

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John
Station Road

Sunday 02-February-2025

Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

The Presentation of The Lord

In the person of Jesus, God enters his Temple, unrecognised by most but welcomed by Simeon and Anna, both people of prayer. As Mary stood on Calvary, she is now present when the Lamb of sacrifice is presented in the Temple. Darkness seeks to reject the True Light, so already the shadow of the Cross is to be seen.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

We Honour Saints Brigid & Blaise this Long Weekend

January is a month most of 'get through' before longer days and green shoots come our way again in the spring. The Feast of Saint Brigid marked the beginning of the new season on Saturday, thanks be to God. Our waiting has not been in vain. Even if it's still cold, we can feel a growing warmth to the gentle sunshine.

This Sunday, however, marks forty days since Christmas. On it, we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord, or 'Candlemas'. As we hear in the gospel, in presenting him at the Temple, Joseph and Mary are fulfilling the Jewish law. To most people present in Jerusalem, it was like any other day, except for Simeon and Anna, two wise and holy people who had a felt knowledge that something was different. The Lord had indeed entered his Temple.

For us, Simeon and Anna offer the example of a spiritual sensitivity, of which we are all capable. They were able to recognise God in their midst, while others were oblivious. They had waited a long time for this moment, but their waiting wasn't in vain and they never gave up hope. They might stand as examples to us today of holding steadfast and not giving up.

As winter turns to spring, we look ahead to a time of new growth in the parish: Alpha Youth begins in the Carraig Centre on Wednesday 5th of February at 20:00; a Week of Guided Prayer will be taking place in the second week of March; a group from the Family of Parishes (Ballincollig, Ballinora, Ovens/Farran) will join together for three listening sessions as part of Bishop Fintan's 'Year of Prayer, Listening, and Discernment'; there will be a Family of Parishes liturgy with anointing of the sick in Ballinora on Tuesday 25th of February; and some of our young adult parishioners will be travelling to Rome for the Jubilee World Youth Day in the summer. In the meantime, those in sixth classes across the local schools will be making their Confirmations in the coming weeks, and the new Parish Office is taking shape at the front of the John Paul II Community Centre.

I hope you have a very enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

Fr. Ronan Sheehan CC.

Discernment Group

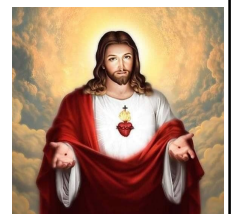
I wish to thank you for your prayers and support of Vocations to the Priesthood in our Diocese. Especially in an ever-changing landscape of Priesthood finding balance in our lives, ministry and work. Bishop Fintan, Fr Marius O Reilly and I would like to invite any man between 18 -40 years old who may be thinking of Priesthood in our Diocese to consider joining a Discernment Group which we hope to begin on Saturday 8th February 2025. At present we do not have anybody in Seminary - so I ask you to pray for anybody who may be considering a Vocation to the Priesthood in Cork and Ross Diocese. A huge "Thank You" to those parishes who have begun a 'Prayer Circle' for Vocations to the Priesthood in Cork and Ross. We ask the Lord to continue to guide each of us at this time. Feel free to contact me or pass on my contact details to those who you feel may be interested cian.osullivan@corkandross.org Fr Cian O'Sullivan, Diocesan Director of Vocations, 021-4301717

Jubilee of Youth Pilgrimage to Rome Launch

Bishop Fintan will lead a group of fifty young people (18 to 30 years) to Rome this summer from the 28th July to the 4th August for Jubilee of Youth Pilgrimage. It is a once in a life opportunity for our young people to not only meet the Pope, to experience the Eternal City, but also to be encouraged and inspired as they meet other young people of faith from all continents. Hundreds of thousands of young people are expected to travel and to experience this Jubilee Celebration, which only happens every twenty five years in the Church. The pilgrimage will cost €550 per person (plus fundraising) and will include seven nights half board at the Irish College, Travel Insurance, a 20Kg bag, and a pilgrim kit. There will be a special Launch Evening on Thursday 6th February at 7.30pm in Mardyke House (T12 W8RP).

Reflection for Parents

How many times do we react to what appears to be the situation? A few times of being wrong slows parents down and teaches us that "things are not always as they seem." It takes time and often forces us to "eat humble pie" (or at least laugh at ourselves), but very often, by the time we "get the story" we recognize that we have come to the wrong conclusion, that the evidence is misleading. We need to show our children that we trust and have faith in them. If our first impression turns out to be correct, then we can take necessary disciplinary steps, but at least our children recognize our faith in them as our first response.



