

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John  
Station Road

Sunday 23-February-2025

Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time

*The Lord is Compassion and Love.*

*We cannot celebrate the Lord of love without resolving to be more like him; for we are built Into him like stones into a Temple erected to give glory to God. We belong to him.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

## Our Devotion

As Christians we seek to follow Christ, in our actions, in our attitudes. Christ calls us into God's love, into his healing, salvation and peace. He calls us to be fully alive and he offers us an abundance of life leading to eternal life. The call to holiness was part of the "Old Law," part of the Law of Moses. In our reading this weekend from Leviticus God tells Moses to say to his people: "be holy, for I the Lord your God am Holy." This means no hatred in our hearts, being open and honest with those who may hurt us. It means no carrying grudges, but to love my neighbour as myself. Unresolved anger can fester and destroy our peace, resulting in a chain reaction of retaliation. As we come before God, we realise that it is not just other people's sins that deserve punishment but our sins too, and we rejoice in God's mercy and forgiveness. He does forgive and wants us to be like him in forgiving others in our turn. In this way and despite all our imperfections we can indeed be holy as he is holy.

Jesus calls to something higher than compliance with the law. Just as God the Father is kind to those who offend him, including us, we are called to be kind and gentle to those who offend us. This is a call to love without limit, without counting the cost. This is of course the nature of sincere love, as we see in people who are in love, in the love of a mother for her child, in the love of God our Father for his children. The way of the Christian should involve loving one's enemies and praying for those who persecute us, it's not enough to be nice, or loving, to those who are nice to us. St Paul reminds us that we belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God, and that we form individually and together a temple where God dwells, a sacred place. We pray that while we are young and active we will be active loving people, and that when we are older, we will be peaceful, mellow, "let it be" people, full of love. We pray for the grace to answer God's call to holiness, for the love of Christ in our hearts and for that peace of Christ which is beyond all human understanding.

## Week of Guided Prayer

Some years ago, the late Father George O'Mahony organised a Week of Guided Prayer in the parish. I'm planning on doing the same for the First Week of Lent (Sunday 9th to Friday 14th of March). The week involves an initial gathering followed by individual spiritual direction once per day for 30 minutes until Friday. Participants will be given a piece of Scripture to pray with each day. The spiritual directors are trained in this area and will meet with participants in Ballincollig at a time suitable to both. They include Fr Joe Coghlan (a retired priest of the diocese), Sr Jennifer McAleer (a religious sister), and Anne Kelly (chaplain to the Mercy hospital).

We will conclude the week on Friday 14th with a second gathering of all participants.

All you need is a Bible, a willingness to spend some time in prayer each day, and an open heart. Previous experience of spiritual direction isn't necessary. There's no cost but places are limited.

Please email me by Monday February 24th with an expression of interest or any follow-up questions: [fr.ronan2022@gmail.com](mailto:fr.ronan2022@gmail.com)

Those who have engaged with the Week of Guided Prayer in Ballincollig speak highly of it. Please God, many will find the same this time also. God bless, Fr Ronan



## An Invitation to All – Ballinora – Ballincollig – Ovens - Farran & Kilmurry Family of Parishes

A Prayer service will take place in St James Church, Ballinora on next Tuesday the 25th February from 7.30pm-8.15pm. Please help us celebrate Jubilee Year 2025 as Pilgrims of Hope. If you cannot attend, join us online on [www.churchservices.tv/ballinora](http://www.churchservices.tv/ballinora)



## Get Well Prayer for Pope Francis

Loving God, we ask you to look with favour on your servant Francis, who has served you as a Jesuit, a priest, an archbishop, a cardinal and now as a pope.

Most of all, he has served you as a faithful Christian, sharing the love, mercy and compassion that you Son showed to all he encountered, especially those who were poor or struggling.

As Francis faces this new illness, help the doctors and nurses who care for him, help him to bear any pain with grace, and help him to heal quickly. We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Fr James Martin



POPE FRANCIS

Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357

*The Lord Is Compassion And Love.*

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

† IN SYMPATHY †  
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :

John Creedon, Carriganarra.  
Eddie Hogan, Carriganarra Est.  
Peggy Farrell, Ballincollig.  
Peg Gilleran, Rosewood, Ballincollig.  
Michael Connolly, Kilmurry / Ballincollig.

