

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 18-February-2024

First Sunday of Lent

As we begin Lent again, we learn that we need to be purified of our sins. Jesus went out into the desert to be put to the test for us, to overcome Satan. If we go into the desert with him, whatever is evil in our lives can be overcome.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

The Season of Lent

It feels like only a few days ago since we were taking down our Christmas decorations; yet, here we now are in the throes of another Lent. Easter, and therefore Lent and Ash Wednesday, are 'early' this year and so our journey of preparation began on February 14th last (by the way, it will begin on February 10th in 2027!). The classic question has probably been asked by you and of you: "What are you giving up for Lent this year?" Certainly, amongst school-going children, it's a popular point of conversation and one which parents are eager to encourage. Even for our younger parishioners, it's a good exercise to go without something like sweets or fizzy drinks. Giving something up is a way to make Lent real and an act of solidarity with those who don't choose to fast on a daily basis, rather they just don't have enough food.

But beyond giving something up (fasting), the Church has always suggested prayer and almsgiving (helping charitable causes) also as ways to prepare our hearts for a worthy celebration of Easter. Jesus spoke of these, too, because they come straight from the Jewish tradition.

For the adult Christians reading this, think of Lent as a gift. It's a special time, a further opportunity to pair back any unhealthy excesses and to create the space within for our relationship with God to grow stronger.

If you're looking for ideas, then why not try to fast from screen-time on your phone or from television; come to Mass on a weekday if you're free or read the gospel for each Sunday before the weekend; choose a charity, like Trócaire, and help them in some way.

I offer these as suggestions from my own reflections on how to mark Lent. The important thing is that we find some way to make this Lent count as days of prayerful preparation. Every blessing for this holy season.

Fr. Ronan Sheehan

Baptism Ministry Team

A new year & new beginnings. We hope to relaunch this wonderful ministry to help prepare couples, bringing forward their children for Baptism. We will be supported in this goal by the Diocesan office of Ministry & Mission, assisting us with training and ongoing support. We would like to invite those interested in exploring this initiative to contact any member of the parish team.

Trócaire's Lenten Campaign 2024

The Diocese of Cork and Ross together with Trócaire will host an evening to reflect on Trócaire's Lenten Campaign for 2024. This event will take place in the SMA Parish Centre, Wilton, Cork T12 E436 on Wednesday, 21st February 2024 at 7.30pm. RSVP: corkcentre@trocaire.org. This year's campaign will explore the issues of water justice and climate change. The evening will also have a moment of prayer and reflection. Salome Mumba from Trócaire's Malawi Office will address the gathering and share Trócaire's work in the region. Bishop Fintan will share some of his experiences of his trip to Malawi in November and looks forward to meeting as many people as possible at this event.



Reflection

If repentance means a change of attitude or of heart what attitude is good to adopt? Is it that frame of mind and spirit which recognises that conversion is a daily and a life's project? Is it the insight which accepts that what God is inviting us to will always surprise us, will never be the merely predictable? Is it the grace to believe that God is on our side? If so, this is the springtime of the year and the seeds of new life contained in these and similar interpretations of the word 'repent' may usefully be sown..

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

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

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 :Mary Lyons, Wolfe Tone St. Finbarr Crowley, Beaumont/Coachford. Annie Twohig, Waterfall.
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:
 Sheila Walsh, Castlepark.
 Maureen, Tadgh & John O'Regan, Poulavone.
 Kathleen & Sonny Murray, Straight Road.
 George Chambers, Dunmanway.
 Maura Butler, Ballincollig, Inniscarra P.O./Carlow.
 Helen Hourihan, Rosewood.
 Patrick & Nelly Hickey, Glenville.
 Maria Henchy, Ballyburden.
 Michael Buckley, Castlepark.
 Mamie Quinn, Powdermills/former Sacristan S.M.S.J.
 Aidan Handley, Dublin.
 Maurice, Margaret, Charles and Dan O'Connor, Castlegregory.
 Sean Ryan, Coolroe.
 Margaret White, Coolroe.
 John Byrne, Mellary Rd., Co Waterford.
 Billy Whelton, Muskerry Est.

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Genesis 9: 8-15
 God made covenants or agreements with men on three occasions in the Old Testament: with Noah, Abraham and Moses. These covenants implied that man agreed of his own free will to serve God. In return God would forgive and take care of mankind. The rainbow was aptly chosen as the sign of the covenant as rain from heaven had been one of the causes of the flood.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18 - 22
 Noah and his family were saved not only from water but by water, i.e. the water carried the ark aloft. In the same way the water of baptism saves us. The flood was a type of baptism that purified mankind.

Gospel: Mark 1: 12 - 15
 Mark gives only a summary account of the temptation of Christ. Satan wished to discover whether Jesus was the Messiah and, if possible, to lead him from the path of suffering, which God had ordained as the course to be followed by the Redeemer. Mark alone mentions the wild beasts whose presence suggests the desolate character of the region to which the Lord had retired. John the Baptist was now in prison and Jesus went into Galilee where John had preached and began by repeating the call to repentance.

School Bus Escort post in Scoil Mhuire

The Board of Management invites applications for School Bus Escort post in Scoil Mhuire. Candidates should have experience in working with children, have an understanding of special needs and be able to deal with parents and school staff in a professional way. School Bus Escorts will be expected to travel to and from an agreed pick-up and drop-off point to meet the bus. Applicants must supply suitable character references and Garda Vetting is mandatory. Hourly rate of pay is €13.40. The work will consist of approx. 3hrs per day: 7.30am to 9.00am & 2.45pm to 4.15pm. Bus Escorts will not be paid during school holidays. Please forward CV and cover letter to: principal@scoilmhuireballincollig.ie Many thanks, Liz Uí Bheinéid, Principal /Príomhoide, Scoil Mhuire, Ballincollig, Cork.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

First Week of Lent

18 Sunday Gen. 9:8-15. Ps. 24. 1 Pet. 3:18-22. Mk. 1:12-15. Lect I: 205

19 Monday Lev. 19:1-2,11-18. Ps. 18. Mt. 25:31-46. Lect I: 210
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20 Tuesday Is. 55:10-11. Ps. 33. Mt. 6:7-15. Lect I: 212

21 Wednesday In. 3: 1-10. Ps. 50. Lk. 11 :29-32. Lect I: 214

22 Thursday 1 Peter 5: 1-4 Ps 22 Mt 16: 13-19 Lect II: 962

23 Friday Ex. 18:21-28. Ps. 129. Mt. 5:20-26. Lect I: 218

Next Sunday's Readings 25-February-2024

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18. Ps 115. Rom 8:31-34. Mk 9:2-10. Lect I: 225

MASS TIMES

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
9:30 am	Friday	8:30 am
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.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

The Stations of the Cross will be held in St. Mary & St. John's Church at 7.00pm on Wednesdays during Lent.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Collection

The Lourdes Pilgrimage envelope collection which was taken up last weekend for the Lourdes sick/assisted Pilgrimage Fund amounted to €2,070. We appreciate your continued generosity.

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.

Finding hope in a hopeless world – Lent 2024

This is a seven-week programme for Parish groups or individuals available on the Diocesan website (<https://corkandross.org/lent2024>). A different aspect of hope will be explored each week.

The resource is available as a presentation, video, and podcast (all of which can be used online or downloaded for off-line use).