

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 03-December-2023

First Sunday of Advent

God comes to those who wait for him. Our waiting needs to be prayerful if we are to be truly ready to receive him when he comes.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

First Sunday of Advent

On this first Sunday of Advent we focus on the coming of Christ - we celebrate his first coming in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago; we look forward with hope to his second coming at the end of time and we give thanks for his continual coming to us each day, especially in the Eucharist.

As each of us prepares for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and his final coming at the end of time, it may be a good time to reflect on our own personal relationship with him and with those around us. St Paul shows us a way to prepare for Christ's coming when he says: 'may you love one another and the whole human race' so that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. We are his witnesses in this world bringing light, love and hope in the midst of darkness. We can ask ourselves do we recognize and welcome the Lord in the people and ordinary events we encounter each day?

As we begin this New Liturgical Year it is a chance to make a new beginning in our following of Christ, to renew and deepen our relationship with him. All of us are sinners and we sometimes stray from the kind of life that he wants for us. Jesus is inviting us to 'let go' of the dark areas of our lives and to walk in his light. During our Advent Retreat this week we will have the opportunity to experience Christ's compassion, love and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare to welcome him in to our hearts this Christmas.

The symbolism of the Advent Wreath that we see in our Churches, helps focus our attention in preparing for Christmas. The circular shape of the wreath is a symbol of eternity and a reminder that God has no beginning or end. The greenery of the Advent wreath symbolizes God coming to us with new life and our hope of eternal life. The four outer candles represent the weeks of Advent. The three purple candles symbolize the spiritual preparation during Advent. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent symbolizing the theme for this 'Gaudete Sunday' - Joy at Christ's coming. The centre white candle which is lit Christmas Eve celebrates Christ's birth.

First Sunday of Advent

Lord, help us to remember that YOU are near us always as we struggle, step by step, to get nearer to YOU, in this special season. "God of Hosts, bring us back; Let Your face shine on us and we shall be saved"



The Advent Wreath

The circle of evergreen leaves stands for God Who is without beginning and without end. The purple ribbon and three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The red candle stands for joy of living in God's way of love. Today the first purple candle is lit as we begin our preparation for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ

Advent Retreat

Monday, 4th, Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm in the Church of St. Mary & St. John.
All Welcome

The St John's Conference of St Vincent de Paul

Next weekend Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th December, with the kind permission and encouragement of the priests of the parish, we are holding our Annual Christmas Collection at all Masses and hope you will show your usual generosity so we can continue to help these families.



Reflection for Parents

There is more work for parents to do in a day than will ever get done. Some of us work outside our homes while some stay at home. In either case there are always bills to pay, laundry to wash, meals to prepare, errands to run and things to fix. Unless we deliberately set aside time to prepare ourselves and our families for Jesus' return, we will continue with the busyness of everyday life like the people of Noah's time and the workers in the field and at the mill. Especially at this time of year, it is easy to get caught up in the demands centred on Jesus' birth rather than his return.

Please note new Emergency/Priest on Duty in Parish Number is: 087 4021357

God of hosts, bring us back; Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

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

† IN SYMPATHY †
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :
 James Lynch, Coolroe.
 David O'Driscoll, Innishmore Lawn.
 Jim Hyland, Westcourt Heights.
 Brendan Lawlor, Inniscarra View.
Martin Hennigan, Ballincollig/Bandon.
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:
 Tim O'Connor, Coachford.
 Christy Callnan, Muskerry Est.
 Michael Naughton, Farranree.
 Eileen Regan, Glengarriff/Caherciveen.
 Olive O'Leary, Beech Rd.
 Joseph & Mary Anne Sheehan, Kilcorney.
 Daniel Coomey, Carriganarra.
 Donal O'Mahony, Waterfall.
 Agnes Kavanagh, Fr. Sexton Park.
 Breda Feehely, Model Farm Road.
 Denis Harrington, Blarney.
 Eddie Delmer and his son Andrew, Kildare.
 Dec. Members of the Parish Choir.
 Mary Dineen, Shandon View.
 Marie Curling, Ivy Circle.
 John O'Mahony, Lee View, Carrigrohane.
 James O'Donovan, Coolabawna, Enniskeane.
 Willie and Bridie Keohane, Inniscarra.

Cork Lions Club

Cork Lions Club are delighted to announce that they will be running an Online Auction in aid of the Christmas Food Appeal. Bidding opens on Monday, 4th December and closes on 8th December at Midnight. We are grateful to the Cork Business Community, who have donated items to date for the auction - visit www.corklionsclub.ie for details. The proceeds from the auction will go towards the Cork Lions Club Christmas Food Appeal. Every year Cork Lions Club distributes food hampers to deserving families in Cork City, with over 500 hampers distributed in 2023.

First Reading: Is. 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
 The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah expresses sentiments of longing for the coming of the Saviour.

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:3-9
 St Paul gives a word of encouragement to all who are waiting for Jesus.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37
 We are reminded in today's gospel that the world as we know it will pass away, and God's Kingdom will come in full. Jesus tells a parable about a master who went away and left each of his servants with a specific task to do. No one knew when the owner would return, just as no one can know when God's plan will be fulfilled. The words of Jesus were quite clear to the early Christians and to us today. We must be watchful and always ready for Jesus' return.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

First Sunday Of Advent

03 Sunday Is 63:16-17. 64:1, 3-8. Ps 79. 1 Car 1:9. Mk 13:33-37. Lect I: 5

04 Monday Is 2:1-5. Ps 121. Mt 8:5-11. Lect I: 10

05 Tuesday Is 11:1-10. Ps 71. Lk 10:21-24. Lect I: 13

06 Wednesday Is. 25:6-10. Ps. 22. Mt. 15:29-37. Lect I: 15

07 Thursday Is 26:1-6. Ps 117. Mt 7:21, 24-27. Lect I: 18

08 Friday Gen. 3:9-15, 20. Ps. 97. Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12. Lk. 1:26-38. Lect I: 1009 or Lect II: 1289

09 Saturday Is 30:19-21, 23-26. Ps 146 Mt 9:35-10:1, 6-8. Lect I: 22

10-December-2023 Is 40:1-5, 9-11. Ps 84.2 Pet 3:8-14. Mk 1:1-8. Lect I: 27

Mass Times for week ahead

St. Mary & St. John		Christ Our Light
8:30 am & 10 am	Sunday	11 am & 12:30 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 7:30 pm (Vigil)
10 am & 7:30 pm	Friday	No Masses
6 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	7:30 pm (Vigil)

Bulletin Board

Coeliac Hosts

Low gluten hosts are available that are suitable for Coeliac. Please inform the priest prior to Mass if possible if you require it.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. In St. Mary & St. John's Church every Friday.

Meditation

Meditation continues every Tuesday in Ballincollig Community Hall after 9.30am Mass. Please feel free to join any Tuesday.

Autumn Dues

The priests of the Parish would like to thank you for returning the Autumn Dues Envelopes. Your continued support is much appreciated.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Next Friday the 8th December is a church holiday, the feast of The Immaculate Conception. Vigil Mass is in Christ our Light Church Thursday, 7th at 7.30pm. Masses on Thursday are 10.00am & 7.30pm in St. Mary & St. John's Church.

LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina for Advent will be held Friday, December 1st, 8th and 15th in Sonas House at 3.00pm.

Totus Tuus Magazine

Totus Tuus Magazine is a Catholic magazine, full of articles from Irish priests and laity, which aims to highlight the beauty and joy of our faith. It is going into its 7th year and is run by donations. If you haven't come across Totus Tuus Magazine and would like a free copy please contact Fiona Kiely on 086 8760058.