

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 12-February-2012

Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

A leper was an outcast, an untouchable. The love of Christ brought such people back into the community. We who follow Christ are called never to ostracise another, never to isolate those who don't fit into our ways. Our task is to help them along.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Witness

The opening message of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark is that the times are fulfilled, the Kingdom of God at hand, a kingdom of life and hope, the kingdom of God's love. We may feel that we need of hope in the disappointment of post boom Ireland, with resultant austerity, loss of wealth and loss of confidence. And we experience this in the context of failure in the church and loss of innocence. These are times to rethink our response to the Gospel of Christ with clear sighted honesty and sober realism. At present we are finalising the Ballincollig programme of preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Dublin in June. The Congress is a "station" of the universal Church, a pilgrim gathering of the faithful from every part of the world, a sign of faith and love in communion offered by the believers of this country to all mankind. We seek to be better witnesses to the kingdom of God in 2012 and in the years following. We note that this week-end sees the start of the Church of Ireland festival "Connect 2012," a faith sharing programme giving witness to Christ and his kingdom in the heart of Ballincollig. We pray that God will bless this initiative and all who participate in it.

In this Sunday's gospel reading we hear of Jesus' encounter with a leper, a victim of a feared and contagious disease who was considered ritually unclean and outside the community of God's people. The leper's approach to Jesus is socially unacceptable but Jesus is moved by compassion and compounds the unacceptable behaviour by touching him. Jesus touches the untouchable, going beyond social and religious limits, prophetic actions signifying God's compassionate and faithful love for his people, and the inclusive nature of his kingdom. As people of God we live in hope, and St Paul reminds us that our behaviour has an influence on others, both of the faith and outside it. We pray that our influence will be for good, witnessing to the joy of Christ and the welcome for all in his kingdom. As we face new challenges we need new responses if Christ is to be proclaimed effectively. We hope for a renewal and a cleansing of our hearts, our church and our society. We pray that by God's grace we ourselves will be prepared to change, and give a renewed witness to the life and joy of the kingdom of God.

Billy O'Sullivan

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest

Let us now bring our needs before the Lord who in his great compassion reached out to the leper and healed him.

Reader

For the Christian community: that it may be warm and caring towards those whom society rejects.

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

For the human family: that God may bind its members in ties of friendship and mutual acceptance.

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

For prisoners, drug addicts, and all those who feel the pain of rejection.

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

For all gathered here: that the Lord may open our hearts and our eyes to those who suffer so that they need not carry their cross alone.

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

For those who lack life's necessities, and for all peoples in any kind of need.

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

For a moment, we remember in silence our own particular needs

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

Priest

God of love and mercy, you know our weakness. May we reach out with joy to grasp the hand you stretch out to us in Christ, and so walk more readily in your ways. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

Reflection for Parents

Not many things break the heart of a parent so quickly as seeing their child rejected by another person. Sometimes children are cruel and shun others or exclude them. Even more difficult are circumstances where adults or someone once trusted turn away from a child. Most of us don't witness these acts in our lives personally, but we certainly read about them in the paper or hear about them on the news. We get just a small glimpse of what it might have been like for the leper in today's gospel who was not even allowed to live with healthy people. We also better understand the courage and compassion of Jesus who touched the man and accepted him.

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie

BAPTISMS

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

Keelan Michael Ryan, Westbury Heights, Westcourt.
Luize Jegers, The Grove, Coolroe Meadows.
Lucy Rose O'Sullivan, Chestnut Grove, Classes Lake.
Fionnain Phil Ward, The Close, Coolroe Meadows.

† IN SYMPATHY †

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

James Connolly, Nohoval.
Dessie Griffin, Youghal.
Molly Finn, Bunanumera, Dunmanway.
Mary Murphy, Watergrasshill.
Micheál Ó hEidhin, Galway.
Mary Wood, Norfolk, England.
Thomas Burke, Ballyshoneen.
Fergus Murphy, Campbell Road.

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

Deceased members of the O'Connell & Whooley families.
Nora Heelan, Inniscarra.
Deceased Members of the O'Mahony & Greene families.
Anna Phillips, Limeworth & Charlestown, Co. Mayo.
Tom & Winnie Holloway, Galbally.
Timothy & Bridget O'Leary, Fairhill.
Donal Mannix, London.
John D Horgan.
Eddie Mullins, Ballina / London.
Patrick O'Donovan, Church Hill.
Mary & Betty O'Leary, Tower, Blarney.
Thomas Scully, Castlemartyr.
Dec members of the O'Regan family, Carriganarra.
John & Joe Barrett, Leo Murphy Terrace.
Lisa McKane, Leo Murphy Terrace.
John, Mary & Tom Dobbyn, Main Street.
Eileen O'Sullivan, Willowfield.
David Brosnan, Muskerry Estate.
Helen Lynch, Gurranes.
James O'Mahony, Ballinora.
Frances & Margaret O'Farrell, Station Road.
Gerard Spillane, Castleknock.
Fr. Dick Cronin (PP Ballincollig 1954-1962)
Dan Cronin, Aherla.
Denis Cronin, Aherla.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sixth Week In Ordinary Time

