

The Presbytery Office Tel: 068-27102 Open: Mon., Wed., & Frid. 10.00a.m. to 1.00p.m. (Urgent calls 087-6759263) email: ballybunion@dioceseofkerry.ie

Schedule for the Week:

Sat. 22nd Aug. 7.00p.m.	Vigil: Marie Sheehan; Jackie Culhane; Dana Mulvihill; Jim Bunyan, Doon Road; Hannah & John King; Mary & Mossie Savage
Sun. 23rd Aug. 11.30am	Thomas Moore; Michael & Kate Devane, Beale; Mary Ann & Cliff de Sousa; Aidan Mason; Bridgie O'Carroll (3 rd Anniv.); Rowena Flavin
Mon. 24th Aug.	10.00a.m. Laurence, MaryAnn & Jeremiah Nolan
Wed. 26th Aug.	10.00a.m. Private Intention
Fri. 28th Aug.	10.00a.m. Missa Pro Populo
Sat. 29th Aug. 7.00p.m.	Mary Holly, Lahesrough (1 st Anniv) & decd..Holly & Gorry families
1. Sun. 30th Aug. 11.30am	Mary & Michael Moriarty; Patrick Hanly & decd. family members; Olive, John & Gerard Higginbotham; Violet & William O'Carroll & decd. family members; Liam Casey;

Parish Notes

Confession: Saturday 6.15p.m. to 6.45p.m.

Anniversaries: John Patrick O'Connor, Billy & Rosemary O'Loughlin

Priest on Duty Sunday 23rd Aug.: Fr. Pat Crean Lynch Ardfert: 087-2200114

Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament: Mon. mornings from 8.45a.m. to 9.45a.m.

Ballyheigue Pattern Day, Tues., 8th Sept.: Please join us for 11.00a.m. with Bishop Ray Browne Mass as we celebrate Our Lady's Birthday in the beautiful setting of Our Lady's Well & Grotto. Everyone is warmly welcome. Plenty of free parking available.

Listowel Internation Storytelling Festival: 17th - 20th Sept. For program and tickets: see kerrywritersmuseum.com

St. Pio Bus to Knock 20th Sept: Leaving Ballybunion at 7.45 a.m. outside the church. For further info. & to book a seat contact: Bernadette 087-6019474/James 087-7789929

***The Way** is an initiative of The Catholic Communications Office in Maynooth – it has been designed to help people discover, live & pass on the Catholic faith. Keep up to date by checking the homepage of **The Way** at www.theWay.ie Call 01-5053055 email: info@theway.ie

Reflection: Shepherd and Rock - Above the sanctuary of Saint Peter's basilica in Rome, written in huge lettering of gold mosaic, is this promise of Jesus to his chief apostle: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.. I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." These words

are held by Catholics as the basis for the papacy, applying to the bishop of Rome as the successor to Peter, to be the chief spokesman for the church's living faith, and wielder of the spiritual power of the keys. We must not be too simplistic in how we apply those words to the original Peter and even more so to his successors. Non-catholic Christians, our brethren in the Protestant churches, do not accept that there could be any succession, in the full sense, to the position held by Saint Peter. They find any claims to juridical and absolute authority for the papacy, under titles like "apostolic jurisdiction" or "the power of the keys" to be out of harmony with the Gospel message. They interpret differently what today's Gospel means for leadership in the Church. We need not insist that the Roman way is the only way of taking Christ's words. Still, this Gospel deserves close attention for what it says about faith, enlightenment and leadership, and guidance for our own lives.

Each must make a personal answer to Our Lord's question: "Who do you say that I am?" although Peter's credo is a solid basis from which to begin. Notice the beautiful phrase: "Son of the Living God," expressing more richly what "Christ" means. Peter's worshipful faith comes to him as gift from above, not from any mere logic or ingenuity. Why was the blessing given to him in particular? Perhaps because his humble and contrite spirit made him best prepared to receive it? Or because God chooses whom He wills, irrespective of their merits? It is to this Peter that Jesus entrusts whatever is meant by the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Upon his solid, dedicated faith the Church will always rely, for unity and encouragement. Keys are mainly for opening; many doors lock by themselves. We could reflect further on Peter's task, as seen in other Gospel passages (Mat. 14:28ff; 17:24ff; Lk. 22:32; Jn. 21:15-17) , and in the Acts (1:1 5ff; 2: 14ff; 3:1 2ff) .

While he is appointed to "feed the lambs and sheep" of Christ, to "confirm his brethren," and welcome the first pagan convert into the Church, Peter is no plaster saint. Weakness of faith (when he began to sink) , rash self-confidence and eventual denial are also portrayed by him. But these serve only to underline the grandeur of his conversion, when with a new clarity of self-knowledge he turns and says to Jesus: "You know that I love you." The task is not one of stern domination, or merely of the efficient organisation of Christ's Church. Pastor and penitent at once, convert and the support for other converted sinners, he leads the faithful by witness and example. This pastoral understanding of authority finds a lovely echo in the first epistle of Peter. Elders or leaders are asked to "tend the flock of God, not as domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock" (5:13.) Just so, Peter tended the early church by sharing his deep faith in Christ the Risen Lord. So, he kept them united in a community of mutual love, and in faithful obedience to the Gospel. Such an ideal situation of harmony in the Church is briefly sketched for us in the Acts (2:42ff; 4:32f.)

What of today's Church, spread in all continents, united under the leadership of pope Francis? How can this work of teaching, encouraging and uniting so many millions of baptised believers be carried on? Jesus remains at the centre, as the Christ, Son of the Living God, and he continues to be the Church's true Rock. We today, just as much as in the time of St Peter, need the ministry of faithful apostles, entrusted by Christ to build up his people, witness to the faith, and provide leadership in Christian love. Pope, bishops, priests and other ministries exist in order to serve. But in some sense, we get the service that we deserve. It is for us to make known to our pastors both our appreciation and our loyal criticisms; especially to pray for them, for their courage and perseverance. Today we particularly remember the present successor of Peter, our Pope; that God may establish him in faith and wisdom; that being strong in himself, he may confirm the brethren; and that as Chief Shepherd he may help us on our way to the Kingdom.

God Bless.

Fr. Gearóid Walsh, P.P.

