



# THE PARISHIONER

Sunday 25-January-2026



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday of the Word of God

*God has given to each of us a potential to be developed. There is a promise in us yet to be fulfilled. Jesus came to bring this fulfilment to everyone and it will be ours when we follow like Peter and the others who lived in Galilee.*

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

## Sunday of the Word of God

In his Apostolic Letter of 30 September 2019, *Aperuit illis* the late Pope Francis established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be the Sunday of the Word of God. He already proposed something similar at the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. It is a day to be devoted to the celebration, study, and spreading of the Word of God. Pope Francis is clear from the very first paragraph of this letter that the relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to who we are as Christians.

The Sunday assembly gathering to celebrate the Eucharist is the unique moment in the week where a community gathers in a particular place and when their communal identity is nourished by Word and Sacrament. An important advance in 20th century theological reflection is that every sacramental celebration is founded and constructed upon the Word of God, and that every proclamation of the Word of God is sacramental.

While one might quibble with yet another Sunday being devoted to a particular theme that is superimposed on the liturgical celebration, this Sunday of the Word of God is certainly understood in a different way. It is not a new feast! After all, the Word of God is proclaimed at every Sunday Eucharist, and one of the great blessings of the liturgical reform and renewal flowing from the Second Vatican Council is a greater appreciation of the foundational role of the Word of God in every liturgical celebration. The reform of the lectionary has led to much more scripture being proclaimed during our liturgical gatherings and a greater awareness of the role of the Word of God in the life of faith.

This Sunday builds on the texts and prayers of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and is conscious that it comes just after the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. While we are not yet united around the table of the Eucharist, we do share on many Sundays of the year the same scriptural readings in our different Christian assemblies. Pope Francis urges us to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to continue our prayer for Christian unity.

This Sunday is a time when the community is called to give greater attention not just to the Word of God. It is also urged to reflect on how we honour that Word in our celebrations, the books that we proclaim the Word from. Is the Gospel book carried in procession? Is it a well-made book that shows forth its life-giving content? Is it honoured with incense, and do we sing during the Gospel procession? Are the readers who proclaim the Word formed in the art of proclamation, and the knowledge of what they are announcing?

Pope Francis suggested in his letter that this Sunday is an ideal time to reflect on these issues. For presiders, it is also a call to reflect once again on their preaching of the Word of God. This Sunday might well be an appropriate time to commission and bless those who serve the community as readers, and initiate new ones to this essential ministry. If the parish community does not enthroned the Word of God every Sunday, maybe today is an opportunity to start. Another way of nourishing the role of scripture is praying quietly together in a lectio divina style of prayer. Why not gather a group for an hour and pray these particular scriptural lections?

*The late Pope Francis*

### The Story of Brigid

(Feast Day next Sunday)

Brigid was born at a time of major transition in 5th. Century Ireland. She embodies in herself the pre-Christian Celtic and Christian Celtic Spirit. It is generally accepted that St. Brigid built her double monastery for men and women in Kildare around 470 AD

Some scholars credit Brigid with pioneering monastic life in Ireland. Her monastery was acclaimed as a centre of Education, pilgrimage worship and hospitality until the 16th century when all the monasteries were suppressed.

You were a woman of peace.

You brought harmony where there is conflict.

You brought light to the Darkness

You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious. and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world



### 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](mailto:youthministry@corkandross.org)

Ballincollig Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357

*The Lord is my light and my help.*

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 :  
 Nuala Walshe, Model Farm Road.  
 Margaret (Mags) Connolly, Leesdale.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:  
 Pat Deeder, England/Portarlington.  
 Mathew Mathew, India.  
 Bernard Curran, Ballincollig.  
 Séan Nolan, Coolroe Meadows.  
 Michael O'Connor, Carrigrohane.  
 Mary Forrest, Ballygarvan.  
 Haulie O'Mahony, Main Rd.  
 Jim Green, The Square.  
 Pat Sheehan (Snr), Coachford.  
 Denis O'Donoghue, West Village.  
 Michael Canty, Daffodil Fields.  
 Alison Murphy, Wyndham Downs.  
 Dermot & Nell Cronin, Pouladuff Rd.,  
 Cathy Shortt, Muskerry Estate.  
 Paddy McCarthy, Castle Park.  
 Michael O'Mahony, Castlepark.  
 Derry Lane, Westgate.  
 Denis Buttiner, Toames, Macroom.  
 John & Elizabeth Desmond, Garryhesta, Ovens.  
 Carmel Sheehan, Westcourt.

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3  
 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in the land of gloom now have joy, for the yoke that burdened them God has smashed.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17  
 Paul wrote to the people of Corinth: let "there be no divisions among you,  
 ... be united in mind and in the same purpose." I have heard "that there are rivalries among you. . . . Is Christ divided?"

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23  
 The reading today from Matthew's Gospel takes place early in Jesus' ministry. Several ideas are clear. First of all, Matthew strived to connect his Gospel for the early Christians to their Jewish heritage. He made several references in his Gospel like the one today in which prophecies of old are fulfilled in Jesus. The second thing was that Jesus learned of John the Baptist's arrest and resolved to begin his ministry away from Herod. Finally, Jesus called with some urgency, his first four disciples. The common thread to all this was that God's Kingdom was at hand.

### *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

#### Third Week In Ordinary Time

25 Sunday Is. 8:23-9:3. Ps. 26. 1 Cor. 1:10-13, 17. Mt. 4:12-23. Lect I: 644  
 26 Monday 2 Sam 5:1-7, 10. Ps 88. Mk 3:22-30. Lect II: 484  
 27 Tuesday 2 Sam 6:12-15, 17-19. Ps 23. Mk 3:31-35. Lect II: 486  
 28 Wednesday 2 Sam. 7:4-17. Ps. 88. Mk. 4:1-20. Lect II: 488  
 29 Thursday Sam. 7:18-19,24-29. Ps. 131. Mk. 4:21-25. Lect II: 490  
 30 Friday 2 Sam 11:1-10, 13-17. Ps 50. Mk 4:26-34. Lect II: 493  
 31 Saturday Job 31:16-20, 24-25, 31-32 or Eph 3:14-21. Ps 106. Lk 6:32-38.  
 National Proper

### Next Sunday's Readings 01-February-2026

Mal. 3: 1-4 or Heb. 2: 14-18. Ps. 23. Lk. 2:22-40. Lect I: 967 or II: 940

### 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.

#### *The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes*

The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered in Christ our Light Church on Wednesday, 11th February from 7.30pm – 8.15pm. It is World Day of The Sick. [www.churchservices.tv/ballincolligchristourlight](http://www.churchservices.tv/ballincolligchristourlight)

### *CUH Volunteer Service*

We are now expanding the service and wish to offer a Befriending service for patients in St Clare's and St Oliver's rehabilitation wards in St Finbarr's hospital. The Befriending Volunteers will provide engagement, companionship and conversation to older adults or other identified vulnerable adults, in hospital care on St Clare's and St Oliver's. The Befriender will enhance the inpatient experience and help to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness. Contact: Elaine Forde, Tel: 021 492 2822 Email: CUH.volunteerservice@HSE.ie