



The Parishioner

Sunday 15-March-2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday & Mother's Day

Jesus came among us to lead us from darkness into the light of faith. Through Adam's fall we were born as slaves of sin but now through Christ we are reborn as God's adopted children.



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

Christ Be Our Light

In today's Gospel Acclamation, we hear Jesus' words: 'I am the light of the world, anyone who follows me will have the light of life'. Our readings today show a contrast between light and darkness. In the first reading, Samuel is having difficulty choosing a king from among the sons of Jesse, but only succeeds when he begins to see as God sees - God does not judge by outward appearances but sees what is in the heart of the person. Jesse's youngest son, David, is chosen for God's service and anointed King of Israel. His anointing is a reminder to us that we also were anointed for God's service when we were given the light of faith at our Baptism. In the second reading, Paul reminds us that we were darkness once, but now because of our Baptism we are light in the Lord. We are therefore challenged to have nothing to do with works of darkness but rather to be children of light, for 'the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness, in right living and in truth'.

In today's Gospel we hear the story of Jesus healing the man born blind. When Jesus' disciples first see the blind man they presume his affliction is a result of sin. Jesus' response is that neither he nor his parents sinned but he was born blind so that the works of God might be shown in him. Jesus not only gives him physical sight, but he also heals his spiritual blindness giving him the light of faith. On the other hand, the Pharisees refuse to recognize Jesus as the messiah; they refuse to acknowledge that Jesus has the power to heal the blind man and they remain totally blind to Christ. Jesus also heals our spiritual blindness. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we receive not only Jesus's forgiveness and healing but also the grace and strength to live out our Christian life. In our blindness, in our weaknesses, in our darkest hours, faith in God will allow us to see again. As we pray in the words of the psalmist today: the Lord is our Shepherd who guides us along the right path and if we should walk in the valley of darkness he is there to lead us and to give us comfort.

Having gained new sight, the man born blind sees with the eyes of faith and, in spite of opposition, proclaims that Jesus is truly the Lord, the Son of God. Just as he began to witness to Christ, we too are challenged to spread the light of Christ wherever we are.

Breakthrough Cancer Research

Have you ever dreamed of walking the Camino de Santiago? Breakthrough Cancer Research are taking on the final 100KM of the 'French Way', Sarria to Santiago from the 13th - 20th of April 2026 and would love for you to join them. Many people choose to walk the Camino with Breakthrough Cancer Research for deeply personal reasons. Some take part to honour a loved one, others to fulfil a bucket-list dream, and many simply wish to share a meaningful experience with a friend or partner - all while helping to raise vital, life-saving funds for cancer research. Starting in the charming town of Sarria, experience camaraderie and reflection as you walk toward Santiago de Compostela, creating lasting memories on this historic pilgrimage. For more information, please contact Edel, edel@breakcancer.ie or phone 021 422 66 55 for more details.

Lourdes Young Adult Helper's Information Evening

Cork and Ross Lourdes Pilgrimage which is taking place on the 18th-23rd September 2026 will hold an information evening on Thursday 19th March at 7pm in Mardyke House (T12 W8RP) for young adults helpers (18-25) interested in travelling. For more information, email youthministry@corkandross.org

Maria Vadia (Catholic Evangelist)

Weekend of Healing, Prayer, Praise, Worship, Teaching, Confessions and Holy Mass. Rochestown Park Hotel, Douglas, Cork. Sat and Sun March 14th and 15th 2026. 9:30 am to 5:30pm both days.



*St. Patrick's Day Mass Times
For Family of Parishes*



Ballincollig

Church of St. Mary & St. John
Monday 16th March Vigil 6.00pm
Tuesday 17th March
8.30am & 10.00am
Christ Our Light Church
Monday 16th March Vigil 7.30pm
Tuesday 17th March
11.00am (Irish Mass) & 12.30pm

Ovens & Farran

Vigil Mass will be held in Ovens Church at 7pm on Monday the 16th of March and on St Patricks day in Farran at 9.30am and Ovens at 11.30am

Kilmurry Parish

Kilmurry Tuesday 17th: 10:00am
Cloughduv Tuesday 17th: 11:30am
Canovee Monday 16th: 6:30pm Vigil

Shalom World

Free Lenten Activity Kit for your child. Colouring Sheets, crossword puzzles, word games, a simple family lent planner, an Easter meal placement.

www.shalomworld.org/Lenten-kit

Ballinora

Mass is at 10am on St Patrick's Day

"March winds and April Showers bring forth May Flowers"



Mother's Day is a special day to celebrate the love and sacrifices of mothers in our Family of Parishes. It is a time to express our gratitude and appreciation for all they have done for us. Let us take this opportunity to honour and cherish our mothers and all the mothers in our lives

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

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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

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

Michael J. Kelly, Model Farm Road/Dunmanway.
Pauline Carroll, Coolroe Heights.
John (J.C.) Colbert, Middleton.