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

My lips will tell of your help.

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 :

Denis Lyons, Albert Road.
Paul Cremin, Blarney.
Cathy Shortt, Willow Drive/Laois.
Paul Manley, Ballincollig/Togher.
Carmel Sheehan, Ballincollig/Ovens.

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

Pat Manning, Farranree.
Pat Keane, Freemount.
Maisie & Paul O’Keeffe, The Meadows.
John Kelleher, Rosewood.
Sean Feeney, Rosewood/Cobh.
Eleanor Burke, Whites Cross.
Pat Spillane, Willow Drive.
Kevin Roderick, Westgate.
Martin & Eily Murphy, Hodder’s Villas.
Kitty & Con McCarthy, Poulavone.
Kimberley McCarthy, Beech Park.
Bernice Herley, Beech Park.
Jimmy Murphy, Pinewalk/Clonmel.
Thomas Reck, Innishmore Square.
Conn O’Brien, Ovens.
Denis O’Donoghue, Village.
Derry Lane, Westgate.
Michael O’Mahony, Castlepark.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week In Ordinary Time

02 Sunday Mal. 3: 1-4 or Heb. 2: 14-18. Ps. 23 Lk. 2:22-40. Lect I: 967 or II: 940
03 Monday Heb 11:32-40. Ps 30. Mk 5:1-20. Lect II: 40
04 Tuesday Heb 12:1-4. Ps 21. Mk 5:21-43. Lect II: 42
05 Wednesday Heb 12:4-7, 11-15. Ps 102. Mk6:1-6. Lect II: 45
06 Thursday Heb. 12: 18-19, 21-24. Ps. 47. Mk. 6:7-13. Lect II: 47
07 Friday Heb. 13: 1-8. Ps. 26. Mk. 6: 14-29. Lect II: 49
08 Saturday Heb 13:15-17, 20-21. Ps 22. Mk 6:30-34. Lect I: 51

Next Sunday’s Readings 09-February-2025

Is. 6:1-2, 3-8. Ps. 137. 1 Cor. 15:1-11. Lk. 5:1-11. Lect I: 849

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.

The Feast of St. Blaise

The Feast of St. Blaise is tomorrow Monday, 3rd February which is also a bank holiday. There will be 9.30am Mass in St. Mary & St. John’s Church. There will be blessing of throats at this Mass.

First Friday

Friday 7th February is the first Friday of the month. There is Mass in the church of St. Mary & St. John 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 neighbour who is sick or housebound.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Collection

Special envelope collection will be taken up next weekend 8th/9th February for the Lourdes sick/assisted Pilgrimage Fund.

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.

First Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4
God’s people were complaining that their oppressors were prospering while they were left to suffer. "If God is just", they asked. "Where is He?" God answers that he will come but that they are not fit to receive his coming. He will have to purify them like gold is purified in fire before they will be fit to serve the Lord.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-18
Christ did not come to help immortal angels but mortal men. As helper of mortals he had to resemble them in every possible way so as to become merciful by partnership in misery. Experience of suffering and of trial is the best school of compassion. Knowing pain and trial, Christ is a competent helper of those who are being tried.

Gospel: Luke 2: 22- 40
As in the case of the birth of Jesus the narrative of Luke is marked with great simplicity. The precise prescriptions of the Law are followed. As the firstborn, Jesus is God’s property, consecrated to God as in a sacrifice. Mary offers what was known as "the poor woman’s sacrifice": two young pigeons. The future of the Child is foretold by the two old people, Simeon and Anna. Luke, in one brief sentence, passes over the first twelve years of the life of Jesus: "he grew to maturity and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him."

Ballincollig Alpha Youth

Ballincollig Alpha Youth group is starting on Wednesday 5th of February 8:00-9:30pm in The Carraig Centre - Ages: 12-18. Join a conversation on life, faith and purpose. To register call: 085 240 0938.

IBTS has issued an urgent appeal in the wake of Storm Eowyn for blood donations, with supplies very low. Between the severe weather, high demand, and illness in our communities, we need over 12,000 donations in the coming days and weeks, including pre bank holiday to support our hospitals. For anybody interested in becoming a donor, you can register your interest on our website (www.giveblood.ie) where you will also find all clinic locations / opening hours and eligibility details, or call us at 1800 731 137 to make an appointment.