

The *Greatest Test of Faith*  
is when you don't  
get what you want,  
but still are able to say  
*Thank You Lord*



**Mass Times**

Saturday: 6.30 (Vigil Mass)  
Sunday: 9.00, 9.45 (Convent),  
10.30, 12.00  
Weekdays:  
10.00 Monday – Friday

**St. Vincent De Paul  
Monthly Collection**

takes place outside the church  
this weekend after all the Masses

**First Friday: Sept 2  
Holy Hour @ 7.30pm**

**Baptised in Christ**

The Parish Community warmly welcomes  
**Alex Gibney Leila Geoghegan Skylar McEnroe**  
who were baptised recently in our church.  
Congratulations to their  
**Parents, Grandparents, God-Parents**  
and extended family.

**PARISH SHOP**

Cards, Calendars,  
Candles  
and much more  
available at the shop  
in the Parish Centre

Reader Lists available  
in the Sacristy

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Mon 10.30 – 4.00  
Wed 10.30 – 9.00  
Fri 10.30 – 9.00

**Divine Mercy Meeting**

Every Wed Evening @ 8.00  
in the Prayer Room



**Rest in Peace**  
**Dan Reddin**  
**James McEneaney**  
*Blessings and Sympathy  
to the Families*

Don't forget to visit our website  
[www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com](http://www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com)

And our Facebook page,  
[www.facebook.com/st.matthews.ballyfermot/](http://www.facebook.com/st.matthews.ballyfermot/)



## BOOK OF THE WEEK

### WHAT IS THE POINT OF BEING A CHRISTIAN?

BY TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE OP  
BURNS AND OATES LONDON 2005 pp218

This is a great book. It is fresh, inspirational and prophetic. Rooted in the gospel it challenges us, as to how being a Christian in a rapidly changing world, must actually make a difference, to ourselves and others.

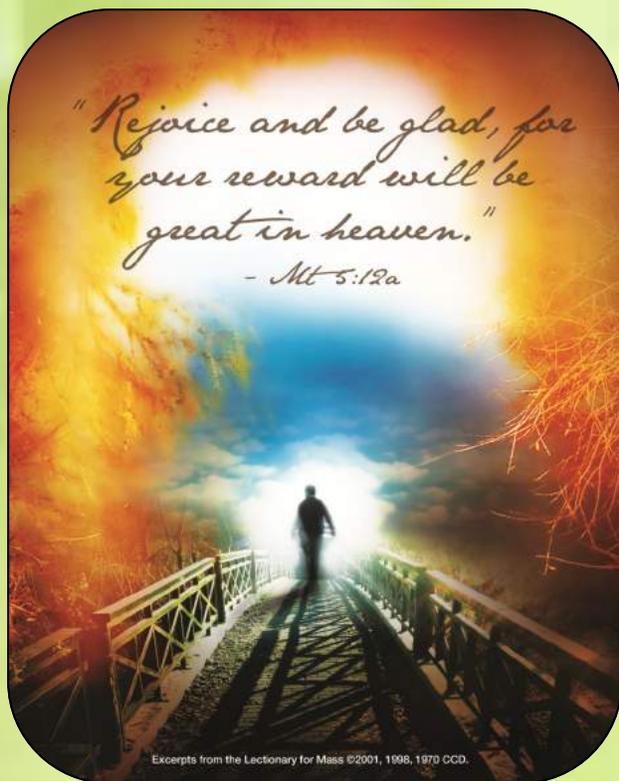
#### Church Collection Totals

Week Beginning 14/8 15/8

First Collection 715 260

Share Collection 575 145

Family Offering N/A —



### Cemetery Mass

Esker: Today @ 3.00pm

### Gospel Readings for the Week

Mon	29/08	<b>Mk 6:17-29</b>	THE BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST They came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.
Tue	30/08	<b>Lk 14:31-37</b>	If the salt itself loses its taste, how can it be seasoned again?
Wed	31/08	<b>Lk 4:38-44</b>	He rebuked the fever and it left her.
Thu	1/09	<b>Lk 5:1-11</b>	Put out into deep water.
Fri	2/09	<b>Lk 5:33-39</b>	New wine must be put into fresh skins,
Sat	3/09	<b>Lk 6:1-5</b>	The Son of Man is master of the Sabbath,

### Mass Intentions

Sat	27/8	6.30	Kate Darcy
Sun	28/8	10.30	Maria, Patrick Stokes Paddy Walsh
Sun	28/8	12.00	Karen, Marie, Ellen Fitzsimons Robert Wright Mary Fagan Noel Gargan Marie Fagan
Tue	30/8	10.00	James Clarke
Fri	2/9	10.00	<b>Altar List of the Dead</b>
Fri	2/9	7.30	<b>Holy Hour</b>

### FAITH MOMENT

**The Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5:3-12)**  
are at the heart of Jesus' preaching.

They respond to our natural  
human desire for happiness.

