

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 15-December-2013

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

## Courage & Compassion

Today is Gaudete Sunday we are invited to rejoice, Jesus is at work "the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear." This is a great display of compassion for the suffering. Give us the courage Lord to let you see our wounds.

The readings this weekend have comforting words. The reading from Isaiah says, "Courage, be not afraid." James in second reading says, "be patient, do not loose heart". John receives comforting from Jesus in the gospel "happy the person who does not lose faith in me"

John's situation was a dark one; he was locked up in prison with the threat of death hanging over him. His faith was severely tested, he needed reassurance and comforting. The comforting words in today's reading are addressed to us and we need to drink them in. There are dark situations in each of our lives and families. Serious illness, Addiction, family disagreements, suicide and unemployment are just a few of the darkness's in our lives. In times like these may we hear the words "Courage do not be afraid".

Each of us knows the situations that cause us to be fearful and doubtful. We can't stop ourselves from feeling afraid. We must not allow our fears to cripple us. Courage is not never feeling afraid I it is feeling afraid and going on in spite of it.

Faith is a precious and fragile gift. We must not be surprised when doubts arise within us. God will understand our doubts in a world like this. Blessed are we if we do not lose faith in Jesus, twice blessed if like Jesus we can show forth our faith in deeds of love and mercy.

*George O'Mahony*

## 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**

With confidence, let us pray to the Lord who keeps faith for ever.

**Reader**

For the Pope, the bishops and all who minister in the Church: that they may give an example of selfless and joyful service.

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

For those who hold public office: that God may enlighten their minds and guide their hearts.

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

For those who are working for the relief of suffering in others: that they may know comfort themselves.

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

For prisoners: that they may not lose hope.

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

For this community: that God may strengthen our faith in the midst of uncertainty and doubt.

**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 mercy, take pity on our weakness. May the coming of your Son confirm our faith, strengthen our hope, and deepen our love. We ask this through 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 :**

Kaycee Lynn Dawn Wills Reed, Waltham Abbey, Old Quarter.  
 Olivia Osinska, The Lodge, Classes Lake.  
 Darius Thomas Anthony Lhota, Ingham Australia.  
 Max Patrick Hickey, The Green, Coolroe Meadows.

**† IN SYMPATHY †**

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

Eileen Linehan, London & Kanturk.  
 Paul Linehan, Innishmore.  
 Kitty McCarthy, The Square / Ovens.  
 Maureen Quaid, Bandon / Powdermills.  
 Kieran Forde, Ballyphelane / Carrigaline.  
 Louis O'Halloran, Sunday's Well.

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

Deceased members of Legion of May  
 Susan O'Driscoll, Carrigdenne.  
 Aoibhinn Power, Coolroe.  
 Pat Spillane, Fairhill.  
 Timmy Walsh, Doneraile.  
 Maura Walsh, Doneraile.  
 Eric Scott, Coolroe.  
 Kathleen Coakley, Pearse Road  
 Neil McGroarty, Beech Park.  
 Neil, Noreen & John McGroarty, Cobh.  
 John & Mary Lucey, Coolroe.  
 Jack & Bridget Noonan, Inniscarra.  
 Paddy Barry, Redemption Road.  
 Paudie O'Shea, Ventry.  
 Charles & Marie Ross, Dublin.  
 Dan & Ita Hickey, Aherla.  
 Sean Coakley, "Hillview", Muskerry Estate.  
 Gillian Drinan, Church View.  
 Donie Healy, Corbally, Waterfall.  
 Brendan Whelan, Elm Lawn.  
 Frank & Margaret Whelan Prosperity Square.  
 Christine O'Sullivan, Botanic Road.  
 Danjo & Margaret O'Shea, The Crescent.  
 James & Eily Lucey, Station Road.  
 Dan Twomey, Clash.  
 Kitty, Denis, & William O'Mahony, Tudor Grove.  
 Dan & Margaret Murphy, Knockburden.  
 Dan Murphy, Bray.  
 John & Nellie Murphy, Station Road.  
 Kevin Twomey, England.  
 Elizabeth & Gerard Higgins, Pouladuff.  
 Deceased members of the Higgins family, Pouladuff.  
 Mary Lucey, Carriganarra.  
 Bill & Kit Foley, Essex.  
 John O'Riordan, Carriganarra.  
 Seamus O'Donovan, Maple Lawn.  
 William Tracey, Castleknock.  
 Teresa Healy, Cloghroe.  
 Betty Hanlon, Cloghroe.  
 Con Greany, Station Road.  
 O'Sullivan Family, Rosewood & Tralee.  
 Flanagan Family, Castlepark.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Third Week Of Advent**