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

Derry Lynch, Ballymacthomas.  
Alec Myles, Churchview.  
Joe Kavanagh, Fr Sexton Park.  
Jerry O'Leary, Inniscarra View.  
Catherine & Patrick Howard, Ballinlough.  
Daniel McSweeney, Cathedral Road.  
Mary Ann Sheehan, Blarney St.  
Marie Byrne, Inniscarra.  
Patty McDonnell, Mayfield.  
Billy Whelton, Muskerry Est.  
Jim Deasy, Aherla.  
William Hennessy, Bishopstown.  
Rose and Ted Moylan, Earlwood Estate, Togher.  
John Nyhan, Coolroe.  
Nora Barrett, Coolroe.  
Mary Murphy, Wilton Rd.

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

The best way to love yourself is by imitating God's holiness. And begin by avoiding sin, especially the hatred which leads to bearing grudges and seeking revenge. It is not in anyone's interest to bottle things up inside. Instead be up front with those who have offended you in order to clear the air. Do not let the sun go down on your anger.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Human wisdom often seems to suggest that our value depends on what we own. The more belongings we have the more people look up to us. But God's wisdom turns this pattern on its head. Our dignity stems from our belonging to Christ, who in turn belongs to his Father. The Spirit is God's mark of ownership over us. We are no ordinary dwelling place, but temples of the Spirit.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:38-48

One disadvantage of a legalistic view of morality is that it can lead to minimalism, an attitude represented by the question, 'How far can I go before I commit sin?' The scribes thought that if they followed certain rules exactly they could claim a right to God's reward. But the call to 'be perfect as God is perfect' is a reminder of the open ended nature of morality. There is always an extra mile to go for others. The saintly person is always eager to go beyond the call of duty. We are to follow the example of the Good Samaritan who not only saved a man's life but was willing to pay the innkeeper to look after him. Jesus goes beyond duty in praying for his persecutor.

**Ballincollig, Ballinora, Ovens & Farran:**

This Weekend 22nd / 23rd February 2025, the Parish of Kilmurry will become part of the Family of Parishes of Ballincollig, Ballinora, Ovens & Farran. This Family of Parishes will be served by Fr Alan O'Leary Co-PP, Fr John McCarthy Co-PP, Fr Ronan Sheehan CC, Fr John Collins AP and Deacon Frank McKeivitt. Fr Kieron O'Driscoll will join this team as Co-PP and be resident in Cloughduv in the Parish of Kilmurry.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Seventh Week In Ordinary Time

23 Sunday Sam. 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23. Ps. 102. 1 Cor. 15:45-49. Lk. 6:27-38. Lect I: 856

24 Monday Eccles (Sir) 1:1-10. Ps 92. Mk 9:14-29. Lect II: 81

25 Tuesday Eccles. (Sir) 2:1-11. Ps. 36. Mk. 9:30-37. Lect II: 83

26 Wednesday Eccles. (Sir) 4:11-19. Ps. 118. Mk. 9:38-40. Lect II: 85

27 Thursday Eccles. (Sir) 5:1-8. Ps. 1. Mk. 9:41-50. Lect II: 87

28 Friday Sir. 6:5-17. Ps. 118. Mk. 10:1-12. Lect II:89

01 Saturday Eccles. (Sir) 17:1-15. Ps. 102. Mk. 10:13-16. Lect II: 91

Next Sunday's Readings 02-March-2025

Eccles (Sir) 27:4-7. Ps 91:2.3, 13-16, R/ cf v 2. 1 Cor 15:54-58. Lk 6:39-45. Lect I: 859

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

**New Evening Meditation Group**

If you are interested in a short number of weeks to learn the technique of John Main Meditation. You can check it out on the app WCCM. This will be 30 mins in Duration. Beginning on Monday 3rd March in the Annexe of the Parish Hall, and will continue until Monday 7th April except 17th March. Please give your name and contact number to the Parish Office (Mon-Wed).

**Cork and Ross Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025**

The diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this year will take place from Friday 19th September to Wednesday 24th September. We will fly from Cork to Lourdes. Bookings are now open with Joe Walsh Tours on 01 2410 800 for anyone wishing as a pilgrim. Volunteers are also required: Doctors, Nurses, Care Assistants and Helpers (Adults and Young Adults aged between 18 to 25 years). For General Enquiries contact 085 2525 040 or Email: [lourdes@corkandross.org](mailto:lourdes@corkandross.org)

**PLEASE NOTE** - A special Reunion Mass for those who travelled to Lourdes last September will be on Friday, February 28th at 7.30pm in the Church of The Incarnation, Frankfield, followed by a social afterwards. This will officially launch this year's Pilgrimage, and all are invited to attend this