God has placed this desire  
in each human heart  
in order to draw us to God,  
who alone can perfectly fulfil it.

### Healthy Food Made Easy

A 6-week course will take place in  
Ballyfermot Library  
Tuesday Mornings: 20 Sept—25 Oct  
10.00am—12.30pm

The course is free of charge.  
If you are interested and want to  
take part

contact: Tracy Kelly -  
Phone 01 623 80 88

Email: [tquinn@ballyfermotpartnership.ie](mailto:tquinn@ballyfermotpartnership.ie)  
for more information

### Irish Catholic

Subscriptions to the Irish  
Catholic will be discontinued in  
the near future. The paper will  
still be available on a weekly  
basis in the Parish Shop. .

# Rumblings from the Bunker

## ON THE QUESTION OF PRAYER

In response to people's questions about prayer, I would like to say a number of things. I believe we can be taught to pray. My novice-master, Rev. Bro. James Quentin Harney cfc taught me how to pray, and I will always be grateful for that. Perhaps the best book on prayer that I have read is, **Teach Us to Pray** by Andre Louf, though I agree it's not an easy read. Of course the Our Father has a beautiful perfect simplicity that cannot be surpassed, not least of all because it is the Lord's own prayer. I love St. Patrick's Breastplate. Thomas Merton's prayer is one of my favourites, so much so that I used it for my ordination card. Whilst the demand of Charles de Foucauld's Prayer of Abandonment continues to challenge me I recognise its power. There is a particular beauty in a reflective scripture rosary or a meditative Way of the Cross. We should not dismiss the simple little prayers of the heart, little darts of love...Thank you Jesus....Lord help me...Father forgive me. I love Night Prayer, as in the Divine Office. The ultimate prayer, the pinnacle, is of course the Eucharist. Aside from this, at this stage of my life I have moved towards the prayer of silence. Wordless time in the presence of the Lord. He looks at me and smiles and whilst I don't always get it, He is mad about me, as in He loves me totally and completely. Gradually He lifts my head and I look at Him, and then I'm gone....melted...falling in His Love.....Having said all that, for what it's worth here's one of my own written prayers...

### A PRAYER OF THANKS TO THE HOLY TRINITY

#### Heavenly Father,

Thank You for all creation, ESPECIALLY US, my sisters and brothers, the high point of your work. Thank You for the wonder of all you have made, thanks for the mountains and for the sea, when it's calm, but also when it thunders and crashes. Father, thank You for colour, for all the green but most especially my favourite, a BIG thank You for purple. Thanks for flowers and plants. Thank You for busy lizzies, for rhododendrons and of course for roses. One of Your greatest presents to us is the gift of wildlife and animals. I could list so many beautiful things here, but I will stick with the best of all. Heavenly Father thank You for giving us dogs. Yes, thanks for German Shepherds, for Bichon Frise and Labradors, and thanks even for Pugs, but WOW, how you excelled Yourself with Boxers! Imagine a world without Boxers, a horrible chilling thought! Thank You so much for Boxers!

#### Lord Jesus,

Thank You for becoming one of us! Thank You, Lord, for being fully divine, and fully human. Thank You for being a baby, a toddler, a child and a teenager. Thanks for crying, for laughing, thanks for falling, and thanks for getting up again. Lord Jesus thanks for Your words, Your teaching, Your stories, and especially for all Your actions. Every single one of these packed with love for us. Thanks for Your hands gently upon us. Thank You, Lord, for your healing. Thank You, Jesus; for Your Body, Your Blood. Thank You, Lord, for Good Friday. What pain! What suffering! What love! Thank You for the victory, for beating Death. Thank You, Lord for Easter dawn. Thanks for changing sickness, suffering and death forever. Lord, thank You for helping me to relate to others. Thank You Jesus for the gift of others, for the joy and pain of being human, for the beauty and wonder of people, and how they lead me to grow into the beautiful person You want me to be.

#### Holy Spirit,

Thank You for being within me. Thank You for moving inside my soul, for *stirring* me to think of God. Thank You for *nudging* me towards the Kingdom of Heaven. Thanks for *swirling* around me when I am frightened. Holy Spirit thanks for the joy of the dance. Thank You for your gifts. Thank You for prudence, wisdom and courage. Thank You, Holy Spirit for causing our jaws to drop, and our eyes to pop at God present in the world. For music and song, rhythm and beat, and art, thank You. Holy Spirit, thanks above all for Your gentle *whisper* deep in my soul, telling me all will be well, *murmuring* to me not to be afraid. **Amen.**

J MC DONALD. 22.08.16

P.S. Thanks for the stars, and the changing face of the moon, and rabbits, and I nearly forgot, thanks for chocolate! **Amen!**