

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 24-December-2023

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

*God's anointed was born by the power of God's Spirit. He is the Son of God and fulfills God's promise of an everlasting kingdom for his people.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

## Mary's Dream

I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes.

They'd gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the presents weren't for our son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree. Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our son. I don't think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name. I had the strangest feeling if our Jesus had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if Happy Christmas

## 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.



## The Advent Wreath

The fourth candle of Advent represents Love, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "Angel's Candle," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.

## To all our Readers & Parishioners

Happy Christmas

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.

## 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.

## The Feast of The Epiphany

Saturday 6th January 2024 - Holy Day of Obligation Mass Times

St. Mary & St. John Church

Friday 5th January

Vigil Mass 7.30pm

Saturday 6th January 1st 10.00am

Christ Our Light Church

Saturday 6th January

11.00am

## Children's Christmas Mass

In the last few years the numbers of children attending the Christmas Eve Mass have increased. Last year there were some significant safety concerns with the children around the altar. The safety of the children is of the utmost importance, to help ensure this, parents are asked to keep their children with them and not allow them to stray onto the altar. Parents are also asked to follow the directions of the stewards who will be there for the safety of the children on the night.

## 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.

*I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.*

Visit Our Website: [www.ballincolligparish.ie](http://www.ballincolligparish.ie) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish](https://www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish)

† IN SYMPATHY †  
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :  
 Regina Collins, Carriganarra.  
 Breeda Duggan, Westcourt Heights.  
 Joan Dunne, Ballincollig/Tralee.  
 Jim Walsh, Beech Park.  
 Brendan Lawlor, Inniscarra View.  
 Kay Sheehan, The Stables, Coolroe.  
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:  
 Gillian Drinan, Churchview.  
 Michael Galvin, Model Farm Road.  
 Andrew Breen, Rosewood.  
 Dec. Mem. of the Delaney & McCarthy families.  
 Joe Keating, Cahirciveen.  
 Denis & Ellen Hallahan, Ballingulley.  
 Pat & Mary Horgan, Upton.  
 John Joe O'Connell, Maglin.  
 Dec. Mem's of John A. Wood Workforce.  
 Carmel O'Leary, Old Quarter.  
 Mai & Eddie Barry, Inniscarra.  
 Peter & Hannah Crowley, Leemount.  
 Cornelius & Ellen Greaney, Station Road.  
 Patrick Wilson, Carlow.  
 Chris Foley, Shamrock Drive.  
 Con Murphy, Coachford.  
 Seamus O'Donovan, Clonakilty/Muskerry Estate.  
 William Tracy, Castleknock, Ballincollig.  
 Sean O'Eigearta, Westcourt and late of Scoil Eoin.  
 Michael and Julia Healy, Cathedral Road.  
 Ivy and Harry Ramsden, Yorkshire, England.  
 Bernadette Dixon.  
 Tom, Margaret & Judy Enright, Nadd.  
 Raymond Harte, Castlepark.  
 Paddy & Eileen Gibbons, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.  
 Paddy & Nellie Harte, Macroom.  
 Lucy Gibbons, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.  
 Dec. Mem's of the O'Flynn family, Fr. Sexton Park.  
 Nell Keohane, Rosewood.  
 Phyllis Deasy, Westcourt.  
 Donal O'Flynn, Castlepark.

**Saint Vincent De Paul**

Sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously to our recent Sunday collections. This generosity will make big difference to the many struggling families in the family of parishes.

**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. The Offertory Collection is solely for the upkeep, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches. People who have a number allocated to them, please collect them from the sacristy in St. Mary & St. John's Church.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week of Advent

24 Sunday 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps 88. Ram 16:25-27. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 70  
 25 Monday Is 52:7-10. Ps 97. Heb 1:1-6. Jn 1:1-18. Lect I: 109  
 26 Tuesday Acts 6:8-10, 7:54 - 9. Ps 30. Mt 10:17-22. Lect I: 125  
 27 Wednesday 1 Jn 1 :1-4. Ps 96. Jn 20:2-8. Lect I: 127  
 28 Thursday 1 Jn. 1 :5-2:2. Ps. 123. Mt. 2: 13-18. Lect I: 129  
 29 Friday 1 Jn. 2:3-11. Ps. 95. Lk. 2:22-35. Lect I: 131  
 30 Saturday 1 Jn. 2:12-17. Ps. 95. Lk. 2:36-40. Lect I:134  
 31-December-2023 Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3. Ps 104. Lk 2:22-40. Lect I: 119

**Mass Times for week ahead**

St. Mary & St. John		Christ Our Light
8:30 am, 10 am, 6 pm & 10 pm	Sunday	11 am, 12:30 pm, 6 pm & 8 pm
8:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon	Monday	11 am & 12:30 pm
9:30 am	Tuesday	No Mass
9:30 am	Wednesday	No Mass
8:30 am	Thursday	No Mass
9:30 am	Friday	No Mass
10:00 am & 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**

Exposition will finish on Friday 22nd and resume on Friday 5th January 2024.

**Meditation**

Meditation will finish on Tuesday 19th and resume on Tuesday January 9th 2024.

**First Friday**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January is the first Friday of the month. There is Mass in St Mary & St. John's church on Friday evening at 7.30pm. 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 housebound neighbour who is sick .

**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.

**Muskerry Local History Society**

Muskerry Local History Society is organising 'A Night of Historical Artefacts' on Monday, 8th January, at 8.00 pm in Ballincollig Rugby Club. Annual membership: €15. Lectures free to members. Non-members: €4.