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. 24th Oct. 7.00p.m.	Francis McPhillips (Months Mind), Bridie Whelan; Paddy & Kitty Rowan; The Mulvihill Family, East End; Marian Mulvihill,
Sun. 25th Oct. 11.30am	Francis O'Carrol; Trish Nagle; Eddie Hennessy, Clounamon & decd. members of the Walsh Family, Blackparks; Tom & Anne Foley & their grandson Tom Collins, Gullane;
Mon. 26th Oct. 9.30a.m. **11.00a.m.**	***N.B.*** **9.30a.m. – 10.30am Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament** Memorial Mass for Mary Anne McDonald late of Wiltshire and Farranpierce
Wed 28th Oct. 10.00 a.m.	**STATION**: East End, Listowel Road, Main St., Lartigue Road,
Fri. 30th Oct. 10.00a.m.	Noreen O'Brien, Church Road,
Sat. 31st Oct. 7.00p.m.	Thomas O'Connor, Lahardane; Jean, Helen & Tom O'Connor Timmy and Lizzie Lynch Tullamore
Sun. 1st Nov. 11.30am	Ellen Nellie O'Donoghue Doonferris (Months Mind) Eileen Holly; Phil Nagle Ryan; Ann Nagle; Helen O'Connor; John Snr, Imelda & John Jnr Barry Sandhill Road,

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 25th Oct.: Fr. Gearoid Walsh Ballybunion: 087-6759263

Anniversaries: Donal Holly, Nora Kissane Lahesrough

Annual November Mass for all those who died in Palliative care Services, Maternity services, the relatives of hospital staff and former staff members oh UHK. Will be held on 2nd Nov. at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Castle St. Tralee.

Recovery Haven: Building Better Caregivers: 2nd November 10.30 to 1 p.m. 0667192122

Reflection: The heart of the matter: Life is becoming increasingly complex. We value people who have the gift of getting beyond the multiple dimensions of an issue so as to zoom in on the heart of the matter. Such people prevent us from missing the wood for the trees. They are good at separating out what really matters from the things that are less important. They encourage us to invest our energies in what is really worthwhile, rather than allowing them to be dissipated by what is not significant. Jesus was a person who knew how to go to the heart of the matter. On one occasion someone asked him to intervene in a family dispute about inheritance. In his reply, he ignored the concrete issue and, instead, he called on the person who approached him to "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed" (Lk 12:13-15) . He saw that the real issue was not the details of the particular case but the greed which underlay the dispute. This capacity of Jesus to get to the heart of the matter is clear from his response to the question put to him by one of the Pharisees in today's gospel reading, "Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?" In the time of Jesus there were known to be 613 commandments in the Jewish Law. The potential here to miss the wood for the trees was enormous. Preoccupation with the detail of regulations could result in people ignoring what really matters, like straining out a gnat but swallowing a camel (Mt 23:24) . Jesus answered the Pharisee's question by going straight to the heart of the Jewish law. He was asked if there is one "greatest" commandment, but in reply he named the *second* greatest commandment as well. For the first commandment, loving the Lord your God with all our heart and soul, is inseparable from the conjoined commandment, of loving my neighbour as myself. For Jesus, what God wants from us above all else is love. There is no genuine love of God unless it finds expression in love of our neighbour. Love of neighbour, in turn, presupposes a healthy self-love, recognising and appreciating myself as fundamentally good, because I am created in the image and likeness of God. Doing justice in love All our texts today suggest one clear and practical principle: loving God involves *doing practical justice in our world*. But even our superficially Christian society is full of people who show little respect for love or justice. Political and economic life is ruled by values far from those of the Gospel. Greed, and fierce desire for power and profit can be seen in our daily papers. We are closer to the paganism mentioned in Paul's letter than we may imagine. Today no less than then, the world is hostile to what Jesus represents, and it is hard for us to take a stand even on important issues of justice and compassion. Our Lord shows love of God and genuine love of the other as two basic aspects of the same call. There can never be a contradiction between the two, even though one may sometimes feel trapped in a situation where a particular law of Church or State seems to create a contradiction. An approach to the second commandment about love could be by reflecting on how we love ourselves. Loving the other as oneself only becomes possible if we have, or can grow into, a healthy, sane level of self-appreciation. Let us pray for a greater openness to the many ways the Lord comes to us in life.

God Bless. **Fr. Gearóid Walsh, P.P.**