

# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John

Sunday 14-September-2025

Twenty Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time  
*Triumph of the Cross.*

*The discovery of the True Cross is dated to September 14, 320. On September 13, 335 the churches on Calvary were dedicated and the cross that St Helena discovered was venerated there the next day.*



Christ Our Light  
Innishmore

## ***The Exaltation of the Holy Cross***

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross traces its origins to 4th-century Jerusalem. According to tradition, Saint Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, journeyed to the Holy Land around 326 AD, where she discovered the True Cross, the cross upon which Jesus was crucified. To honour this discovery and mark the sacred sites of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, Constantine ordered the construction of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335, and the next day, September 14, the Cross was publicly displayed for veneration. By the 7th century, this became an annual celebration across Eastern and Western Churches.

The veneration of the Cross gained prominence after Constantine's conversion and the legalization of Christianity with the Edict of Milan in 313 AD. Christian symbols, especially the Cross, could now be displayed without fear. Crucifixion was also abolished out of reverence for Christ. Once a tool of humiliation and death, the Cross gradually became the universal symbol of Christian faith, a paradoxical sign of suffering and salvation. The readings of the feast focus not on crucifixion itself, but on being 'lifted up,' pointing towards the Cross's transformative power and to the mystery of death and new life.

The dialogue in the Gospel of John between Jesus and Nicodemus used for this feast, centres around transformation, and it is saturated with symbolic meaning. Nicodemus, a Pharisee and teacher of the Mosaic Law, comes to Jesus by night—a gesture reflecting both secrecy and the spiritual searching of one who is still in darkness. But Nicodemus is drawn towards the light he sees in this 'Human One'. He is genuinely curious and cannot ignore 'the signs' (so important in this gospel), that Jesus performs: 'No one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God'.

Jesus challenges Nicodemus' worldview with the radical invitation to be 'born from above' (or 'born again'). Nicodemus interprets this literally and is bewildered: 'How can these things be?' Jesus answers, perhaps with a tinge of irony: 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?' The Law and its reduction to external observance is here in tension with the transformation brought by the Spirit. Jesus is not offering a refinement of the Law, or a more exacting adherence to it, but a life transformed by grace—an entirely new birth. This was announced in the Prologue: 'The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ'.



Fr. Jojo Thalikaasthanam

*Fr. Jojo Thalikaasthanam CMI*  
Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI)

On our return we are delighted to extend a Cead Mile Failte to Fr. Jojo Thalikaasthanam who has joined our Family of Parishes and based in Ballincollig.

A dedicated Catholic priest with over 12 years of pastoral, administrative, and spiritual leadership experience. Proven expertise in parish ministry, retreat preaching, education management, and motivational training. Fluent in six languages Malayalam, English, Hindi, Gujarati, Syriac, Tamil and experienced in cross-cultural ministry across India and abroad.

Fr. Jojo is an Indian native and was ordained on 30 December 2012

He has led orientation and motivational programs for:

Teachers, Students, Youth, Mathruvedi members, Senior citizens and Married couples

And has the following educational qualifications:

B.A. in Philosophy, B.A. in English, B.A. in Theology, M.A. in Syriac and B.Ed. (Bachelor of Education)

## ***Ballincollig Parish Office***

The Parish Office is now located in the Ballincollig Community Hall.

Opening Hours

9.00am – 12.30pm

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Phone number : 089 400 8181.



Pictured at the official opening on Sunday 7th Sept. were Fr. Alan O'Leary, Sr. Nan O'Mahony, Fr. Ronan Sheehan, Miriam Horgan (Parish Secretary)

## ***Thought for Today***

People undergoing counselling and therapy sometimes have a block or memory, which is holding them back, often an earlier difficult experience of some kind. Something like that is happening in the old Testament folk tale of the bronze serpent. The power of the serpents to cause harm is taken away once they are confronted straight in the eye through the symbol of the bronze serpent. We may say the same of Jesus as he faced death for us. Being lifted up for our sake, he looked death in the eye and took away its power over us.

*Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357*

*Never Forget The Deeds Of The Lord.*

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 :  
Tony Manton, Raheny, Dublin.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:  
Humphrey Morrissey, Inniscarra View.  
Denis Scannell, Ballincollig.  
Orla Flavin, Rushbrook.  
Kathleen Horgan & her daughter Katrina Horgan, Castlepark.  
Brendan Lawlor, Inniscarra View.  
Con Murphy, Coachford.  
George O'Regan, Innishmore.  
Brian Calnan, Coolroe Meadows.  
Nell Keohane (nee O'Flynn), Rosewood.  
Paddy & Esther Walsh Bishopstown.  
Brian & Irene, Corless, Dunfries, Scotland.  
Kathleen Morrissey, Ballyphehane.

