

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



St. Mary & St. John

Sunday 14-December-2025

Third Sunday Of Advent

John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare for Christ's coming. His task was to make them

attentive to the Spirit who would be fully present in God's anointed.



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Advent Reconciliation Service – a Time to Rejoice?

Recently, I had the great privilege of attending Coláiste Choilm's TY production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Tickets go quicker than for All-Ireland finals, so I'm indebted to be on the receiving end of one (thank you, Ms Sliney!). As ever, it was a magnetising oeuvre of familiar songs, sweeping choreography, stage management, and great acting. Such is the exuberant level of talent that a different TY student played the main character, Belle, on each of the four nights. Well done to all involved!

What also happened to capture my attention was some off-stage moments. From my seat, I could see the parents of some of the cast, many of whom are familiar to me from the parish. To observe them observing their son/daughter in full flight was a real delight. The parents' seraphic faces radiated joy, amazement, and wonder, all tinged with an oozing pride. I could well imagine they were thinking that it only seemed like a short while ago that they brought their child into the world, watched them take their first steps, and sent them off to school. And here they are watching them take command of a stage and hold the attention of a full auditorium.

It made me wonder. If this is how a parent can look upon their child, how might God look upon us, his sons and daughters in Christ? It's a question I've come back to again and again over the years: what does God think when He thinks of me? In these final weeks before Christmas, now might be an opportune time to ask ourselves the same question.

The story of the *Prodigal son*, told us by Jesus, is one that imparts to us an image of God as a caring father, as one with a gentle and forgiving heart, as one who delights in us, and who rejoices when we turn to him. I think if we take this to heart, it leaves us in the sure knowledge that we can return to God whenever, wherever, and however we may find ourselves, if indeed we feel we've drifted a bit.

One way by which we are invited to do this is to experience the healing mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which will take place this Monday the 15th at 7:30 pm in the church of Christ Our Light, with our **Advent Reconciliation Service**.

Trusting in our relationship with God, may we come to this moment 'shouting for joy, everlasting joy on [our] faces' (see Isaiah 35:10).

I hope you enjoy these final weeks of Advent.

Fr. Ronan Sheehan CC

Breakthrough Cancer Research

Can you spare an hour or two to support Breakthrough Cancer Research? On Friday, 12th December, the charity will hold its annual Christmas Bag Packing Fundraiser in Dunnes Stores, Bandon Road, and they're looking for volunteers to help out between 3:30pm and 6:00pm. If you're available and would like to get involved, please contact Edel from Breakthrough Cancer Research at edel@breakcancer.ie or 021 4226655.

Trocaire

Our Advent Prayer Resource 'The Shepherds' Supper' is available on our website. Please encourage families and community members to pray for peace and justice with us this Advent Season. ☑Christmas card packs are available for 5euro each (12 cards in a pack). Proceeds from Christmas donations will support our appeal which highlights the very sad reality of children living in conflict-torn areas of our world. You can view a short video about our work for Gaza and Sudan on our website. ☑This year, we have twenty-four Gifts of Change starting from 5euro for the gift of soap, a crucial item for hands to stay clean and healthy. Yet this item which we often take for granted, can be in short supply for many communities around the world.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Appeal

Annual Christmas Collection will take place at all Masses
This weekend Saturday and Sunday 13th and 14th December.

Wishing the Ballincollig Camogie team best wishes in the All Ireland Intermediate Final which will be played in Croke Park on today Sunday Dec.14th at 2pm.

"Let me seek You in desiring You; let me desire You in seeking You; let me find You in loving You; let me love You in finding You."

Saint Anselm, Proslogion, ch. 1.

Third Sunday of Advent / Gaudette Sunday

We are a step nearer to our celebration of His coming. As we approach Him we must bring Him everything! Our dreams, our successes, our rejoicing. If we have little to rejoice over, bring Him that little. If you feel you have only empty hands - bring Him those empty hands. IN HIS HANDS ALL ARE MADE GOOD!
"Let us rejoice in the Lord"



Reflection for Parents

So often our identity is tied to another person. We are Jim's mom, Tom's wife, Sue's husband, or Mary's daughter. Like John did in today's gospel, we may even define ourselves by who we are not. John made it clear he was not the Messiah, a prophet, or Elijah returned. What John is, is the same thing we are, and that is a herald - the person who brings the Good News about Jesus Christ into the lives of others. In our families we do this by our faithful participation in worship, prayer, and actions.

Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357

My soul rejoices in my God.

