



THE PARISHIONER

Sunday 18-January-2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Jesus came as the Servant of God to serve the deepest needs of people. He offered his life to remove the tragedy of sin from human life and so restore us to peace with God, and each other.



The Family of Parishes of: Ballincollig | Ballinora | Kilmurry | Ovens and Farran

'Together We Build God's Kingdom'

In today's first reading the prophet Isaiah says: The Lord said to me: 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'. Can we imagine the Lord speaking those words to us? Each one of us, no matter how little we may consider ourselves to be, has a significant role in life and each one is important to God. In the words of today's Psalm let our response be 'Here I am Lord, I come to do your will'.

'Has Christ been divided?' is the Theme for this week of prayer for 'Christian Unity'. St Paul's letter to the Corinthians addresses this diversity. He reminds the Corinthians that they are "called to be saints," not isolated and on their own, but "together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ". We are invited to recognize our interconnectedness. Its together we build God's Kingdom of love, justice and peace.

Today is also Day One of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25. The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 is taken from Ephesians 4:4, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling."

After last week's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord we entered into the liturgical time that we call "Ordinary Time." (Tempus per Annum, or "Time of the Year" which has no particular focus, but encompasses the whole life of Christ.) On this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Gospel presents to us the scene of the meeting between Jesus and John the Baptist at the Jordan River. The narrator is the eye witness, John the Evangelist, who, before he was a disciple of Jesus was a disciple of the Baptist, together with his brother James, with Simon and Andrew, all are from Galilee, all are fisherman. So, John the Baptist sees Jesus, who steps forward from the crowd and, inspired from above, sees in Jesus the one sent by God. For this reason he points him out with these words: "Behold the lamb of God, he who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

The word that is translated with "take away" literally means "to relieve," "to take upon oneself." Jesus has come into the world with a precise mission: to free it from the slavery of sin, taking humanity's faults upon himself. In what way? By loving. There is no other way to defeat evil and sin than with the love that moves one to give the gift of his life for others. In the testimony of John the Baptist, Jesus is given the traits of the Servant of the Lord, who "has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (Isaiah 53:4), to the point of dying on the cross. He is the true Passover lamb, who immerses himself in the river of our sin, to purify us.

Family Mass

Our next Family Mass will be celebrated at 12.30p.m. at Christ our Light church on today Sunday, January 18th. 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.

Formation in Faith for Young Adults

The Diocese of Cork and Ross, in collaboration with UCC Chaplaincy and the Presentation Brothers LEAF Project, is delighted to offer a new Formation in Faith programme for young adults (18-35 years). The programme begins on Wednesday, 28 January 2026, and will run for 9 weeks, from 5.45-8.00pm in Mardyke House, Cork (T12 W8RP). Participants can choose between two concurrent pathways:

- ◆ Sycamore Formation Series: A video-based programme with guided group discussion on Catholic formation.
- ◆ Foundations in Theology: A lecture-based introduction to Catholic Theology.

Each session begins with food and refreshments, and provide participants with an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion. To sign-up or for more information, Email Sheila at youthministry@corkandross.org

Hands Dirty Weekend for Catholic Fathers and Sons February Bank Holiday weekend, in Co. Cork.

- ◆ Learn basic electrics for around the home
- ◆ Get your hands dirty under the hood of a car
- ◆ Develop your carpentry skills

The weekend will also include Mass, Adoration, and spiritual talks. Please email the Dominican Order at op.evangelisation@gmail.com or see www.dominicans.ie

Diocesan Celebration of the Day for Consecrated Life

Please join us in thanking God for the witness, service, and faith of those who have dedicated their lives to God through consecrated life on Saturday, January 31st 2026 at 3.30pm in St. Francis' Church, Cork. All are welcome.

This week we have a new header The Ballincollig Parishioner will now be known as The Parishioner going forward. This title change arises from The Parishioner being offered as a weekly newsletter for the Family of Parishes. This will be a gradual transition to enable us to encapsulate all that's needed for each parish: Ballincollig, Ballinora, Kilmurry and Ovens.

Ballincollig Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

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 :
 Mary O'Connell, Maglin/Dillon's Cross.
 Mary Traynor, Beech Park.
 Donal (Don) O'Donovan, Rosewood /Westgate.
 Anne Cronin, Ovens/Limerick.
 Frank O'Riordan, Ballinora.
 David Dowling, Ballinora.
 Anne Cronin, Ovens.
 Kathleen McCarthy, Ovens.