12 Sunday Lev 13:1-2, 44-46. Ps 31. 1 Cor 10:31-11:1. Mk 1:40-45. Lect I: 750
13 Monday Jas 1:1-11. Ps 118. Mk 8:11-13. Lect II: 525
14 Tuesday Acts 13:46-49. Ps 116. 1k 10:1-9. Lect II:957
15 Wednesday Jas 1:19-27. Ps 14. Mk 8:22-26. Lect II: 529
16 Thursday Jas 2:1-9. Ps33. Mk 8:27-33. Lect II: 531
17 Friday Jas 2:14-24, 26. Ps 111. Mk 8:34-9:1. Lect II: 533
18 Saturday Jas 3:1-10. Ps 11. Mk 9:2-13. Lect II: 535

Next Sunday's Readings 19-February-2012

Is. 43: 18-19, 21-22, 24-25. Ps. 40. 2 Cor. 1: 18-22. Mk. 2:1-12. Lect I: 752

St. Valentine

Valentine's Day is celebrated in honour of Saint Valentine, a Christian priest who was executed on February 14th, 270 A.D., by the Roman Emperor Claudius II. Though there is nothing romantic about his death, legend has it that Valentine was quite a romantic soul while he was alive. Apparently Claudius II was concerned about the declining number of soldiers in the Roman Army. The soldiers were refusing to leave their wives and sweethearts, so Claudius thought he could solve the problem by outlawing marriage. But as the saying goes, love will find a way. Young lovers found their way to Valentine, who took pity on their predicament and performed marriages for them in secret. When Claudius found out, he had Valentine beheaded. Another legend says that Valentine was imprisoned for performing these secret marriages, and that while he was serving his time, he fell madly in love with the jailer's daughter. He would send her love notes inscribed with the words "From your Valentine" - a tradition we still carry on today. St. Valentine's Day has its roots in an old Roman festival called the Lupercalia, which was held each year on February 15. The festival involved a lover's lottery, where girls' names were written on slips of paper and put into a jar. Each young man would draw a name and that girl would then be his companion for the following year. The Christians found this custom immoral, so they created their own February festival in honour of the romantic St. Valentine, who helped love last a lifetime by sanctifying it with the sacred bond of marriage.

Muskerry Local History Society

February 21st, 2012 (Tuesday), **The Upton Ambush**, Donal O'Flynn. The 15th February 1921 IRA attack at Upton Station on the Cork to Bandon train which resulted in significant bloodshed. The lecture will take place in the Ballincollig Rugby Club (Tanner Park) Clubhouse at 8.00 pm. Admission €3.00 for non-members for the lecture. Everyone Most Welcome.

The Coeliac Society of Ireland

Cork Support Group,
Will hold the following meeting in March
Date : **Saturday 3rd March 2012**
Place: **Rochestown Park Hotel, Rochestown, Cork.**
Time: **2.00 pm to 6 pm**
Topic: **Demonstration of Dr. Schar products.**
All Welcome. (€5 entrance fee)
There will be NO MEETING
in the SMA Centre, Wilton

CROWLEY

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THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46
 The Hebrews always regarded leprosy as a contagious disease and perhaps as a punishment by God. This explains both the isolation of the diseased person and the necessity of ceremonial purification. In some societies AIDS is similarly regarded today.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 31- 11:1
 This is a cry for tolerance at a time when Christians who had come from the Jewish tradition tried to impose their customs on converts from paganism. The scrupulous are not entitled to impose their scruples on others. Tolerance and kindness must be mutual.

Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45
 Lepers were compelled to lead an isolated life, wearing a special garb, and giving notice of their approach by crying out: "Unclean", in order to prevent contagion. Jesus cured the man but spoke sternly to him because he had violated the prudent regulations by coming into contact with others who might receive the contagion.

Church, State and Society in Modern Ireland 1912-2012

An Introduction Including The Catholic Church and

- The struggle for independence
- Education
- Censorship
- Family
- The Constitution

An opportunity over three nights to gain an historical perspective on the relationship between the Catholic Church and State in today's Ireland.

All welcome.

With Gabriel Doherty (UCC).

Gabriel Doherty lectures in the History Department of UCC. His teaching and research specialities are in twentieth century Irish history.

Thursdays, February 23rd, March 1st, March 8th
 8.00 - 9.30 pm. Scala, Blackrock (opposite Blackrock castle, parking free).

This series is supportive of the modern history component of the Leaving Certificate history curriculum and will be of interest to Leaving Certificate students as well as the general public.

