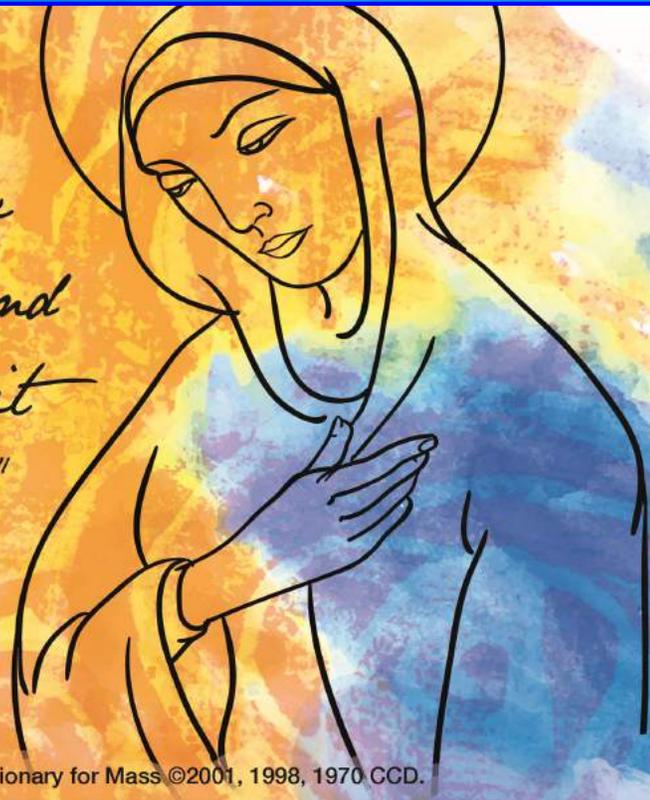


"Blessed are you
among women, and
blessed is the fruit
of your womb."
- Lk 1:42



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



Mass Times

Saturday: 6.30 (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 9.00, 9.45 (Convent)
10.30, 12.00

Weekdays:
10.00 Monday – Friday

Parish Staff

Fr. Joe McDonald P.P. Tel 6 265 119

Fr John Atoh Parish Chaplain

Sr. Anne Marie Moynihan Parish Sister

Secretary: Moya Doyle Tel 6 265 695

Parish Office: 9.30 - 2.00 Mon to Thu

Email:

stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com

Sacristy: Tel 6 264 448

Masses, Baptisms arranged, Certs



Rest in Peace

Maureen McDonagh

Patrick Byrne

Patrick Power

*Blessings and Sympathy
to the Families*



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

Baptism

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month

1st Sunday of each month

Preparation meetings for Parents and
Godparents are held twice each month.

Details available in sacristy.

A month's notice is required.

Parish Centre

Tea/Coffee & Chat Mon - Fri after 10.00 Mass

Don't forget to visit our website

www.stmatthewsballyfermot.com

And our Facebook page,

www.facebook.com/st.matthews.ballyfermot/

Youth 2000 Summer Festival

Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
Thursday 7 – Sunday 16 July 2016
For young people aged 16-35, this is a great opportunity to find out what your Catholic faith is all about in a friendly, chilled out atmosphere. The festival is donation only. Free buses available from all around Ireland. For more info and to book online, See www.youth2000.ie or Phone 01 6753690

FAITH MOMENT

SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE?

Through the Sacraments of Service - **Holy Orders and Matrimony** - those already baptised and confirmed receive particular vocations in the service of God, the Church and the human family.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

FINDING YOUR HIDDEN TREASURE
BY BENIGUS O'ROURKE
DARTON LONGMAN AND TODD
LONDON 2010 pp 161

A beautiful little book in which an Augustinian friar with a lifetime experience leads us in the way of silent prayer. Lovely book well worth the read.

Church Collection Totals

Week Beginning	26/6
First Collection	725
Second Collection	470
Family Offering	1120

Cemetery Masses

Newlands Cross: Today @ 3.00
Esker: Sun 28/8 @ 3.00

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

14th to 21st August.

4* Hotel Solitude — **7 Nights Full Board**

Cost €799 per person sharing - fully inclusive

Deposit €200 per person **Non-Refundable**
(Single Room Supplement €245 per person)

Accompanied by Spiritual Director

Fr. Joe McDonald

Small number of places still available

Gospel Readings for the Week

Mon 11/07	Matt 19: 27-29	St Benedict, named Patron of Europe in 1964
Tue 12/07	Matt 11: 20-24	Because they refused to repent
Wed 13/07	Matt. 11: 25-27	St Henry, a just ruler, humble man of prayer and reformer of Church
Thu 14/07	Matt. 11: 28-30	St Camillus de Lellis. Patron of nurses, hospitals and the sick.
Fri 15/07	Matt 12: 1-8	St Bonaventure, great theologian and writer
Sat 16/07	Matt. 12: 14-21	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Sun 17/07	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	

