

THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER

Sunday 21-December-2025



St. Mary & St. John

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."



Christ Our Light
Innishmore

Fourth Sunday of Advent a Day of Love

Advent is a special time of the year for many reasons. There is excitement and a buzz in homes as preparation for Santa gathers pace. "Then the house has to be decorated, cards sent and received and so on. Then the shopping goes on for some families, regrettably for other families much of pre-Christmas is stressful, difficult and full of demands as heightened expectations are usually expensive and beyond the reach of many. We might perhaps keep families in our thoughts, important that as adults and children we learn to share and think of others. So many are very generous, Christmas reminds us that God is very generous to us sending his Son as a baby to give us hope and freedom.

The special part of Advent is the readings. (Especially Isaiah Ch 40 and 41) I like especially the readings from Isaiah during Advent preparing us for the coming of the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah speaks about a very special child coming to us. Every child in King David's line was the embodiment of God's promise to be with the people. However we believe that Isaiah's prophecy found complete fulfilment in Jesus.

The reading from St Paul and the Gospel tells us more about this child. He has a double identity, human identity and also Son of God. He is Emmanuel "God with us". This part of the identity of Jesus was gradually understood, it was only after his death and Resurrection that the fuller implication came to people.

We also have a double identity, human from our birth and after Baptism we have become children of God. Like Jesus our divine dignity is recognised and revealed by the Father. Our divine dignity is a matter of faith like that of Jesus.

Christmas Collection

According to the Diocesan custom, the collection at Christmas Vigil / Day Masses is one of two occasions during the year when the offertory collection goes to the priests of the Parish.

Christmas Reflection

I pray Lord, for the needy of our world: come among us as one, who will help, and call us all to help the hungry and sick, the uneducated and homeless, those who are victims of violence and war, the lonely and depressed. May your coming this Christmas be for them a time of peace and love; may we bring to them, in what way we can the joy of your coming.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2025

St. Mary & St. John's Church

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

9.30am, Vigil 6.00pm & 10.00pm

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

8.30am, 10.00am & 12 Noon

Christ our Light Church

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

8.30am, Vigil 6.00pm & 8.00pm

Christmas Day Thursday 25th Dec. 11.00am & 12.30pm

Confessions

After 9.30am Mass in St. Mary & St. John's Church on Mon. 22nd & Tues. 23rd.

Weekday Masses from Friday, 26th Dec. until Fri. 2nd Jan. (inclusive not including Sat.) will be at 9.30am in St. Mary & St. John's Church.

There will be no weekday Masses on these dates in Christ our Light Church.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

We are about to take our final step in Preparation for our Christmas meeting with Christ.

In the Gospel we hear the words spoken to Mary: "Do not be afraid". Let us place our trust in God, who is very near us. With open hearts may we embrace the grace of our Saviour.



Best Wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

The priests of the parish join in sending their Christmas greetings to all members of the parish and to all readers of the Ballincollig Parishioner. We thank you all for your help and co-operation during the past year.

You will be remembered in our Christmas Masses.

Fr's Alan O'Leary Co-PP, Ronan Sheehan CC, Jojo Thalikaasthanam CMI CC & Deacon Frank McKeivitt.

Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357

Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.

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 :

Una Dwyer, Old Quarter/Ballintemple.
Pauline Kelly, Island Way.
Betty Casey, Park Road.
Frank Metcalfe, Ovens/Ballincollig.

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

Marie Angelini, Beech Park.
Chris Foley, Shamrock Drive.
Adrian Boyde, Coolroe.
Denis O'Flaherty, Coolroe Meadows.
Fr. John Sexton, P.P.
Gillian Drinan, Churchview.
Dec. Mem's of The Ahern family, Fr Sexton Park.
Billy Casey, Macroom.
Joan & Harry O'Reardon, Carriganarra Est.
Betty Hanlon, Upper Cloghroe.
Michael McGrath, Island Way.
Con & Paddy O'Sullivan, Ballyvolane/Dunbar St.
Sheila McSweeney, Cathedral Rd.
Elizabeth Cronin, Dean St.
Regina Collins, Carriganarra.
Seamus O'Donovan, Maple Lawn/Clonakilty.
Andrew Breen, Rosewood.
Danjoe McCarthy, Beech Park.
Denis & Ellen Hallahan, Ballingulley.
Pat & Mary Horgan, Upton.
Donal Desmond & Dec. mem. of The Desmond family.
Mildred & David McCarthy, Union Hall.
Kevin, David & Sadbh McCarthy, Rosewood.
Danny Twohig, Castlepark.
John, Lena & Patrick Gaffney, Carrigrohane.
Dec. mem's of The Twohig & Kearney families, Farranree.
Dec. mem's of The Gaffney family, Carrigrohane.
John & Joan Coughlan, Kilnamartyra.
Róisín O'Donovan. Muskery Estate.
Paschal & Pat Cullen.
William Treacy, Castleknock.
Patrick O'Shea, Scotch Farm, Carrigrohane.
Mary Corkery, Cahersiveen.
Charles Lynch, Spriggs Road.
Teresa White, Spriggs Road.
Nelly Murphy, Station Road.
Maura O'Connor, Dublin.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

The first reading contains Isaiah's prophecy of the events we celebrate at Christmas.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul's message is another reminder of what we are preparing to celebrate.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Matthew recounts the circumstances of Jesus' birth by telling us the story of Mary's engagement to Joseph and the child she carried originating from the Holy Spirit. This reality made no sense to Joseph, but he did not want to dishonour Mary so he planned to quietly divorce her. An angel came and told Joseph not to be afraid, that Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and that they should call him Emmanuel meaning, "God is with us."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week Of Advent

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

22 Monday 1 Sam. 1 :24-28. Ps. 1 Sam. 2. Lk. 1 :46-56. Lect I: 88

23 Tuesday Mal. 3:1-4,23-24. Ps 24. Lk 1 :57-66. Lect I: 90

24 Wednesday 2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. Ps. 88. Lk. 1:67-79. Lect I: 92

25 Thursday Is. 52:7-10. Ps. 97. Heb. 1:1-6. Jn. 1:1-18. Lect I: 109
Mass during the Day Is. 52:7-10. Ps. 97. Heb. 1:1-6. In. 1:1-18. Lect I: 109

26 Friday Acts. 6:8-10,7:54-59. Ps. 30. Mt. 10:17-22. Lect I: 125

27 Saturday 1 Jn 1 :1-4. Ps 96. Jn 20:2-8. Lect 1: 127

Next Sunday's Readings 28-December-2025

Eccles. (Sir) 3:2-6, 12-14. Ps. 127. Col. 3:12-21. Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23. Lect I:114

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
9.30am, Vigils 6.00pm & 10.00pm	Wednesday	8.30am, Vigils 6.00pm & 8.00pm
8.30am, 10.00am & 12 Noon	Thursday	11 am, 12:30 pm
9:30 am	Friday	No Mass
6 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 3p.m. until 4p.m. in St. Mary & St. John's Church on Friday 2nd January and every Friday after that.

Meditation

Meditation finished in the Ballincollig Community Hall on Tuesday, 16th December and will resume after 10.00 Mass on Tuesday, 6th January. New members welcome.

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.

To all our Readers & Parishioners
Happy Christmas

May the Child Jesus and His Mother watch over you this Christmas and throughout the coming year. As once they came to the stable of Bethlehem, may they come to you and bring you all the desires of your heart

Today is the shortest day of the year.