Suggested contribution €5 per night, students free.

Further details:

Gabriel Doherty g.doherty@ucc.ie or 021-4902783

Details and bookings:

Anne Francis abfrancis@eircom.net or 087-2282134.

Bulletin Board

Ash Wednesday – 22nd February

Lents begins on Wednesday 22nd February, Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all Masses on that day. For the duration of Lent there will be evening Mass in Church of **Christ our Light at 6:30 pm & St. Mary & St. John at 8 pm.**

Lenten Retreat 2012

Lenten Retreat 27, 28, & 29 February 2012. The Retreat will be conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers.

Baptism Preparation

Baptism preparation will recommence on **Saturday 25th February, 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.

Ballincollig Parish Pastoral Council

The A.G.M. of Ballincollig Parish Pastoral Council will take place on **Monday 5th March 2012** in the Annex Room, Community Hall.

New members very welcome. Members express different view points dealing with a wide range of activities within the parish. Parishioners organise the Lenten Retreat, out door Stations of the Cross for Good Friday and Holy Week Ceremonies. Becoming a member of the Parish Council is a way of giving your time and talent to the parish community and becoming active within the parish.

Nomination forms are available at the back of the church.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund

Special Envelope Collection this weekend February 11th & 12th February, 2012. This collection subsidises the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage for individuals whose health/or means would otherwise prevent them from travelling to Lourdes. It also subsidises medical expenses and travel care personnel.

Fr. George

Table Quiz

Ballincollig Rugby Club in aid of Pamoja Development

Thursday 16th @8 pm €40 a table of 4

Finger food will be provided

Contact Eleanor on 087 3097434

The Church I Believe in?

An opportunity to explore the Church of today with two of its most compelling speakers.

Bishop Willie Walsh, and Prof Mary T. Malone.

Sacred Heart Hall Western Rd. Suggested contribution €5.

- Bishop Willie Walsh (Killaloe)

Saturday 3rd March, 10.30 am-1.00 pm (registration 10.00 am).

- Professor Mary T. Malone (author and historian)

Saturday 28th April, 10.30 am-1.00 pm (registration 10.00 am).

Anne Francis 087-228-2134 abfrancis@eircom.net



The Irish Blood Transfusion Service Will Hold A Blood Donor Clinic In

	Ballincollig	GAA Pavilion
Mon 13 th	February,	4.30 – 8.00
Tue 14 th	February,	4.30 – 8.00
Ovens Éire Óg GAA Hall		
Wed 15 th	February,	5.00 – 8.30
Thu 16 th	February,	5.00 – 8.30

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Feb-18 & Feb-19-2012

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

6:00 pm (Vigil)
Aine Sheehan
Mark Prendergast
8:30 am
Tom McDonagh

10:00 am
Margot Twomey
Cormac Kelly
12:00 Noon
Chloe Dalton O'Connor

7:30 pm (Vigil)
Michael Greene

11:00 am
Chidera Ebili
Karen Flavin
12:30 pm
Margaret Buckley
James Nyagaya
5:30 pm
Christine O'Brien

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	Monday	8:30 am
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	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. Billy O'Sullivan C.C.	021-4876171
Fr. James McSweeney	021-4873308

Ballincollig Tidy Towns

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday February 15th @ 8 pm
The Oriel House Hotel

Reports on 2011 activities and achievements. Looking ahead to 2012 with some interesting projects in the pipeline. If you are interested in joining us we will be needing people to work on various tasks such as clearing overgrowth, grass cutting, painting, administration etc.

All welcome to this important meeting.



MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Feb-18 & Feb-19-2012

St. Mary & St. John Christ Our Light

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

7:30 pm Anne O'Regan
Mairead Murphy
Finbarr Murray
Lettie Kelly
Mary Murphy

8:30 am Mary Buckley
Rita Murphy
Denis Healy

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

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

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

12 Noon Oliver O'Donovan
Miriam Maunsell
Sean Hennessy
Mary McLean
Ellen Seymour
Nora Hennessy

5:30 pm Noelle Buckley
Mary Breen



For Families of Children Preparing for First Holy Communion
Learning About the Mass with Kath and Qumen

The Creed

After the homily the priest invites us to stand and profess our faith. We do this by saying the Creed. There are two Creeds that can be said at Mass: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. The Creed tells us simply what we believe as members of the Church. We stand to show that we are proud to be followers and friends of Jesus.

Prayer of the Faithful

During this time we pray for all our needs, particularly for the Church, the leaders of our country, those who are sick and in need of God's healing and those who have died. The Prayer of the Faithful is normally spoken by the Minister of the Word on our behalf. At the end of each prayer there is a moment of silence and then the Minister of the Word says: 'Lord hear us,' and we answer: 'Lord graciously hear us.'