15 Sunday Is. 35:1-6, 10. Ps. 145. Jm. 5:7-10. Mt. 11:2-11. Lect I: 46  
 16 Monday Num. 24:2-7, 15-17. Ps. 24. Mt. 21:23-27. Lect I: 53  
 17 Tuesday Is. 49:2, 8-10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:17 Lect I:76  
 18 Wednesday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I:79  
 19 Thursday Judg 13:2-7, 24-25. Ps 70. Lk 1:5-25. Lect I: 81  
 20 Friday Is 7:10-14. Ps 23. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 83  
 21 Saturday Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18. Ps 32. Lk 1:39-45. Lect I: 85

**Next Sunday's Readings 22/December/2013**

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

**CURA**

**Need to Talk?**

We are there 6 days a week.  
 Unplanned pregnancy can be hard to take. Also when baby is born coping can be difficult.  
 We are there to listen and support you.  
**Call CURA at 021 427 7544**

**TAIZÉ PRAYER**

**at Christ our Light Church  
 on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.**

You are all very welcome to join with our Taizé group for some quiet reflective prayer with the Songs of Taizé

**Advent Early Morning Prayer**

Let's prepare well for Christmas  
 Come to the Morning Prayer of the Church  
 Taking place during Advent. St. Mark's Centre  
 (Opposite Christ Our Light Church)  
 Monday to Friday @ 6 am.  
 Everyone most welcome

**Troubled by someone else's drinking?**

Try Al-anon. Local Meetings S V de P Centre Station Road  
 Thursdays 8.30 pm. Phone: 087 6651707.

*Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can read*

**CROWLEY**

**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

*Bóthar Saclay, Ballincollig, Co. Cork*  
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[www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie](http://www.crowleyfuneraldirectors.ie)  
 Complete Funeral Arrangements  
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 Member I.A.F.D.  
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 Pre-Planning Available

**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.

**Christmas Card**

There is a list of folk I know, All written in a book, And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look, And that this is when I realise that these names are a part Not of the book they're written in but of our very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has touched my life sometime, and in that meeting they've become the 'Rhythm of the Rhyme'. I really feel I am composed of each remembered name, and while you may not be aware of feeling quite the same, my life is so much better than it was, before you came.

For once that you have known someone, the years cannot erase the memory of a of a pleasant word or of a friendly face. So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine of names upon a list, forgotten in between For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you, It is because you're on that list of folk, I am indebted to.

And whether I have known you for many years or few, In some way you have been a part in sharing things I do. So every year when Christmas comes I just realise anew, The biggest gift: that God can give is knowing folks like you.

**Remembrance Tree**

If you are in the city between now and Christmas you are invited you to remember your loved ones with a ribbon on the Remembrance Tree.

The Tree is on St Patrick's Street by French Church Street will be open up to and including Christmas Eve.

You can write your message on yellow ribbons which will be placed on the tree in colourful garlands.

While donations are not necessary, all funds that are received will go to Marymount Hospice, COPE Foundation and Rotary charities.

The project is in its eleventh year and is run by the Rotary clubs of Cork and Bishopstown.

**Bulletin Board**

**Penitential Service**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 at 8pm  
 Church of Christ Our Light

**Carol Service**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 at 7.00pm  
 Church of St Mary & St John

**Garda Vetting**

Many thanks to the Ministers of the Eucharist who returned their Garda Vetting forms. Please return outstanding forms without delay, to the Parish Office or Sacristy. Thank you for your co-operation.