Mass Intentions

Sat 09/07	6.30	James Fowler	Marie Fowler	Lily O'Reilly
		Bridget Mullen		
Sun 10/07	10.30	Joe McCarville	Joe Murphy	Bridget O'Brien
Sun 10/07	12.00	John Roche	James Dunne	Margaret Dunne
Fri 15/07	10.00	Bridget Higgins		

**There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:**

**A time to be born and a time to die,
A time to plant and a time to uproot,
A time to kill and a time to heal,
A time to tear down and a time to build,
A time to weep and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn and a time to dance,
A time to scatter stones
and a time to gather them,
A time to embrace
and a time to refrain from embracing,
A time to search and a time to give up,
A time to keep and a time to throw away,
A time to tear and a time to mend,
A time to be silent and a time to speak,
A time to love and a time to hate,
A time for war and a time for peace.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1—8



Rumblings from the Bunker

OUR INVISIBLE COMPANIONS

Sometimes people ask me is Priesthood lonely, and of course it can be. When I reflect on my life I think it is true to say that the absence of one person, the other, or as the writer Michael Harding somewhat playfully refers to his wife, as the Beloved, such an absence is a very real experience of the Cross. In my twenties the real cut of loneliness was quite physical, or more honestly, sexual, whereas now, without over spiritualising it, the ache is now more about companionship and the sharing of one's emotional life. I think the living of priesthood is made more healthy if one enjoys ministry, if one prays, and has a variety of both friends and interests. On the question of returning to the empty house it is helpful to state again the important distinction between loneliness and solitude: the former being a killer disease, and to be resolutely avoided: the latter being, at least potentially beautiful balm for the soul. What has come to me on a number of occasions recently is the question, are we actually ever alone?

I have become more and more aware as I get older of the notion of 'the communion of saints'. By this I do not just mean the dead. Nor am I only referring to the 'canonised saints'. Let me start at the beginning. Do you believe in angels? Do you believe in the Archangels? We have their names, Michael, Raphael and Gabriel. Those angels, or archangels, are involved in the big stuff, defending world peace, or announcing God's message. What about your very own guardian angel? Could it be that there is an angel for each of us? Is our guardian angel with us at all times? This angel may well constitute the first member of our silent company. However there are others. As a matter of fact they form quite a club of silent and prayerful figures that are always with us. In this sense we are never alone.

I would like to elaborate on this with myself as the guinea pig. From a spiritual point of view, as I walk in the world, just over my shoulders is the spiritual yet very real presence of both my Mum and Dad, and just beyond them their parents, my grandparents. Hovering around in a similar space are others who from the time I was a small boy modelled for me God's unconditional love. Just behind Granny, I see Lily, my Dad's only sister who was a good aunt. There's Maureen, Mum's sister, another aunt, eccentric, kind and very funny. The Old Canon. The first Christian Brother to teach me. There are others. Thomas Merton, Henri Nouen. The Saints I am named after, figure from time to time in this holy mist. They are just behind me. They are in the realm of what some call the aura, or in Catholic tradition what we define as a halo. For me there is John, the Beloved, Joseph, the Worker, the beautiful Martin de Porres and of course the one whose name I took as a Brother, Declan of Ardmore or Declan of the Decies. I am guessing that at any one time there might be as many as fifteen to twenty of these 'fellow pilgrim-souls' rooting for me. In solidarity with me, bolstering me up, giving me protection and encouragement. On a given day, Merton, Fr. Louis, the famous Trappist urges me to prayerful silence. Martin de Porres the Dominican lay Brother reminds me to keep humble, whilst I could learn much from the leadership of Declan. Have you worked out yet who might be in your entourage of spiritual companions? Who is your patron? As a housewife? A factory worker? A joiner? The patron saint of Parish Priests is Jeanne Marie Vianney. Do I know him? Might it not be time to make friends with him?

Guess what, there is actually more. At any one time, in a given week the Church suggests holy women or men that might have something to offer us by way of 'soul food'. For example today it's the feast of St. Elizabeth of Portugal. Some might say they never heard of her, others that she is an unknown or obscure. The truth is she is only as obscure as you let her be. In fact even though she was royalty, she suffered greatly at the hands of a brutish and abusive husband. What I find fascinating is the journey that so many of these people made. Admittedly not all as dramatic as Saul the great persecutor becoming Paul the great Apostle, but nevertheless each of them moving closer to the Lord as they journeyed the pilgrim path. There's quite a line up during the coming month including the aforementioned Declan, on July 24th. For all interested in the Camino, the Feast of James on July 25th is noteworthy. The day we remember the grandparents of Jesus, the parents of Mary, Joachim and Anne, has to be pretty special. The last day of July, 31st, is the day we give God thanks for the soldier-Saint, injured in the battle of Lepanto, who went on to found the largest religious order in the Church, the Society of Jesus, known as the Jesuits. Actually the first day of August is a very special day for our wonderful neighbours the priests of the Assumption and Cherry Orchard parishes, for on this day we remember their founder St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Redemptorists. If you meet any of them on August 1st be sure to wish them a happy feast day. So my friends it is natural at times to feel a little lonely or isolated. The reality is though that in truth we are never alone because we belong to what we refer to in the Creed, as 'the communion of saints'!!