Visit Our Website: www.ballincolligparish.ie or Facebook www.facebook.com/BallincolligParish

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

Chris Davy, Ballincollig/Mayo.
Charlie Barrett, Rosewood.
Gerry Kelliher, Parknamore.
Tom Clarke, Claremorris, Mayo.
Pat Hogan, Ballincollig, Mallow & Clare.
Chris Davy, Ballincollig/Mayo.
Timmy Enright, Nadd, Banteer.
Catherine O'Connell, Ovens.
Dympna Pender, Aisling Close/Galway.
Jane Cooney, Kilmichael / Ballincollig
Joe O'Connor, Classes Lake, Ballincollig.

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

Christy Cullanan, Muskerry Est.
Michael Naughton, Farnaree.
Dec. mem. of the Kiely family.
Joan Dunne, An Caisleán.
Oliver Delaney, Whitethorn Ave.
Esther O'Driscoll, Castlepark.
Timothy (Teddy) O'Callaghan, Carrigrohane.
Jim & Betty Connolly, Pine Walk.
Con Delaney, Kilnaglorry.
& his granddaughter Sineád.
Eleanor Burke, Whites Cross.
Denis Jordan, Muskerry Est.
Dec. Mem. of the Buckley & Barrett families.
Jo Corkery, Poulavone/Athlone.
Philip Joseph, India.
Dec. Mem. of the Keohane family, Rossmore & Ballincollig.
Dec. Mem. of the O'Donovan family, Leap.
Noreen McDermot, Poulavone.
Garry O'Dwyer, Inniscarra.
Annie Curran, Kilbrittan.
Eimear Higgins, Manor Hill.
John Hegarty, Westcourt/Scoil Eoin.
Paul Dunne, Galway.
Joe & Kitty Dunne, Tralee.
Tommy Daly, Leemount.
Paul Wall, Churchfield.
Tom & Nora Ryan, West Village.
Clare O'Brien, Skibbereen.
Michael, Rita & David Barry, Ladysbridge.
Philip & Nora Holland, Bishopstown/Timoleague.
Dec. Mem. of the Christ Our Light Altar society & in particular Betty Casey & Statia O Callaghan who died recently.

Fiat Discernment Group

For Young Women (18-40yrs) who are discerning a Vocation to Religious/Consecrated Life, monthly meetings are held in Charleville Retreat Centre, Cork. The day includes prayer, talks, Holy Mass, Adoration and a chance to meet and chat with religious sisters of different communities. If you are interested in attending please email womendiscern@corkandross.org

Ballincollig Alzheimer Café

Thursday 18th December in Chapel Gate Café, Ballincollig, Cork P13 XP38 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Guest speaker: From Cork City Fire Brigade. Topic: "Fire safety in the Home".
There will be mince pies and Christmas Carols also on the day

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Third Week Of Advent

14 Sunday Is 61:1-2, 10-11. Ps Lk 1:46-50, 53-54. 1 Thess 5:16-24. Jn 1:6-8, 19-28. Lect I: 48

15 Monday Num 24:2-7, 15-17. Ps 24. Mt 21:23-27. Lect I: 53

16 Tuesday Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13. Ps 33. Mt 21:28-32. Lect I: 56

17 Wednesday Is. 49:2, 8-10. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:17 Lect I: 76

18 Thursday Jer. 23:5-8. Ps. 71. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I: 79

19 Friday Judg 13:2-7, 24-25. Ps 70. Lk 1:5-25. Lect I: 81

20 Saturday Is 7:10-14. Ps 23. Lk 1:26-38. Lect I: 83

Next Sunday's Readings 21-December-2025

Is. 7:10-14. Ps. 23. Rom. 1:1-7. Mt. 1:18-24. Lect I:68

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 morning after 9.30am Mass. New members welcome.

Autumn Dues

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

Offertory Collection Boxes

The Offertory Collection is solely for the upkeep, maintenance, insurance, lighting, heating and related expenses of both churches. Could the people who have a box number allocated to them, please collect them from Ballincollig Parish Office, Ballincollig Parish Centre, Station Road Postcode: P31 KV63? Mon. – Wed. 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Carol Service

A carol service will be held in the church of Christ our Light on Sunday 14th December, at 6.30pm.

Reconciliation Service

Monday 15th December at 7.30pm in Christ our Light Church.

Shalom World

This Christmas, share moments of true joy with your family. Heart-warming Christmas shows, inspiring talks, joyful music, and stories of hope — for every age. No paywalls. No ads. Just Christmas with your family. Press Control and Click website to start watching for free. <http://shalomworld.org/christmas>