

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 17-March-2024

Fifth Week of Lent / Solemnity of St. Patrick

Jesus' Hour was approaching, the Hour which He would have to face alone, the Hour of his final act of obedience to the Father. Because of that Hour Jesus is no longer alone, He draws all to himself. If we can die with him we too will not be alone for ever.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Solemnity of St. Patrick

The kidnapping of St. Patrick and subsequent years of slavery in Ireland form the story of a personal tragedy in a young man's life. Historians agree that Patrick was born in Britain though the exact location will never be known for certain. Most probably he was born in Candida Casa, 25 miles to the east of the Mull of Galloway which lies no more than 20 miles from the coast of Down. The date was probably 385 A.D. His family would have been reasonably well-off officials of the Roman Empire in Britain. Irish attacks on the Roman province of Britain can be traced back to about 350. The Emperor Theodosius erected fortifications against the marauders in Britain in 368. At this time there are references to a naval demonstration by the Romans in the Irish Sea, when the Irish "were driven back to their bogs". In 399 Claudian writes that the sea was full of Irish ships interested in plunder. Irish tradition confirms the Roman sources. Niall of the Nine Hostages met his death near the Isle of Wight.

Patrick himself describes the raid, which led to his capture. He refers to thousands of prisoners being taken. The ships engaged must have constituted quite a fleet and the place attacked must have been rich and well populated. The attack would have been sudden, ferocious, and quickly executed. Patrick, a lad of sixteen, found himself a slave of the lowest category - minding pigs - without friends or family, not even understanding the language. Years later the day came for his escape. The 200 Roman miles which he said he travelled, would be about the distance from Slemish to Gorey, Arklow or Wexford. As a penniless slave he must have offered to work his passage to the Continent on the first ship he found in the harbour. Some, if not all, of the cargo was dogs, obviously Irish wolfhounds, - those gentle grey giants, largest dogs in the world -, bred for the chase and therefore valuable in France where the great aristocrats were devoted to this sport. We can imagine Patrick feeding and watering the dogs on the three-day voyage and cleaning out their basket-work cages as he calmed their fear of the rolling ship.

Nantes, at the mouth of the Loire, would have been a likely landing place. From there the crew would have had to take the dogs to a marketplace inland. But here they met "a desert" through which they wandered for 28 days. This devastation would have been a consequence of a German raid on Gaul in 407. The raiding tribes marched down the Rhine, swung left to the Channel and then turned south and west along the coast of France, devastating as they went. Eventually the market was reached, and Patrick was a free man at last.

But even as Patrick enjoyed his good fortune, he heard the voices of the Irish calling him back to Ireland. His missionary vocation revealed the hand of God in all his extraordinary trials and his willing "yes" to God's invitation revealed the greatness of his character.

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

St Patrick's Day is a special day for Ireland. Could you tell someone about the work of Trócaire today.

Ballincollig Alzheimer Café

Ballincollig Alzheimer Café are meeting on Thursday, 21st March from 4.00pm – 6.00pm in The Chapel Gate Café. They meet every 3rd Thursday of the month. This month's topic is: Safe Medication Management at Home with: Jackie Shire, Pharmacist. To register contact: Karen Fitzpatrick 087 348 7511 or ballincolligalzheimercafe@alzheimer.ie



Reflection

We can be thankful to the prophet Jeremiah for what he has contributed to the understanding of God, which developed over the centuries of the Hebrew Scriptures. The God of the earlier covenant on Mount Sinai differs from the God of the new covenant in Jeremiah in one crucial aspect. God's response to Israel's failure to keep the first covenant was punishment. By way of contrast, the God of the New Covenant will be known as a God who will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.



To all our readers a happy St Patrick's day and a safe enjoyable weekend.

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

A pure heart create for me, O God.

