

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 15-December-2024

Third Sunday Of Advent

John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare for Christ's coming. His task was to make people attentive to the Spirit who would be fully present in God's anointed.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

There is a story told about a man who came home to find his little daughter crying bitterly. He asked her what the matter was. She said that she had been playing hide and seek with her friends. But when it was her turn to hide, she had hid so well that they had given up looking for her and had gone off to play another game. She waited and waited for them to find her but they failed to do so. When she finally came out of her hiding place she found herself all alone.

It is fair to say that God is often hidden in the complexities and joys of life. Some are unable to find God and eventually give up looking and go off in other directions.

Perhaps as we edge closer to Christmas we too can find God again. Jesus was born into a stable, in the most unlikely spot in the whole wide world. If it happened today Mary would have a splash of luxury laid on in Cork University Maternity hospital. Despite the downturn no expense would be spared. But God chose simplicity and the least expected spot for something very special to happen. God is to be found hidden in the down to earth moments of our every day lives. We often build our expectations of God really high. Our expectation of Christmas can be equally high. But the challenge is to find God at the heart of our everyday lives. This is easy when life is going well but when we're struggling and going through difficult moments it can be so difficult.

This third Sunday of Advent is called 'Joyful Sunday' and is marked with a pink candle on our Advent wreath. We are encouraged to thank God for all our blessings and joys today. With so much negative news hitting us each day this is another great challenge. There's nothing quite so puzzling as someone else's joys when we are feeling down or someone else's sadness when we are feeling on top of the world. Our scripture readings make no apology. We are encouraged to believe in the gentle presence of God to be found in our every day lives. This gentle presence is someone who cares for us, loves us deeply and gives us a deep sense of joy in the midst of our own stops and starts.

Trócaire Christmas Gifts of Change

Trócaire Christmas Gifts of Change bring real hope and opportunity to families and communities living with poverty and injustice across our world, and a chance to create lasting and positive change from Somalia to Guatemala, from Sudan to Palestine. There are gifts for everyone starting at 5 euro for the Gift of Soap. You can support the gifts by buying them online at trocaire.org/gifts; by phone 1800 408 408/021-4275622; by post or in person to Trócaire, 9, Cook Street, Cork. T12 F583.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2024

St. Mary & St. John's Church

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

Vigil Masses 6.00pm & 10.00pm

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December 8.30am, 10.00am & 12 Noon

Christ our Light Church

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

6.00pm & 8.00pm

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December 11.00am & 12.30pm

Third Sunday of Advent

We are a step nearer to our celebration of His coming. As we approach Him we must bring Him everything! Our dreams, our successes, our rejoicing. If we have little to rejoice over, bring Him that little. If you feel you have only empty hands - bring Him those empty hands. IN HIS HANDS ALL ARE MADE GOOD! "Let us rejoice in the Lord!"



The Advent Wreath

The third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.

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

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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 Barrett, Inniscarra View/Tipperary.
Aidan O'Shea, Ballincollig/Macroom.
John Graham, Dublin.
Agnes O'Donovan Theron, Station Road/France.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:

Pat Keane, Freemount, Charleville.
Bill & Kit Foley, Ballygarvan.
Gary O'Dwyer, Inniscarra.
Noreen McDermott, Poulavone.
Tom, Margaret & Judy Enright, Nadd.
Seamus Casey, Ballinhassig.
Patricia & Margaret O'Mahoney, Clash.
Regina Collins, Carriganarra.
Sheila McSweeney, Gurrabraher.
Joan Dunne, An Caislean.
Michael McGrath, Island Way.
Jerry & Breda Ring, The Crescent.
Danjoe McCarthy, Beech Park.
Pat & Mary Horgan, Upton.
Denis & Ellen Hallahan, Ballingulley.
Con Delaney, Kilnaglory.
Sinead Cadogan.
Maura O'Connor.
Jack, Claire & Liam Horgan, Gurrabraher.
Philip Joseph, India.
Jeremiah & Mary Keshane, Rossmore.
Eimear Higgins, Manor Hill.
Joe, Kitty & Paul Dunne.
Olive Henchy.
Kathleen O'Connor.
Ciara O'Connor.
Susan & John O'Driscoll, Carrigdenne.
Rose Murray, Inniscarra/Youghal.
Donal Lowry, Limerick/Oxford.
Denis Buttimer, Toames, Macroom.

THE SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Zeph 3:14-18
The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.

Second Reading: Phil 4:4-7
God asks us all to be happy through prayer.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18
The crowds approached John the Baptist and asked how they should live in order to be ready to follow the Messiah. John responded by telling them to share and to not take more than they are entitled to. The people wondered if John might be the Messiah for whom they had been waiting, but he cleared up any misunderstanding by saying that he was not. For sure, the Messiah would come after John, but John was not worthy even to be the Messiah's slave who would untie his sandal.

Ballincollig Alzheimer Café

The Ballincollig Alzheimer Café will take place on Thursday the 19th of December in The Chapel Gate Café in Ballincollig P31XP38, FRO, at 3pm to 5pm. This month's Topic is " Safety at Home over Christmas" and our Guest speaker is Community Garda, Paddy Casey.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week Of Advent

- 15 Sunday Zech. 3: 14-18. Ps. Is. 12. Phil. 4:4-7. Lk. 3: 10-18. Lect I: 51
- 16 Monday Num 24:2-7, 15-17. Ps 24. Mt 21:23-27. Lect I: 53
- 17 Tuesday Gen. 49:2,8-10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1 :17. Lect I: 76
- 18 Wednesday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I:79
- 19 Thursday Jg. 13:2-7, 24-25. Ps. 70. Lk. 1 :5-25. Lect I: 81
- 20 Friday Is 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Lk. 1:26-38. Lect I: 83
- 21 Saturday Song 2:8-14 or Zeph. 3: 14-18. Ps. 32. Lk. 1 :39-45. Lect I: 85

Next Sunday's Readings 22-December-2024

Mic. 5: 1-4. Ps 79. Heb. 10:5-10. Lk. 1 :39-45. Lect I: 73

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
9:30 am	Tuesday	No Mass
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)

Bulletin Board

Coeliac Hosts

Low gluten hosts are available and suitable for Coeliac's. 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 pm to 4 pm in St. Mary & St. John's Church every Friday.

Meditation

Meditation continues in the Ballincollig Community Hall on Tuesday mornings after 9.30am Mass. New members welcome.

Offertory Collection Boxes

The Offertory Collection is solely for the upkeep, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches. Could the people who have a box number allocated to them, please collect them from Sonas, Station Road. Mon. – Wed. 9.30am – 12.30pm? Postcode: P31 V443.

Ballincollig Parish Penitential Service

Monday 16th December in Christ Our Light Church at 7.30pm.

Ovens/Farran Parish Penitential Service

Sunday 15th December in St. John the Baptism Church, Ovens at 6.00pm.

Ballinora Parish Penitential Service

Tuesday 17th December in St. James' Church at 7.30pm.

Carol Service

A Christmas Carol Concert will be held in Christ our Light Church on Sunday 15th December, at 7.00pm. Hosted by Cantairí Mhúscraí - all welcome to a feast of festive music by school & adult choirs, concert band and Comhaltas group.