

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John

Sunday 30-March-2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Laetare Sunday & Mother's Day

*The parable of the Prodigal shows us the power of the Father's forgiving love. The elder brother thinks of himself, and is begrudging. How often do we begrudge God's goodness to others? How many of us seek to use our good works as a means of monopolising God's love for ourselves.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

## The Parable of the Prodigal Son

We are more than half way through Lent, looking towards Holy Week and Easter, towards our remembrance of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, the work of our redemption. We are reminded of this by the reading from the Book of Joshua about the ending of the manna. This tells of the first Passover festival in the Promised Land after the years in the wilderness, a festival which prefigured Christ's Passover in Jerusalem, which we will commemorate at Easter.

The parable of the prodigal son is familiar to us and yet like any true parable it is thought-provoking each time we read or hear it. It tells of God's loving response to our repentance, even when that results from absolute self-interest. We are never beyond the reach of God's kindness. He takes us back, again and again if need be, and does not hold our faults against us. We say "pray for us sinners," recognising our sinfulness and as we speak about repentance, we hope to do better. But is this enough? Repentance involves more than sorrow and regret, it means a change of hearts, a new attitude. It means admitting we were wrong and swallowing our pride.

We need to guard against the hard piety of the elder son, who resented his father's acceptance of the erring younger son. A hard-hearted false piety does not reflect the heart of our Father who loves all his children. God's heart is for his little ones, and for the lost. Jesus was criticised for associating with sinners, for being open to people of inappropriate lifestyle. As his followers, can the same be said about us? If not, are we failing to be truly Christ-like?

Our repentance and renewal is God's work, not ours. Reconciliation to God means more than repentance and forgiveness, it leads us to something greater, to our becoming signs of God's goodness in the world, living signs of his kindness and magnanimity. We are called to that role, to represent God. While we find it hard to accept this, in a sense it is easy, as it is all God's work, if we let him do it. St Pauls tells us we are indeed God's ambassadors in the world, bringing God's appeal to others, the appeal to be reconciled. God appeals, he does not force anybody to accept him, as he offers a peace that the world cannot give. We pray for a spirit of confidence in God, and a spirit of practical kindness to others so that we may indeed represent the goodness of God to a sceptical world

## Envelope Collection

The Diocese supports parishes through all kinds of services such as Education, School Religious Faith Formation support, Mission and Ministry, Youth Ministry, Safeguarding, Stewardship and Governance and in areas such as Data Protection, Finance and Property advisory. This assistance to parishes is only possible through your ongoing generosity. In January the Diocesan Quarterly Collection amounted to €56,738 for which the Diocese is most grateful. These collections allow us to support the work in Parishes and Families of Parishes. This work is vital to enable our parishes to be renewed and invigorated. As we continue the Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment in our Diocese and discern how God is calling us to be his Church and Faith Communities into the future, your financial support is vital to allow this to happen. The next quarterly Diocesan collection will take place this weekend the 29th & 30th March. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated.



## Reflection for Parents

We try to divide the world into equal pieces for each of our children, but we know how very different each child can be. There are really no "one-size-fits-all" sets of expectations for families with more than one child. Today's Gospel helps us remember that we need to recognise the virtues of obedience and faithfulness, while we still love unconditionally and forgive the child who challenges us. Both brothers in this story considered themselves slaves, a feeling we work hard to prevent in our children.



The White Horse Gospel Choir in concert with special guests in aid of Balance Summer Camp  
For this special fundraiser Friday, 4th April from 7.00pm until 8.30pm in the Church of Christ Our Light

To all our mothers

Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

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

Carol Bennett, Gurranabraher.  
Leon Obiedzinski, Beech Park.

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

Nancy Hogan, The Crescent.  
Mai Murphy, Blarney.  
Margaret O'Connor, Carrigrohane.  
William & Jane Murphy, Kilmurray.  
Francis Barry, Innishmore.  
Imelda Horgan (nee Lyons) Conna/Inniscarra.  
Thomas & Joan McAuliffe, The Square/Glincool.  
Pat O'Connell, Rosewood.  
Noel Ferritter, Cherry Walk.  
Kitty Barry, Hodders Villas.  
John Barry, Coolroe Meadows.  
Bill Devereux, Clogheen, Co Tipperary.  
Donie Hegearty, Leesdale.  
Catherine O'Sullivan, Tudor Grove.  
Mary Raj, India.  
Bennie Collins, Daffodil Fields.  
Mairéad Duffy, Dublin.  
Mary Quinlan.  
William O'Brien & the O'Brien family, Cathedral Rd.  
Dec. mem. of Lakewood Pitch & Putt club.  
Dec. mem. of the Franciscan Third Order, Ballincollig.  
Patricia Cotter, Parknamore.  
John & Lena Gaffney, Carrigrohane.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12  
The story of God providing manna in the desert, but only there, may tell us something about how God provides for us in our every need.

Second Reading: 2 Cor. 5:17-21  
St. Paul gives a strong message today: We, each one of us, are ambassadors for Christ. That is something!

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32  
Today's Gospel is the well-known story of the prodigal son who begged for his share of the family inheritance. He took his fortune to a far away place and quickly spent all he had on his personal pleasures. He was completely broke when a serious famine struck the area and he was forced to tend pigs, an occupation prohibited to Jewish people. As he tended the pigs, he hungered for their scraps and realised that his father's slaves lived better than he did. It was then that he decided to return home, not as a son, but as a hired hand. So happy was the man's father when he saw his son return that he celebrated with all sorts of signs of honour. The father's older son, however, was very displeased with the way his father treated his brother, claiming that he had always been there working like a slave for his father. Never once had the father celebrated with this son. The father explained that the older son had always been with him and obedient. It was cause to rejoice, however, that his other son had been lost but now was found.

*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@mscmissions.ie .

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week Of Lent

- 30 Sunday Josh. 5:9-12. Ps. 33.2 Cor. 5:17-21. Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32. Lect I: 284
- 31 Monday Is. 65:17-21. Ps. 29. In. 4:43-54. Lect I: 290
- 01 Tuesday Ez. 47:1-9,12. Ps. 45. In. 5:1-3.5-16. Lect I: 292
- 02 Wednesday Is. 49:8-15. Ps. 144. In. 5:17-30. Lect I: 294
- 03 Thursday Ex. 32:7 -14 Ps. 105 In. 5:31-47. Lect 1: 297
- 04 Friday Wis. 2:1,12-22. Ps. 33. In. 7:1-2,10,25-30. Lect I: 300
- 05 Saturday Jer. 11 :18-20. Ps. 7. In. 7:40-53. Lect I: 303

Next Sunday's Readings 06-April-2025

Is. 43:16-21. Ps 125. Phil. 3:8-14. Jn. 8:1-11. Lect I: 313

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 & 7:30 pm	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**

The students from Gaelscoil an Chaisleáin will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at the 12.30pm Mass on Sunday 30th March in Christ Our Light Church and the Mass will be celebrated bilingually (Irish/English). Please pray for them. Sincere thanks to the parents and dedicated teachers who work diligently preparing young people for the sacrament.

**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.

**First Friday**

Friday 4th April is the first Friday of the month. There is Mass in St Mary & St. John's church 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.

**Spring Dues**

The priests of the Parish would like to thank you for returning the Spring Dues Envelopes. Your continued support is much appreciated.