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

Joe O'Callaghan, Glendower Court.
Helen Kenneally, Beech Park.
Frank Whelan, Maglin Vale.
Patricia Murphy, Aylsbury.
John Erangey, Aghabullogue/Ballincollig.
Michael Doyle, Pine Walk.
Dr. Carthach MacCarthy PP.
Tim O'Leary, Sunningdale.
Norah & Paddy Barry, Redemption Rd.
Nora Cotter, Togher.
Dec. mem's of the Cotter & McCarthy families.
James O'Connell, Holly Rd.
Colm Crowley, Skibbereen.

Matt Talbot Mass and Novena 2026

The Way of the Cross Church, Togher.
Monday 16th March 6.30 p.m. Fr. John Walsh, P.P Togher Parish
Monday 23th March 7.30 p.m. Fr. Colin Doocey, Chaplain C.U.H.
Monday 30th March 7.30 p.m. Ronan Scully, Overseas Aid Development Worker with the Irish Charity Self Help Africa
You can also follow the Novena online www.churchservices.tv/togher

THE CREATION

by JOSEF HAYDN. City Hall, Cork.

Saturday March 21st at 8.00p.m. East Cork Choral Society are joined by Mary Hegarty, Cork's own Soprano, Breiffni Horgan, tenor and former St Fin Barre's chorister and Gheorghe Palcu, bass will be accompanied by the East Cork Orchestra, leader, Eithne Willis. They will be conducted by Colin Nicholls. This will be a very special performance as Colin will be retiring at the end of this season. He chose to end his time with the choir by conducting Haydn's Creation as it was also his first work with the choir in 1984. The choir will be giving all profits to the Irish Cancer Society. They are also delighted to be supported by The Rotary Club of Cork who are celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year. Colin is a Past President of the Club. This will be a night not to be missed. Tickets are available at Pro Musica, Eventbrite, Society Members, 021 7432850, and at the door. Balcony €30. Parterre €25. All unreserved
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/east-cork-choral-society-presents-haydns-the-creation-tickets-1983086469012>

Book Launch for Children

FREE book launch for children aged 8 +, parents and schools. Join Eva-leen Whelton for a talk on Minding My Sensitive Self Thurs. 19th March 7-8.30pm in St Catherine's NS, Bishopstown Ave.
Find out more @ www.ausometraining.com

Ballincollig Alzheimer Café

Thursday, 19th March, 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the Chapel Gate Café, Ballincollig, Cork (P13 XP38). The Ballincollig Alzheimer Café will take place this March with guest speaker Dr Denis Curtin, who will discuss: Healthy Ageing. 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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Week Of Lent

- 15 Sunday 1 Sam. 16:6-7, 10-13. Ps. 22. Eph. 58-14. Jn. 9:1-41. Lect I: 276
- 16 Monday Is. 65:17-21. Ps. 29. Jn. 4:43-54. Lect I: 290
- 17 Tuesday Eccles. (Sir) 39:6-10, Ps.115.2 Tim 4:1-8. Mt.13:24-32. National Proper
- 18 Wednesday Is. 49:8-15. Ps. 144. Jn. 5:17-30. Lect I: 294
- 19 Thursday 2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16. Ps. 88. Rom. 4: 13, 16-18, 22. Mt. 1:16, 18-21 or Lk. 2:41-51 Lect I: 970 or II: 980
- 20 Friday Wis. 2: 1 , 12-22. Ps. 33. Jn. 7: 1 -2, 10, 25-30. Lect I: 300
- 21 Saturday Jer 11 :18-20. Ps 7. Jn 7:40-53. Lect I: 303

Next Sunday's Readings 22-March-2026

Ez. 37: 12-14. Ps. 129. Rom. 8:8-11. Jn. 11: 1-45. Lect I: 305

MASS TIMES

St. Mary & St. John	Christ Our Light
8:30 am, 10 am	Sunday 11 am, 12:30 pm
9:30 am & 6:00 pm (Vigil)	Monday 7:30 pm (Vigil)
8:30 am, 10 am	Tuesday 11 am, 12:30 pm
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.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are at 6.30pm every Friday during the lent in St. Mary and St. John's church. All welcome.

Confirmation

Congratulations to the boys in Scoil Eoin who received the sacrament of Confirmation on Monday, 9th March. Please pray for the girls and boys in Gaelscoil Uí Ríordáin who will receive the sacrament of confirmation on 20th March. Sincere thanks to the parents and dedicated teachers who work diligently preparing young people for the sacrament.

