

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Sunday 06-April-2025



St. Mary & St. John

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Men and women are judged every day - often too quickly condemned by whispering calumny and over-righteous indignations. Today's gospel is a reminder that judgement belongs to God and not to human persons. We cannot expiate our own guilt by pointing the finger at others.



Christ Our Light Innishmore

God's Mercy and Forgiveness

Jesus looked up and said, "If there is one of you without sin, let him cast the first stone."

Once upon a time a man was caught stealing; he was immediately brought before the King who gave orders that he be put to death. As he was being lead to the gallows, the man told the governor that he had a wonderful secret that was given to him by his father. He claimed that by using the secret he could plant the seed of a pomegranate that would grow and bear fruit overnight, He said it would be a pity if the secret died with him and he was willing to reveal it to the king.

The governor was so impressed that he halted the execution and brought the man to the king. The man dug a hole and taking a pomegranate seed, said the seed must be planted by someone who has never taken something that does not belong to him. I being a thief cannot do it. Then turning to one of the kings officials said, maybe you would like to plant it. The official declined saying, "in my younger days I kept something that did not belong to me." The man then turned to the kings' treasurer "Well then, perhaps you would like to plant the seed." He declined saying that over the years he had dealt with lots of cash and might have kept some for himself. So it went on, finally it came to the king; turning to him the man said "perhaps your majesty would like the honour of planting the seed. The King said "I am ashamed to admit I once took my father's watch." The king pardoned the man.

The story would have ended differently if the king had not listened. Instead thanks to his patience and the imagination of the condemned man they all learned a great lesson. What God wants is not the death of the sinner but that he/she is converted and lives. God helps us to put our sins behind us but draws good from them.

Family Mass

Our next Family Mass will be celebrated at 12.30p.m. in Christ our Light church on Sunday, 13th April. Our Family Mass gives all family members an opportunity to attend and enjoy Mass together as a Family on a regular basis. It gives everyone the opportunity to experience the strength and support that God gives us through Mass and in particular through the Eucharist in which Jesus comes to us in a very real way. We look forward to welcoming everyone and families to this Mass.

Outdoor Stations of the Cross

Outdoor Stations of the Cross will start in Christ our Light Church on Good Friday, 18th April at 12 noon. For the first Station the Cross bearer will leave via the main door and turn left staying on the path. We will follow the Cross slowly, pausing for the various stations en route via entrance to the grounds of Ballincollig Community School. We will return via the exit gate back onto the path to the Church for the 14th Station. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jubilee of Hope

Next weekend (12th/13th of April), Ballincollig parish has been asked to welcome some young volunteers who will speak at the end of the weekend Masses in order to promote the Cork and Ross young adult pilgrimage to Rome this summer - part of the Jubilee of Hope. They will also have buckets and card machines available after Mass for those who would like to support their pilgrimage.

Reflection for Parents



Of course we will never fully know what Jesus drew in the sand. Whether his drawing was with purpose or not has been lost to history and most likely would not change the story. As parents, an important lesson we can gain from his action is that he took the time to gather his thoughts before speaking. How often do we say the first thing that comes to mind and end up regretting it? Thinking first helps us present a Christ-like presence to our children even if we are dealing with serious misbehaviour. In today's Gospel we are given an insight into the completeness of God's forgiveness. We pray today in thanksgiving for that forgiveness and for the grace not to judge others

Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

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

John Smyth, Ballincollig.
Seamus Breathnach, Ballincollig/Carrigrohane.

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

Stephen Power, Inniscarra.
Dan McCarthy, The Crescent.
Ellen O'Leary, Aylsbury.
Christy & Mary Lucey, Beech Park.
Patrick Walsh, Elm Lawn.
Jerry Moynihan, Inniscarra View/Drinagh.
Christopher (Christy) O'Donovan, Castlevew House.
John & Annie Kavanagh, Wicklow.
Catherine (Kitty) Murphy, Powdermills/Rossa Avenue.
Michael Crowley, Inniscara View/Rathmore.
Vincent McLoughlin, Cork/Sligo.
Christopher (Christy) O'Donovan, Castlevew House, Ballincollig.
Tadhg Kearney, Westcourt Heights.
Paddy Keohane, Inniscarra.
Ellen Bowen, Sundays Well.
Noel O'Connell, Ballinguilly.

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21
Let the past be put aside. By destroying the enemy, God saved us; he set us free. This is why we pay attention to the present: God is doing something new!

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14
Because of faith, we look to the future. We look to Jesus Christ. We look to the Resurrection. Everything else is less important.

Gospel: John 8:1-11.
Although most scholars believe that this story of the woman caught in adultery was not part of John's original writings, it is nevertheless an excellent example of Jesus' style. First of all, some of the religious leaders tried to trick Jesus into going against the Law of Moses by not having the woman stoned or going against the Roman law that did not allow the Jewish people to impose the death sentence. Again, Jesus seemed trapped, but drew in the sand with his finger until he presented his answer. In an effort to demonstrate the forgiveness God had for his people, Jesus challenged the Pharisees to throw a stone if they were without sin. Of course, none could throw a stone and slowly the crowd drifted away. When only the woman remained, Jesus showed mercy toward her and told her to resist further sin.

Ballincollig Alzheimer Café

The Ballincollig Alzheimer Cafe will take place on Thursday the 17th of April from 3:00PM to 5:00 PM at Chapel Gate Café, Ballincollig, Cork P13 XP38. This month's guest speaker is Peter Cox from Family Carer's Ireland, who will discuss "Support options available for Family Carers". Alzheimer Cafés provide a warm and welcoming space for people with dementia, their families, friends, and healthcare professionals to meet, exchange ideas, and learn from one another.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fifth Week Of Lent

06 Sunday Is. 43:16-21. Ps 125. Phil. 3:8-14. Jn. 8:1-11. Lect I: 313
07 Monday Dan. 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62. Ps. 22. In. 8:12- 20. Lect I: 319
08 Tuesday Num. 21:4-9. Ps. 101. In. 8:21-30. Lect I: 326
09 Wednesday Dan. 3:14-20,24-25,28. Ps. Dan. 3. In. 8:31-42. Lect I: 328
10 Thursday Gen 17:3-9. Ps 104. Jn 8:51-59. Lect I: 331
11 Friday Jer. 20:10-13. Ps. 17. In. 10:31-42. Lect I: 333
12 Saturday 2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16. Ps 88. Rom4:13, 16-18, 22. Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24 or Lk 2:41-51. Lect I: 970 or II: 980

Next Sunday's Readings 13-April-2025
Is. 50:4-7. Ps 22. Phil. 2:6- 11. Mt. 26:14-27,66. Lect I: 346

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 students from Gaelscoil an Chaisleáin who received the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 30th March in Christ Our Light Church. 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.

Envelope Collection
The Diocesan collection which was taken up last weekend amounted to €1,240. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated.

Lenten Reconciliation Service
This will take place on Wednesday 16th of April at 7:30 pm in the church of Christ Our Light. This will include the opportunity for individual confession with priests from the Family of Parishes