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

Joe & Mary Anne Sheehan, Kilcorney.
 Kathleen Kiely, Glincool Lawn.
 Kevin Byrne, Parknamore.
 Veronica (Ronnie) O'Dwyer, Castlepark.
 Marie Angelini, Beech Park.
 Eddie Hogan, Carriganarra Est.
 Patricia Goodwin, Killarney/Glasheen.
 Una Twohig, Inniscarra View.
 Dec. mem. of the Murphy family.
 Gerard Deasy, Aherla.
 Peg O'Flynn, Fr Sexton Park.
 John Duggan, Parnell Tce.
 John Cotter, Wyndham Downs.
 Michael Carroll, Coolroe Heights.
 Jack McCarthy, Ballintemple.
 May Keohane, Cloghroe/Inniscarra.
 Tom & Eily O Riordan, Cloghroe/UK.
 Ellen Buckley, Bakers Rd.
 Timothy Dinneen, Curraheen Cross.
 John, Margaret & Seán Dineen.
 William, Nell & John O'Shea.

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

The Lord said, "You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory. . . . I will make you a light to the nations that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

"Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," greeted the holy people of the Corinthian church with God's grace and peace. He addressed them as "sanctified in Christ Jesus."

Gospel: John 1:29-34.

John the Baptist knew Jesus as his cousin, but it is not clear until we read today's Gospel that John recognised Jesus as the promised Messiah. John called Jesus the "Lamb of God." We are familiar with the title for Jesus, "Lamb of God," because we hear it in our Eucharistic prayers during mass. The Lamb of God comes to take away the sins of the world. And, indeed, Jesus died that we might be free of our sins. The lamb figured in much of Jewish tradition, especially as a symbol of sacrifice, but certainly we recognize the image of "shepherd" as one who leads the flock through darkness and difficult terrain. The message of John's gospel is for us—the simple sheep - to follow Jesus, the shepherd.

Songs of Praise

Choir directors, choir and music group members, organists, musicians, singers etc are warmly invited to Songs of Praise on Sunday, February 1st 2026 at 2.30pm in the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne. Join us for an afternoon of reflection, prayer, learning new music, and lifting our voices together in praise. This is a free event (donations welcome on the day). Light hospitality will be provided. Please register in advance via: <https://tinyurl.com/songsofpraise2026>

Embracing Common Postures during Mass

The following video shows the postures at Mass. There are 3 times that we stand: Introductory Rites, when the priest prays: "Pray, brothers and sisters." and at the end of Mass: Blessing – Dismissal.
 Please login to our Parish Website to view the postures in full.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Second Week In Ordinary Time

18 Sunday Is. 49:3,5-6. Ps. 39. 1 Cor. 1:1-3. In. 1:29-34. Lect I: 641
 19 Monday 1 Sam. 15:16-23. Ps. 49. Mk. 2:18-22. Lect II: 470
 20 Tuesday 20 Tuesday 1 Sam. 16: 1-13. Ps. 88. Mk. 2:23-28. Lect II: 472
 21 Wednesday 1 Sam. 17:32-51. Ps. 143. Mk. 3:1-6. Lect II: 475
 22 Thursday 1 Sam. 18:6-9,19:1-7. Ps. 55. Mk. 3:7-12. Lect II: 477
 23 Friday 1 Sam. 24:3-21. Ps. 56. Mk. 3:13-19. Lect II: 479
 24 Saturday 2 Sam 1:1-4, 11-12, 17, 19, 23-27. Ps 79. Mk 3:20-21. Lect II: 482

Next Sunday's Readings 25-January-2026

Is. 8:23-9:3. Ps. 26. 1 Cor. 1:10-13, 17. Mt. 4:12-23. Lect I: 644

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)

Ballincollig 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 every Friday.

Meditation

Meditation continues in the Ballincollig Community Hall on Tuesday morning after 9.30am Mass. 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.

Diocesan Envelope Collection

The quarterly diocesan collection taken up at all Masses last weekend amounted to €1,230. We appreciate your continued generosity.

St. Mary & St. Johns Choir

Our parish choir are looking for new members. They practice on Tues evening from 7 to 8 and sing on Sunday mornings at 10 am mass. Both men and women are all welcome. If interested please just come along.