**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**

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.

**Parishioners**, who gave their name and offertory box number for Tax Rebate to the Church, please collect your offertory box from the Sacristy (St. Mary & St. John) or from the Parish Office.

Thanks for your generosity and we look forward to your support for the coming year.

**First Holy Communion Dates 2014**

Scoil Mhuire	Saturday 10th May
Gaelscoil Ui Riordan	Saturday 17th May
Scoil Eoin	Saturday 24th May
Scoil Barra	Saturday 7th June
Our Lady of Good Counsel	Saturday 7th June

**Fr. George**

**St. Vincent de Paul**

Many thanks to all who supported the St. Vincent de Paul collection last week end. Your contribution amounted to €15,516.00. Your generosity and ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

**Briery Gap - Macroom**

Christmas Panto 2013 "The Babes in the Wood"  
 Matinees: Sat 14th, Sun 15th,  
 Sat 21st & Sun 22nd December  
 Evening Performances: Fri 20th,  
 Sat 21st & Sun 22nd December  
 Tickets: €15 Adults €10 Children/Students/OAP's  
 For further information, contact 026-41793

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Dec/21 & Dec/22/2013

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6:00 pm (Vigil)**  
Brendan Collins  
Michael Collins  
**8:30 am**  
Pat Fennell

**10:00 am**  
Grace Buttimer  
Orla Horgan  
**12:00 Noon**  
Declan Chalmers  
Niamh Heelan

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

**11:00 am**  
Tomas Buckley  
Alison Henchion  
**12:30 pm**  
Aisling Dore  
Clara Herdman  
**5:30 pm**  
Brian O'Donoghue

**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  
Fr. George O'Mahony P.P.  
Fr. Dave O'Connell C.C.  
Fr. James McSweeney

087-2479140  
021-4871206  
021-4876171 or frdaveoconnell@gmail.com  
021-4873308



**MINISTERS OF THE EU-CHARIST**

Dec/21 & Dec/22/2013

**St. Mary & St. John**

**Christ Our Light**

**6.00 pm** Steve Wills  
Margaret O'Sullivan  
Danny Farrell  
Jim Walsh  
Frances O'Brien  
Eileen Coughlan

**8:30 am** Mary Buckley  
Rita Murphy  
Denis Healy / Tom Butler

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

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

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

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

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

**5:30 pm** Noelle Buckley  
Mary Breen

**A Child's Christmas Prayer**

I've prayed to Jesus, oh so hard,  
to bring me Christmas morn,  
a little baby brother like  
Himself when he was born.  
But Christmas came and Jesus said,  
I cannot find another,  
and so I've come my very self  
to be your little brother.

By the late Cecil McCracken

**For those Who Suffer From Depression**

Dear Jesus I walk in the valley of darkness for I suffer from depression. I feel unloved, rejected, useless to myself and useless to others. I feel lost in a world I no longer understand. At times, I want to sleep and never wake up again.

Lord, I believe that your love is a transforming love and that it can create a new heart in me. Jesus, Son of David have pity on me. Out of the depths, I cry to you.

Lord, even though I feel nothing, I will still praise you for the wonder of my being. You have formed me in my mother's womb and watched over me to this moment. I am precious in your eyes and you love me. On the Cross, you shed blood for me. You have carved me on the palm of your hand. For all this I give you thanks and praise.

May your precious blood give new life to me and to all those who suffer as I do. Take each one of us and hold us close to your sacred heart. Through your glorious wounds may we all be healed?

Dear Jesus, when you fed the crowd in the desert, you told your disciples to gather up the fragments, lest anything be lost. As I wander through a desert and darkness of my own, I ask you to gather up the fragments of my shattered being, lest anything be lost.

Through the prophet, Joel, you promised to restore the harvest that the locusts had eaten. I ask you, lay your hands gently on my weary head and restore the lost years of life. Let your face shine upon me that I may be saved.