

THE PARISHIONER

Sunday 15-February-2026

Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

The negative formulation of God's will In the Law is necessary for those who are morally immature. But Jesus leads us by a more perfect and positive understanding to the maturity which makes us realise our full obligations to God and to our fellow human beings.



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

Ashes N' Roses

As I'm writing, many people around the world are preparing to mark Saint Valentine's Day with the usual tranche of meals out, flowers, and chocolates. If you celebrated, I hope it went well! Thankfully this year the season of *amour* comes neatly before the more sombre season of Lent, for which the Christian world is preparing. Much like the 14th of February, Ash Wednesday has kept its appeal, though for altogether different reasons. There's something in the ashes on our foreheads that grounds us, that gently reminds us that we are 'dust and unto dust we shall return'. There are those who would rather avoid this fact, blinkered to their mortality and their finite nature. But for those who embrace it with maturity and faith, there is a freedom to knowing this. It is the freedom of being reminded that all things shall pass one day and we are each of us walking this pilgrimage we call life on earth. At various moments on that pilgrimage, we are invited to renew ourselves and continue with refreshed vigour. Ash Wednesday, and the six weeks of Lent that follow, offer one such opportunity. May this Lent be a time of renewal and recommitment for us all as we walk to Easter.

In other updates: as I wrote last week, the parish is glad to be able to organise another *Week of Guided Prayer for Monday 2 March to Friday 6 March 2026*. If you have a desire to go a little deeper in exploring your spiritual side, perhaps pray about this as an opportunity for you. Further details are contained below.

I am also glad to say that our newsletter, The Parishioner, will begin to incorporate information pertinent to the parishes of Ballinora, Ovens, and Kilmurry from next week. This is in addition to a new Family of Parishes website. More details to follow.

Finally, you might also keep in your prayers an Alpha Youth programme that will be offered to Transition Year students from BCS in the coming weeks.

Have a great weekend – Ronan Sheehan CC

Week of Guided Prayer

In 2025, the parish of Ballincollig organised a *Week of Guided Prayer*, whereby 15 people were given the opportunity to meet with a trained spiritual director for 30 minutes each day for five days, at a time suitable to both. If you are seeking more from your prayer life or wish to explore further the richness of the Scriptures, then this opportunity might be for you. The feedback that I received from those who partook was overwhelmingly positive and I am glad that we have been able to organise it again for 2026, from *Monday 2nd through to Friday 6th of March*. Participants commit to spending part of each day in prayer and will be guided sensitively by their spiritual director when they meet. No prior experience of spiritual direction is necessary and those who have done it before are welcome to undertake it again. Places are limited, however. Expressions of interest can be sent to me directly at: fr.ronan2022@gmail.com, by no later than Friday 20th of February. Feel free to ask me any questions also.

Fr. Ronan

Maranatha

Maranatha is a full-day faith-based, high energy music event for young people from parishes across the diocese attending post-primary schools. Students from over half of our post-primary schools have been preparing for Maranatha 2026. This cumulates in a concert in Cork City Hall on Thursday 26th February with over 500 young people singing together. Maranatha was created to bring young people together to celebrate their faith through music and have fun at the same time. Please support our young people by coming to this event. Tickets are €15 (plus booking fee) and are available to book on eventbrite.ie, search Maranatha. Doors open 7pm, with concert beginning at 7.30pm.

Ballincollig Alzheimer Café

Thursday, 19th February - 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the Chapel Gate Café, Ballincollig, Cork (P13 XP38). The Ballincollig Alzheimer Café will take place this February with guest speaker Sandra Keys, Physiotherapist, who will discuss: Mobility and Exercising. Alzheimer Cafés provide a relaxed and friendly space for people living with dementia, their families, friends, and healthcare professionals to come together, share experiences, and learn from one another.

Ballincollig Parish Number for Priest on Duty is: 087 4021357 & Parish office Telephone is 089 4008181 Mon - Wed. 9.00am - 12.30pm

They are happy who follow God's law!

