

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John

Sunday 23-March-2025

Third Sunday of Lent

In an age when so many are hungry while there is so much surplus food around, fasting can be looked at cynically. It has a special connection with Lent. It has something to recommend it still. Maybe the money spared could be given to someone in need. To experience hunger is to be aware of something which is shared by many today.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

The Parable of the Fig Tree

In our readings today God calls us to conversion and to repentance, both important aspects of our Lenten journey. In the first reading we hear of God's great care for his people. Having heard their cries and the suffering they were enduring, He chooses Moses to be a voice for them and to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians. He promises He will journey with them and Moses as they seek the 'Promised Land'. On that journey He will remain faithful, providing for them, even in spite of their sinfulness.

In the Gospel we hear the parable of the Barren Fig Tree, which hasn't produced fruit for three years, so the owner wants it cut down; but the 'Gardener' intercedes asking for a little longer time to nurture it before it meets its fate. If properly nurtured the barren tree may yet bear fruit. This parable describes God's Mercy and patience towards us. During Lent we are called to repent and to change. Perhaps, we can be like that tree by not producing the fruit of love and compassion God asks of us; by not living as we should, for God and for others. We often make wrong choices and mistakes, yet God always loves us and is ready to give us another chance. As we hear in today's Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and reach in Mercy.

This Sunday in Lent we are called to look into our own hearts and be honest about the fruit we are growing there. Jesus tells us elsewhere in the Gospel, "A good person brings out what is good from the store of goodness of the heart". When we look into our hearts what do we see? A heart full of goodness, compassion, and love, towards myself and others or a heart withering through bitterness, jealousies, worries, fears and cares? If the latter, now is the time to turn back to God and open our hearts to his love and grace. In that way we can bear fruit again and be a blessing to others and to the world.

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

Breakthrough Cancer Research

Have you ever dreamed of walking the Camino de Santiago? Breakthrough Cancer Research are taking on the 'Portuguese Way' from the 13th - 20th of June 2025. Starting in the charming town of Baiona, experience camaraderie and reflection as you walk toward Santiago de Compostela, creating lasting memories on this historic pilgrimage. You can enjoy this amazing adventure with our experienced guide and help Make More Survivors. For more information, please contact edel@breakcancer.ie or phone 021 422 66 55 for more details.

A Prayer for Peace in Ukraine & Gaza

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
For it is in giving that we receive
in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Reflection for Parents

Some children worry whether or not their parents will live as long as the child needs them--basically forever! But often, parents worry more that they will someday be a burden to their children. Once in a while, parents know they only have a short period of time left with their children and they quickly take stock of what is truly important and act accordingly. Even without this notice, it would be good to evaluate each day with our children. How many nights do we fall into bed praying that this is not the last day our children remember with us! In today's First Reading we hear the story of the call of Moses and the revelation of the divine name. We pray for the grace to recognise the Lord and to answer when he calls.



Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357

The Lord is compassion and love.

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† IN SYMPATHY †
 PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED :
 Michael McCarthy, Clonakilty.
 Peg Gilleran, Rosewood.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:
 Kitty McSweeney, Cathedral Road.
 Denis & Rita Murphy, Fr Sexton Park.
 John & Mary Boyd, Main Street.
 Patrick McNamara, Inniscarra View.
 Vincent Atilano, Philippines.
 Joan Nelligan, Castleisland.
 Ger Glavin, Parknamore.
 Jerry & Kitty Hallahan, Kilmichael & Wales
 Teresa O'Driscoll, Sunningdale.
 Maurice, Margaret, Dan & Charles O'Connor, Castlegregory.
 Kathleen & Denis Barrett, Donoughamore.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15
 To Moses, God spoke in a burning bush. He gave Moses a message to preach. Moses was to tell his people that freedom was at hand, freedom and happiness.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
 Paul compares the Exodus story to Christian baptism. He reminds us again that God was not always pleased with His people. We are warned not to become complacent

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9
 God calls us to conversion, to turn to him, to reform. Moses once formed a people, but in the desert most of them sinned. Today, if we repent, God will again bring us out of captivity.

St. Ignatian Spiritual Exercises for Men
 Fri May 2nd to Mon May 5th (bank holiday) in An Tobar Retreat Centre, Ardbraccan Navan, C15 T884. Cost €190 - includes all meals and en-suite single rooms.
 Call: 087 - 348 2148 or iverel@ive.org

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland
 Cystic Fibrosis Ireland are looking for volunteers to help them with their collections in Dunnes Stores: Macroon on Friday, 11th April 2025. If you or a member of the community are available from 10am to 2pm or 2pm to 7pm on this date and would like to help with our collections by sitting at table with another volunteer, please email 65roses@cfireland.ie or call 01 4962433 and as we would love to hear from you. Thank you so much, CFI Fundraising Team. We are still looking for volunteers to fill slots at various Dunnes stores and shopping centres across the country. The aim of 65 Roses Day is to spread awareness of Cystic Fibrosis in Ireland and to raise much needed funds for essential services for people with CF. Link to: <https://65roses.ie>

**The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
 Lourdes Pilgrimage**
 The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are going to Lourdes from the 25th-30th May 2025 from Cork. For more details please ring Mary at 021 454 6691 or email mary.morrish@msscmissions.ie .

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week of Lent

- 23 Sunday Ex. 3:1-8, 13-15. Ps. 102.1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12. Lk. 13:1-9.lect I: 255
- 24 Monday 2 K. 5:1-15. Ps. 41. Lk. 4:24-30. Lect I: 262
- 25 Tuesday Is 7:10-14, 8:10. Ps 39. Heb 10:4-10. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 985
- 26 Wednesday Deut 4:1, 5-9. Ps 147. Mt 5:17-19. Lect I: 267
- 27 Thursday Jer. 7:23-28. Ps. 94. Lk. 11:14-23. Lect I: 268
- 28 Friday Hos. 14:2-10. Ps. 80. Mk. 12:28-34. Lect I: 271
- 29 Saturday Has. 5:1 5-6:6. Ps. So. Lk. 18:9-14. Lect I: 273

Next Sunday's Readings 30-March-2025
 Josh. 5:9-12. Ps. 33.2 Cor. 5:17-21. Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32. Lect I: 284

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.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 There will be Adoration 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

Confirmation
 Congratulations to the boys and girls in Scoil Barra and Our Lady of Good Counsel and the girls in Scoil Mhuire who received the sacrament of Confirmation this week. Please pray for the boys and girls in Gaelscoil an Chaisleáin who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation next week. Sincere thanks to the parents and dedicated teachers who work diligently preparing young people for the sacrament.

The students from Gaelscoil an Chaisleáin will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at the 12:30 Mass on Sunday 30th March in Christ Our Light and the Mass will be celebrated bilingually (Irish/English).

Mondays of Lent
 There will be a short guided Meditation after Mass for approx. 10 mins. (for those who would like to remain in the church). Thank you to the Rosary group for allowing this to happen.

Envelope Collection
 The quarterly diocesan collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend 29th/30th March. We appreciate your continued generosity.