

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Sunday 18-December-2022



**St. Mary & St. John
Station Road**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."



**Christ Our Light
Innishmore**

Family of Parishes - **Christmass Reconciliation Service**

Going to confession for Christmas has been part and parcel of Irish Catholic life for generations. Older people will recall long slow moving queues at the confessionals on Christmas Eve. Even today when attitudes have changed Catholics still see a close connection between the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of the birth of Christ.

The old style Confession was an ordeal for many people: they found the slow queuing unnerving, they were afraid the priest might be deaf and that his questions and comments might be overheard by those waiting in line; they were afraid that if they were kept in longer than usual it might embarrass them. Children also were afraid that they might 'get stuck' in the Act of Contrition.

Perhaps it is because of all these considerations that the Reconciliation Service, the modern form of the Sacrament has taken on so well. In the new communal celebration we prepare ourselves together for confession and give thanks together for the forgiveness received. There are readings, a homily, an examination of conscience conducted in common, a shared request for forgiveness and a thanksgiving in common. Central to the ceremony is the opportunity given to each person to come up to the priest of their choice and make a brief confession of their sins. At the Reconciliation Ceremony there may be some people who for one reason or another do not wish to make a confession. These may ask the priest for a blessing and no one will know whether or not they have made a confession.

The confession of sins, in a sense, frees us from the power sin had over our lives. By telling his sins to the priest, man looks squarely at the sins he is guilty of, takes responsibility for them, and thereby opens himself again to God and to the communion of the Church in order to make a new future possible. Being open to the communion of the Church refers, not to Holy Communion or the Blessed Eucharist but rather to our sense of belonging to the parish community. Sin damages or even breaks brotherly friendship in the family, in the neighbourhood or in the wider community in which we live. To steal, to aggress others, to hate, to insult, to drive drunkenly - all such actions offend God but they also offend against other people. Sin is an act of aggression against our fellow man as well as against God. The Sacrament of Penance repairs and restores our union with our fellow man. Because the Reconciliation Service is shared publicly with our neighbours it expresses our desire to admit our sin and our desire to 'make up' with our families, our neighbours and all of God's children throughout the world.

Sunday 18th December

St. John the Baptism Church at 6.00pm

Ballincollig Parish

Monday 19th December

Christ Our Light Church at 7.30pm

Ballinora Parish

Tuesday 20th December at 7.30pm

Confessions

Christ our Light after 8.30am Mass and in St. Mary and St. John's after 9.30am Mass Monday 19th to Friday 23rd Dec.

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.

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.

Fr's Alan O'Leary, Kamil Bachara & Ronan Sheehan.

Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie or Facebook www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14
The first reading contains Isaiah's prophecy of the events we celebrate at Christmas.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7
Paul's message is another reminder of what we are preparing to celebrate.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24
Matthew recounts the circumstances of Jesus' birth by telling us the story of Mary's engagement to Joseph and the child she carried originating from the Holy Spirit. This reality made no sense to Joseph, but he did not want to dishonour Mary so he planned to quietly divorce her. An angel came and told Joseph not to be afraid, that Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and that they should call him Emmanuel meaning, "God is with us."

† IN SYMPATHY †
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :
John Daly, Ballincollig / John A. Woods
Damian O'Brien.
JJ Tolan.
Olive O'Leary, Beech Road

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:
Eimear Higgins, Manor Hill.
Susan & John O'Driscoll, Carrigidene.
Tommy Daly, Leemount.
Paul Wall, Churchfield.
Ellen Healy, Tralee.
Sheila McSweeney, Cathedral Road.
Noreen McDermott, Poulavone.
Con Delaney, Kilnaglory.
Danjoe McCarthy, Beech Park.
Joan & Harry O'Riordan, Carriganarra Est.
Con O'Sullivan & Paddy, Mayfield/Dunbarr St.
Patrick O'Shea, Scotch Farm.
Elizabeth O'Hanlon, Upper Cloghroe.
Michael & Teresa Healy.
Carmel, Barry & Terry Kelly, The Crescent.
Bartholomew & Patricia Murphy.
John & Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane.
Dec. Mem. of the Gaffney family, Carrigrohane.
Dec. Mem. of the Twohig family, Farranree.
Denis Buttimer, Toames.
Peter & Hannah Crowley, Leemount.

Saint Vincent De Paul

Sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously to our recent collection. This generosity will make big difference to the many struggling families in Ballincollig & Ballinora.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Will not take place on the 23rd December and will resume again on Friday January 6th.

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.

Carol Service

Church of St Mary & St John
Sunday 18th December, at 7.00pm
Please support exit collection for Lisheens House (Mental Health Charity).

Ballincollig Parish Christmas Programme

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



Mass Times

St. Mary & St. John.	Saturday day 24 th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
	Sunday 25 th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	6.00 p.m.	Christmas Mass
		10.00 p.m.	
		8.30 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
10.00 a.m.			
12.00 noon			
 Christ Our Light	Saturday 24 th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6.00 p.m.	Children's Mass
		8.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass
	Sunday 25 th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	11.00 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
		12.30 p.m.	