

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. 12th Sept. 7.00p.m.	Seamus Enright, Donal & Bridie Holly, Mary Holly O'Shaughnessy, Paddy & Julia Breen Gullane, Mickey & Maureen O'Sullivan
Sun. 13th Sept. 11.30am	Bill Buckley; Brendan Nagle, Paddy Dalton; Sarah & Sean Kerins; Shirley Loftus (2 nd Anniv).
Mon. 14th Sept. 10.00am	Private Intention
N.B. Tues. 15th Sept.	10.00a.m. Tom O'Connor Glouria of Lisselton
Wed. 16th Sept.	No Mass
Fri. 18th Sept. 10.00a.m.	Phil Clarke
Sat. 19th Sept. 7.00p.m.	Mary Walsh & deceased family members Gortnaskeha, Dermot Keane
Sun. 20th Sept. 11.30am	John Keogh Late of London, Anne Devitt, Jim Lyons, Raymond & Peggy Hennessy Limerick

Parish Notes

Welcome to St. John's Church. This is a House of the Lord: Please speak to Him for yourself and those dear to you. This is a Sanctuary of God: Please maintain the silence and respect befitting its sacredness. This is a place of sacrifice: Please, let us be especially conscious of this as we prepare for the celebration of Mass.

Confession: Saturdays 6.15p.m. - 6.45p.m. **Anniversaries:** Shirley Loftus.

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

Pilgrimage to Knock for St. Pio next Sunday, 20th Sept: Bus departs from Ballybunion Church at 7.45a.m. More info. & book a seat from: 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 at www.theWay.ie Call 01-5053055 email: info@theway.ie

Priest on Duty Sunday 13th Sept.: Fr. Anthony O'Sullivan, Lixnaw 087-2461749

Reflection: A woman, pushing on in years, boasted to her pastor that she did not have an enemy in the world. He was very impressed. What a wonderful thing to be able to say after all those years! And then she added:- 'I have outlived them all'. I suppose if we live long enough we will also be able to make the same statement. We have all been hurt in some way or other in the journey of life—made fun of in school by a teacher, not invited to the wedding, didn't get the job I thought I should have got, or at a more serious level, betrayed by someone you trusted, abused physically or sexually and so on. Sheila Cassidy, who was herself tortured in South America, had this to say:- 'I would never say to someone 'you must forgive'. I would not dare. Who am I to tell a woman whose father abused her or a mother whose daughter has been raped that she must forgive? I can only say: 'However much we have been wronged, however justified our hatred, if we cherish it, it will poison us. We must pray for the power to forgive, for it is in forgiving that we are healed'. Nelson Mandela continually reminded his fellow prisoners in South Africa that unless they let go of their hurts they would remain in the grip of their abusers. By failing to forgive, we hurt ourselves more than anyone else. Surely this is what Jesus had in mind when he told how the merciless servant was cast into prison when he refused to forgive his fellow servant. I don't think he was suggesting that God would cancel his mercy. He is simply saying that an unforgiving spirit creates a prison of its own. It builds up walls of bitterness and resentment and there is no escape until we come to forgive. Forgiving and letting go is not easy, especially when the wound is very deep. This is why I call forgiveness the 'F' word, because it's not to be used lightly. Forgiveness is a choice and often involves a three stage process: (1) I will never forgive that person (2) I can't forgive (forgiveness seen as a good thing, but the hurt is too great) (3) I want to forgive and let go with God's help. Also we must learn to forgive ourselves. Imagine you are responsible for something very serious. You are driving a car with drink. There is an accident and a young person is killed. That life cannot be brought back. For more and more people there is a something in the background, some skeleton in the closet—a broken marriage, an abortion, a pregnancy outside marriage, a broken relationship, a serious mistake. And for many of us we do not believe that there is another chance much less a seven times seventy chances. This is not the teaching of Jesus. God does not just give us another chance, but every time we close a door he opens another one for us. The Lord challenges us not to make serious damaging mistakes, but he also tells us that our mistakes are not forever—they are not even for a life time—and that time and grace wash clean, that nothing is irrevocable.

Community News

Words of Wisdom: "We all agree that forgiveness is a beautiful idea until we have to practice it." — C.S. Lewis "Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness." — Corrie Ten Boom
God Bless.

Fr. Gearóid Walsh, P.P.