Envelope Collection

The Irish Bishop's Commissions Collection which was taken up at all Masses last weekend 7th/8th March amounted to €1,420.

We appreciate your continued generosity.

Family Mass

Our next Family Mass will be celebrated at 12.30p.m. at Christ our Light church on today Sunday, 15th March. 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.

Ovens & Farran Parish

Parish Contact Details

Parish Phone No's.
 Fr. John McCarthy 021 4871180
 Mobile No.: 087 0956190
 Parish Centre / Sacristy: 0214289768
 Email: ovensfarranparish@gmail.com
 Ring for bookings : Baptisms & Marriages etc.
 Farran contact is Ann Brennan after Sunday Mass.

Ovens & Farran Bulletin Board

Sunday Masses

Ovens: 11.30 am
 Farran: 9.30am

Weekday Masses

Ovens: 9.30 am Wednesday and Friday
 Farran: 9.30 am Tuesday and Thursdays

Vigil Masses for March

7 th March	14 th March	21 st March	28 th March
Ovens 6pm	Farran 6pm	Ovens 6pm	Farran 6pm

Vigil Mass is held in Ovens every 1st 3rd and 5th Saturday and every 2nd and 4th Saturday in Farran

Vigil Mass will be at 6pm on Saturday the 7th of March in Ovens

Weekend Anniversaries

Ovens: 11.30am Joe Brennan, Windsor, Ovens.
 Farran: 6pm: Peg Lordan, Knocknagoul.
 Farran: 9.30am Richard Looney, Currahaly.

Baptism's

Lil Murphy, Grange Road.
 Rosié Murphy, Greenfields.
 We congratulate their parents and welcome them to our family of parishes.

Holy Hour every Tuesday night from 8-9pm
Rosary recited at 9.10 every Friday morning before 9.30am Mass
Eucharistic Adoration from 10am to 11am.

Cork Lions Club

Cork Lions Club are holding our annual Patrick's Hill Ball Run in aid of the Cork City first Responders and Glounthaune First Responders and Local Cork Charities at 2pm on Sunday March 15th. It is a fun family event and all are welcome
 We will also be collecting old spectacles for recycling to the third world so bring along any old glasses and give them a new lease of life. Please support the fundraiser by buying balls at www.corklionsclub.ie

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Saint Patrick's Day Parade will leave Farran Hall at 10.30am. Dress up your Car and Tractor and come and join us. Teas, Coffees and refreshments after the parade. Farran Hall Association

Hickey's Bar Aherla

A night of music, singing, story telling and poetry this Wednesday 18th March starting at 9:00pm sharp. Fear an Tí Jim Murphy. All welcome.

Ballinora Parish

Mass Times

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
10am	No Mass	10am	10am	10am	7.30pm	10am
Mass Times are Subject to Change						

Mass Intentions

* Sat. 14th March: Eileen Collins.

Ballinora Bulletin Board

A Snapshot Through The Years

The book to celebrate our 40th anniversary as a parish will be launched on March 17th.

The scouts have very kindly said that we can have this exciting event in conjunction with their annual coffee morning.

The scouts are having this coffee morning as a fundraiser for their summer camp. We are very happy to support them with this. We will have a table in the Scout Den where the book will be available for sale. The price is €14 and we look forward to seeing you all there to support two great occasions!

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards funding other events to mark our Anniversary Year.

40th Anniversary Year of Celebration!

Upcoming Events To Take Place This Year!

- ◆ March 17th Book Launch
- ◆ May 24th Pet Mass
- ◆ July 26th St. James Coffee Morning
- ◆ Sept. 13th Special Parish Mass
- ◆ Sept. 18th Dinner Dance
- ◆ Oct. (tba) Marymount Coffee Morning
- ◆ Dec. (tba) Concert

Some dates to be decided. Other events may be added. We hope to have huge support for all these events. It's a great opportunity for us all to come together as a community and for all the different groups to meet up in social settings.

Ballinora LOTTO (GAA/Camogie/LGFA)

Congratulations to Finbarr Dineen and Dan Keohane, our latest winners of €100 each for matching 3 numbers [2][2]

This Monday's jackpot is €11,650 for matching 4 numbers [2][2][2]

To join online please go to ballinoragaa.ie and open Lotto Quick Guide or contact Colm on 085-8759298 for Cash/Revolut option.

Continued thanks to all our lotto players who continue to support development of our grounds and facilities each week through the Ballinora Lotto. Your ongoing contributions are very much appreciated.