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 :
 Peggy McCarthy, The Crescent.
 Patrick McGuire, Donegal.
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:
 Glen Dempsey, Carrigrohane.
 John O'Connell, Westcliff.
 Frank Whelan, Maglin Vale.
 Patricia Murphy, Aylsbury.
 Joe O'Callaghan, Glendower.
 Helen Kenneally, Beech Park.
 Norah & Paddy Barry, Redemption Road.
 Bernard Leach, Carriganarra.
 Tim O'Leary, Sunningdale.
 Robert & Kathleen Cuthbert, Douglas.
 Brendan & Tony Cuthbert, Douglas.
 John Erangey, Ballincollig/Aghabullogue.
 Patrick McNamara, Sweetbriar Lane.
 Vincent Atilano, Philipinnes.
 Breda Ryan, Kilmurry/Ovens.
 James O'Connell, Holly Road.
 Niall McGroarty, Beech Park.
 Nora Cotter, Togher.
 Sean McKechnie.
 Frank Walsh, Ballinhassig.
 John Walsh, Galway.
 Con O'Mahony, Ballyvolane.
 Breda & Michael Burke, Avoncourt.
 Neil Cleary, Westcourt/Ballydehob.
 Tom McGrath, Beech Park.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Fifth Week of Lent / Solemnity of St. Patrick
 17 Sunday Jer 31:31-34. Ps 50. Heb 5:7-9. Jn 12:20-30. Lect I: 310
 18 Monday Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62. Ps 22. Jn 8:1-11. Lect I: 319
 19 Tuesday 2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16. Ps 88. Rom4:13, 16-18, 22. Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24 or Lk 2:41-51. Lect I: 970 or II: 980
 20 Wednesday Dan. 3: 14-20, 24-25, 28. Ps. Dan. 3:52-56. Jn. 8:31-42. Lect I: 328
 21 Thursday Gen 17:3-9. Ps 104. Jn 8:51-59. Lect I: 331
 22 Friday Jer 20:10-13. Ps 17. Jn 10:31-42. Lect I: 333
 23 Saturday Ex 37:21-28. Ps Jer 31:10-13. Jn 11:45-56. Lect I: 336
 Next Sunday's Readings 24-March-2024
 Is. 50:4-7. Ps 22. Phil. 2:6- 11. Mt. 26:14-27,66. Lect I: 346

MASS TIMES

St. Mary & St. John		Christ Our Light
8:30 am, 10 am	Sunday	11 am, 12:30 pm
9:30 am	Monday	No Mass on Bank Holiday Monday
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
6:00 pm (Vigil)	Saturday	7:30 pm (Vigil)

THE SUNDAY READINGS
 First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34
 The prophet foretells the day when a new covenant will be made between God and man. Christ will be the new High Priest. Before him all men will be equal and the different religious beliefs will one day disappear, as all men will come to know the one true God.
 Second Reading: Hebrews 5: 7-9
 Gethsemane rather than Calvary is the scene here. Christ is presented in his weakness. Nowhere was Jesus more evidently one of our weak human selves than in the garden of Gethsemane where he suffered his agony of anticipation. Being innocent he could not offer sacrifice for his own sins like the High Priests in the Old Testament but he could pray out of the anguish of mortal weakness which he took on for our salvation.
 Gospel: John 12: 20-30
 The grain of wheat has life in it but that does not germinate into the production of other living grains unless it is subject to death and burial in the ground. Martyrdom is the highest act of self-denial. The cross frightens us, but it also frightened Jesus. The vivid image of a cruel death brought to Jesus a tremor of fear. Crucified, he will draw all people, without distinction of race, to himself.

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.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 pm to 4 pm 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.
Envelope Collection
 The Irish Bishop's Commissions Collection which was taken up at all Masses last weekend amounted to €1,635. We appreciate your continued generosity.
Confirmation
 Please pray for the boys and girls in Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin and the boys in Scoil Eoin who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation this week. Sincere thanks to the parents and dedicated teachers who work diligently preparing young people

Come to Lourdes as a Young Adult Helper in September
 A special Information Evening will take place in Mardyke House, Cork, (T12 W8RP) for those aged between 18 and 25, who would like to travel with the Diocese of Cork and Ross to Lourdes (Sept 20th to 25th) as a Young Adult Helper. The Information Meeting will begin at 7pm on Tuesday 12th March. It is a wonderful opportunity for a young person to help those pilgrims who require assistance and to grow deeper in their faith by experiencing the unique spirituality of Lourdes. For more information call Sheila on (021) 490 2459 or email sheilakelleher@ucc.ie

Bridge in Dennehy's Cross Church
 The game of Bridge is recommencing after a long absence since Covid at Dennehy's Cross Church on Monday 25th March from 2-4 pm.
 Contact: Bridie Tobin 086-8237963