

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. 10th Oct. 7.00p.m.	Joan & Matt Beirne & decd. family members, Andrew Pierce, Marie Kissane & decd. members of the Kissane Family, Doon Rd. & Kilgarvan.
Sun. 11th Oct. 11.30am	Helen O'Connor Cliff Road
Mon. 12th Oct. 10.00am	STATION: Kit Ahern Rd., Upper Sandhill Road, Sandhill Park,
Wed 14th Oct. 10.00 a.m.	STATION: Lahesrough, Lahardane, Moohane, Farranpierce, Dromin
Fri. 16th Oct. 10.00a.m.	STATION: Ballyeigh, Ragoonagh, Ahimma, Scrahan,
Sat. 17th Oct. 7.00p.m.	Rose Ann Diggin (1 st Anniv.), John Joe & Sheila Hennessy, Denis & Noreen O'Connor Dirra & deceased of the Kelly Family Upper Lahardane, John Noel Dillon, Thomas Moloney Church Rd, Mary Delea, Winnie, Maudie and Jerry O'Sullivan, Eileen, John Michael & Mai Mangan
Sun. 18th Oct. 11.30am	Kathleen, Billy, Mick, Kate & John Murphy East End, Jeremiah Lawlor Jimmy Dalton Church Road, Thomas Falvey, John Falvey, Ann Meehan McCarron

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.

Priest on Duty Sunday 11thOct.: Fr. Gerard Finucane Causeway/Ballyduff: 087-0554874

Please pray for the souls of Thomas Walsh, Tullamore and Cork and Frank Whelan Church Road who died during the week and for Peter McGuire whose anniversary occurs at this time.

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

Mission Month on-line talk next Thurs. 15th Oct at 7.30 p.m. Register: dioceseofkerry.ie

Autumn Dues: Thanks to all who have paid their dues. More station area Masses next week.

Youth Ministry: Springs of Hope Newsletter is now available on the Diocesan website

Annual Remembrance Service for parents who have lost a baby through miscarriage Ectopic pregnancy, etc. will be held Sun. 11th Oct. at 2.30 p.m. in Hospital Chapel, UHK, Tralee.

Propagation of the Faith Collection - The Pope's annual appeal to support missionaries will be taken up at Masses next weekend 17th/18th Oct. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Reflection: What of heaven? Our notion of heaven derives largely from what we regard as most desirable in this world. Such was always the case. Every age reinvents heaven to mirror its own time. What is depicted tells us more about conditions here than in the hereafter. The idea of its being a marriage feast has little appeal for some of us. Like most priests, I have had more than my share of wedding receptions in this world, with their invariable menus of turkey and ham, to have any desire for more of the same in the next. Yet, there was a time in my life when food came high on the list of desirables. The smell of fried eggs and bacon from the staff dining-room in my boarding-school days could transport me to another world! Such was the bleakness of the lives of most people in biblical and other times, when food was basic and scarce, it is not surprising that Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven to a royal wedding feast. There was of course a political agenda behind those royal banquets. They helped to insure that the heir to the throne would be accepted and loved by his poorer subjects. Caesars and senators in ancient Rome were accustomed to sponsor gladiatorial contests and other bloody spectacles for much the same reason. Cynical Romans were well aware that their acquiescence in, if not allegiance to, the ruling junta, was being bought with 'bread and circuses'. Vestiges of the same still survive today as richer countries vie with each other to host the Olympic Games or the World Cup. In the parable Jesus spoke to the religious hierarchy of his time. They were his prime target and they knew it. Already they had plans to rid themselves of this rabble-rousing rabbi, for they were too preoccupied with clinging to privilege and power to accept God's invitation to the wedding-feast. Others had their 'farms' and their 'businesses', their deals and the social whirl. Unhappy with being reprimanded for their dubious practices, they rejected the prophetic messengers sent to warn them that the feast was ready. This story goes on finding in every age a new target audience. Maybe Curial executive types who run the local churches like regional subsidiaries of a giant international company should take the warning nowadays. But they are not alone. It would be comforting to think of ourselves as too ordinary to be included, or that we are among those at the crossroads who finally fill the wedding-hall. Our baptism placed us squarely on the guest list. Our profession of faith every Sunday confirms it. But our actual priorities might still keep us from making to the wedding feast. It used to be thought that heaven was the better of the two options on offer when we die. The Christian truth is that the offer of heaven is made here and now; for death only fixes for eternity the choice we actually make in this life. We have already received our invitations. We have been tagged with an RSVP. -We are already making our responses by the priorities we choose here and now. Daniel Berrigan noted the sharp ironies in this parable: "The story is charged with ironies. We have the Christ of "love your enemies" telling about a king who takes revenge on his enemies (Matthew 22, 1-14) . This king, in fact, recalls the most savage of Hebrew and Gentile rulers. The invitation to his banquet declares that everyone is welcome, "both evil and good." But after the ragtag guests assemble, someone is by no means made welcome. Quite the opposite. He is "bound hand and foot, and cast into outer darkness." His offense? Lacking that well-known wedding garment. This anonymous guest, someone from "the main highways," perhaps homeless, almost certainly destitute, where was such a one to come on a festive robe? Imagine a homeless person in New York rounded up to appear at a wedding and then berated for not being clothed in a tuxedo!"

God Bless.

Fr. Gearóid Walsh, P.P.

***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