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 :
 Brian Kelly, Enniskeane.
 Abina O’Hea, Coolroe Heights.
 Martin O’Brien, Kenmare/Ballincollig/Tipperary.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS OR OTHERWISE REMEMBERED:
 George Chambers, Dunmanway.
 Dec. Mem. of the Boyd family, Farranree.
 Kathleen & Sonny Murray, Carrigrohane Rd.
 Teresa Kenneally, Aisling Lawn.
 Tadgh, Maureen & John O’Regan, Poulavone.
 Kieran Collins, West Village.
 Margaret McCarthy, Peter O’Donovan Crescent.
 Fr. Dick Cronin, P.P.
 Patsy & Nellie Hickey, Glenville.
 Marie Henchy, Ballyburden.
 Maisie & Paul O’Keeffe, The Meadows, West Village.
 Frances Donovan, Inniscarra/Ballincollig.
 Donal & Ellen Walsh, Fair Street.

*St. Patrick’s College Maynooth
 Annual Trócaire Lecture 2026*

You are invited to attend the St. Patrick’s College Maynooth Annual Trócaire Lecture 2026: “Care for Creation Amidst the Cries of War ~ Working for Peace in the Earth Community”. Keynote speaker: Dr. Hugo Slim, Director of the Las Casas Institute for Social Justice at Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford. The event will take place in Renehan Hall at St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, on Tuesday, the 3rd of March 2026, at 7 p.m. GMT. It will also be live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person. Registration for this free event is required.
 Please register: (i) to attend in person at this link: <https://forms.gle/QcH3ftZGz5728RDq7>
 (ii) To attend online at this link: https://trocaire-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5DMakWoeRNqBw4J3KC6luQ
 For further enquiries please contact maria.murphy@trocaire.org

Family Carers Ireland Support & Services

Join Lynne Dennehy Support Manager for the South & West of Cork with Family Carers Ireland, together with Citizens Information to learn about Family Carers Ireland Support and Services and your rights and entitlements as a family carer. The Talbot Hotel Ballincollig February 26th at 10:30am- 2pm. Tea & Coffee provided on arrival to give you a chance to meet other carers and lunch will be provided after the information session. For more information, contact Lynne at 086 0759064 or ldennehy@familycarers.ie

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Pilgrimage

Join the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Pilgrimage to Fatima from the 22nd to the 26th September 2026 ex Cork and Dublin. Spiritual Director Fr Joe McGee, MSC. For more details ring Karen in Barters Travel or email kcallaghan@travelnet.ie

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sixth Week In Ordinary Time

- 15 Sunday Eccles (Sir) 15: 15-20. Ps 118. 1 Cor 2:6-10. Mt 5:17-37 Lect I: 652
- 16 Monday Jm. 1 :11. Ps. 118. Mk. 8:11-13. Lect II: 525
- 17 Tuesday Jm. 1:1-18. Ps. 93. Mk. 8:14-21. Lect II: 527
- 18 Wednesday Joel. 2:12-18. Ps. 50. 2 Cor. 5:20-6:2. Mt. 6:1-6. 16-18. Lect I: 191
- 19 Thursday Deut. 30:15-20. Ps. 1. Lk. 9:22-25. Lect I: 194
- 20 Friday Is. 58: 1-9. Ps. 50. Mt. 9: 14-15. Lect I: 196
- 21 Saturday Is. 58:9-14. Ps. 85. Lk. 5:27-32. Lect I: 198

Next Sunday’s Readings 22-February-2026

Gen. 2:7-9, 3:1-7. Ps 50. Rom. 5:12-19. Mt. 4:1-11. Lect I: 201

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 & 7:30 pm	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

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on next Wednesday 18th February. There will be an evening Mass in St. Mary & St. John’s at 7:30pm. Ashes will be distributed at morning and evening masses, it is also a Day of Fast and Abstinence.

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.

Confirmation

Congratulations to the girls and boys in Scoil Barra who received the sacrament of Confirmation recently. Please pray for the girls and boys in Our Lady of Good Counsel who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation next week. Sincere thanks to the parents and dedicated teachers who work diligently preparing young people for the sacrament.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund Annual Collection 2026

The annual collection for the Diocesan Sick/Assisted Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund which was taken up at all Masses last weekend amounted to €2,400. There has always been great support for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund and your support and continued generosity for the collection is greatly appreciated.