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9  
In the wilderness the people turn from God, yet God provides a way for them to be healed and to continue to trust in his care.

Second Reading Philipians 2:6-11  
In this profound hymn of the early Church, we contemplate the humility of Christ, who emptied himself in love and was raised up in glory.

Gospel Reading John 3:13-17  
Jesus reveals his mission as the One sent from heaven to be lifted up, so that through his self-giving love, all who believe may have life.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Twenty Fourth Week In Ordinary Time

- 14 Sunday Num. 21:4-9 or Phil. 2:6-11. Ps. 77. In. 3: 13-17. Lect I: 996 or Lect II: 1186
- 15 Monday Heb 5:7-9. Ps. 30. Jn. 19:25-27 or Lk. 2:33-35. Lect II: 1189
- 16 Tuesday 1 Tim. 3:1-13. Ps. 100. Lk. 7:11-17. Lect II: 314
- 17 Wednesday 1 Tim. 3: 14-16. Ps. 110. Lk. 7:31-35. Lect II: 316
- 18 Thursday 1 Tim. 4:12-16. Ps. 110. Lk. 7:36-50. Lect II: 318
- 19 Friday 1 Tim. 6:2-12. Ps. 48. Lk. 8:1-3. Lect II: 320
- 20 Saturday 1 Tim. 6:13-16. Ps. 99. Lk. 8:4-15. Lect II:322

Next Sunday's Readings 21-September-2025  
Am. 8:4-7. Ps. 112. 1 Tim. 2: 1-8. Lk. 16: 1-13. Lect I: 910

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)

**Collection for fund which**

*Supports Seminarians and Deacons*

The annual collection for the Priesthood Education Fund will take place across the Diocese on the weekend of 20th/21st September. This fund plays a vital role in supporting the formation and ongoing education of those serving in priestly and diaconal ministry. Currently one seminarian returned to his studies for the priesthood in St Patrick's College, Maynooth last week and another candidate is pursuing formation for the Permanent Diaconate. A discernment group for men considering diocesan priesthood also began recently and will continue during the year ahead. In addition the fund also supports the ongoing training and education of priests in the Diocese. We are deeply aware of the financial challenges many individuals and families face at this time. Nevertheless, we kindly ask you to support this important collection as generously as possible. Your continued support in promoting vocations is sincerely appreciated.

*Gougane Sunday 2025*

You are invited to the celebrations at Gougane Barra on Sunday 28th September. This year Gougane Sunday takes on a particular significance as it has been a place of Jubilee Pilgrimage in the Diocese during the year. It is possible for people to gain an indulgence by participating in Gougane Sunday. For that reason, Confessions will be available from 1.30pm followed by Rosary at 2.30pm with Mass at 3.00pm. Conditions for an indulgence are Sacramental Confession, Reception of Holy Eucharist, Prayer for the Intentions of Holy Father and Preforming a work of Charity. (See www.corkandross.org for more details).

**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 in the Ballincollig Community Hall is cancelled until the end of June.
- Mass for Parish Volunteers*  
A Mass to express appreciation to all those involved in volunteering for the parish will be celebrated in Christ our Light Church on Sunday September 28th at 12.30pm. All are welcome.

**Offertory Collection Envelopes/Boxes**

Could the people who had the following boxes of envelopes last year (Jan. -Dec. 2024), please contact the parish office on 089 400 8181 Mon.- Wed. 9.00am - 12.30pm? Box No.s: 106, 112, 114, 116, 125, 127, 128, 134, 136, 142, 146, 152, 164, 165, 166.

*A Day of Centering prayer*

Will be held on Saturday September 20th in The SMA church Wilton from 10am to 4pm. Cost 10euro. Register in Mass office in advance.

**Vocations Afternoon**

with the Poor Clare Sisters, Cork on Saturday, September 27th from 2 - 4 pm. If you are considering a religious vocation, feel free to contact us anytime: vocationspoorclares-cork@gmail.com or write to us: Poor Clare Monastery, College Road, Cork. www.poorclarescork.ie