Thanking you Ballinora Lotto Committee

BALLINORA GAA • CAMOGIE • LGFA

Join us for a night celebrating our club's success
 AWARDS NIGHT, Friday 27th March, 7PM Rochestown Park Hotel
 Tickets €45; TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

To reserve your ticket contact: Aoife - 086 0510726
 Catherine - 086 0667325

Revolut: €45 to 086 0510726 or 086 0667325 (please include your name), CASH ALSO ACCEPTED

Message from Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan

Grants available for those over 66 to replace old windows and doors. Incomes up to €75,000 qualify for grants. Cllr Ben Dalton O'Sullivan (Carrigaline Municipal District, Waterfall and surrounds) 089-469 0352

Medjugorje Pilgrimage

Medjugorje Pilgrimage August 25th 2026 ex Cork. 7 nights Half Board in Hotel Leone. Limited seats still available. Cost €949.00 pps. Group Leader: Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380



From the Family of Parishes



Kilmurry Parish

St. Mary's Church
Kilmurry - Parish Church

Mass Times

Sunday: 10:00am

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
10 am				10 am

Confession: Saturdays before and after Mass
Sacristy: Anne O'Callaghan

St. Joseph's Church

Cloughduv

Mass Times

Sunday: 11:30am

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		10 am		

Confession: Saturdays before and after Mass
Sacristy: Tessie Buckley

St. John the Baptist Church

Canovee

Mass Times

Saturday 6:30pm Vigil

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	10 am			

Confession: Saturdays before and after Mass
Sacristy: Nuala Crowley 026-48111

Independence Museum Kilmurry

Flower Arranging Demonstration Friday March 27th at 8pm by Nora Gallagher AOIFA and Macroom Flower and Garden Club. Arrangements will be raffled at end of evening. Light refreshments. Tickets e15 must be bought in advance. Phone 086 1767295 for tickets. This is a fund-raising event for the museum.

Reflection for Parents

In order to help our children follow the light of Christ, we too must open our eyes. As Jesus helped the blind man understand, it is not enough to see only with our eyes. We need also to see with our hearts and allow our every action to reflect this sight. Jesus healed the man of his blindness, but in the end the man recognised Jesus as the Messiah and worshiped him.

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 Barbers Travel or email kcallaghan@travelnet.ie

Darkness into Light 2026

Darkness into Light 2026 will take place on the morning of Saturday May 9th 2026. The walk will leave from Ballincollig Community School at 4.15 am. You can register online. All support will be greatly appreciated.

Statement of Bishop Fintan Gavin in relation to the announcement by the Augustinian community of the decision to withdraw from St Augustine's Church in summer 2026

It is with great sadness that I, along with so many people across Cork City and beyond, have learned of the decision of the Augustinian community to withdraw from St Augustine's Church this coming summer. For generations, the Augustinian community at St Augustine's has been an important and cherished part of the cultural, spiritual and faith life of our city. Many people have found there a place of prayer, welcome, and belonging.

With the declining number of religious vocations within the Augustinian Order, and the advancing age profile of many of its members, I fully understand and respect the reasons behind this decision, which has clearly been made after careful discernment about their future mission and resources.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Augustinian friars, past and present, for their faithful ministry, their preaching of the Gospel, and their generous service to the people of Cork over so many generations. Their contribution to the spiritual life of the city will long be remembered with gratitude and affection.

I will have an opportunity in the coming months to thank the Augustinians more publicly for their immense contribution to the faith life of our city.

I am particularly mindful that this news will come as a sadness to many who have found in St Augustine's a spiritual home over the years. I want to reassure all of you that I will endeavour, as your Bishop, to respond pastorally to that need, even as the Holy Spirit may now be inviting us to live and express that faith in new ways and in new places.

Cork's city centre has been blessed to have so many churches, many of which were provided by religious orders, and most of them continue their ministry, including the Franciscans, Capuchins, and Dominicans.

St Peter's and St Paul's Parish Church — which is also near St Augustine's — has seen significant investment in recent years in upgrading and renewing this beautiful church. Today it is home to 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration, a full Mass schedule, and various pastoral activities which connect with the life of the Cathedral Family of Parishes. We have also recently introduced a Mass on the second Sunday of each month, animated by young adults, which is proving very popular. Our new St Peter and St Paul's young adult residential community is a real sign of new life and hope, together with the recently opened Emmaus Café, offering a place of welcome, encounter, and hospitality in the heart of the city.

As we look ahead, and especially as we prepare for the 100th anniversary of the Cork Eucharistic Procession in our city, I look forward to supporting all those who feel the loss of St Augustine's as a spiritual home, together with the wider faith community in the city centre, as we continue to find new ways of placing Christ, his Church, and a spirit of welcome and worship at the heart of our city.

The faith that was nurtured for generations within the walls of St Augustine's will continue to live on and bear fruit in the hearts of its people and in the life of our city.



✠ Fintan Gavin
Bishop of Cork and Ross