am
John Healy

10:00 am
David O'Brien
Debra Daly
12:00 Noon
Chloe Dalton O'Connor

7:30 pm (Vigil)
Pauline Collins
Niall Cronin
11:00 am
Chide Ebili
Karen Flavin
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

9:30 am

Monday

9:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

9:30 am

Wednesday

8:30 am

9:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

9:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

10:00 am & 6 pm (Vigil)

Saturday

7:30 pm (Vigil)

CONFESSIONS

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

Saturday

BAPTISMS

4:30 pm
Except First Saturday of
Month

Saturday

4:30 pm
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. Billy O'Sullivan C.C.

021-4876171

Fr. James McSweeney

021-4873308

*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.*

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

from The Parishioner Editorial Team

Next Publication Sunday 8th January



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dec-31 & Jan-01-2012

St. Mary & St. John

Christ Our Light

6.00 pm Michael Maher
Bernadette Bell
Betty Casey
Frank Riordan
Siobhan Riordan
Pauline Quane

7:30 pm Geraldine Lynch
Charlie Vaughan
Joan Stephenson
Bernie Bowen

8:30 am Mary Buckley
Theresa Lucey
Triona Collins

11:00 am Neil Jeffers
Eileen O'Donoghue
Bridie Hanrahan
Catherine / Hugh Moran
Padraig Fleming

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

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

12 Noon Helen Plunkett
Seamus O'Donovan
Joe Coghlan
Catherine Greene
Joan Barrett
Dymphna Canny

5:30 pm Bernard Curran
John Canty



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

Learning About the Mass with Kath and Qumen

The Liturgy of The Word

This part of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. It might be helpful to think of this first part of the Liturgy of the Word as the time when we listen to the story of God's love for us as it is written in the Bible. We sit down to listen just like we would when we listen to any story.

During the first part of the Liturgy of the Word we usually listen to three readings from the Bible:

- The First Reading is usually taken from the Old Testament
- The Psalm is a poem or song from the Book of Psalms
- The Second Reading is taken from the New Testament.