

<p><b>First Reading</b> <i>Isaiah 55:6-9</i> God's ways are far beyond the ways of human beings.</p>	<p><b>Second Reading</b> <i>Philippians 1:20-24,27</i> Paul tells the Philippians to live for Christ.</p>
<p><b>Responsorial Psalm</b> <i>Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18</i> God is near to those who call upon him.</p>	<p><b>Gospel Reading</b> <i>Matthew 20:1-16</i> In the parable of the workers in the vineyard Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy.</p>

**Background on the Gospel Reading:**

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offence to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who laboured in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that the landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

*(Loyola Press)*



Patrickswell  
&  
Ballybrown  
Parish

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

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### TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

*World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees*

**PARISH PRIEST: Fr Mike Cussen Tel. 061 353711 Mobile 087 1279015**  
**Parish Office: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 11.30am to 3.30pm**  
**Tel: 061 353454 Email [pwbbparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pwbbparishoffice@gmail.com)**  
**Website [www.pwbbparish.com](http://www.pwbbparish.com)**

## Faith Group “Going Deeper”

Next weekend, Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>/Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, Lay Pastoral ministers Ann Mulcahy and Nessa Breen will speak in Ballybrown and Patrickswell Churches at all Masses about a small Faith Group which is starting in Patrickswell Church hall on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm from October 10<sup>th</sup> to November 28<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Evangelium Apologetics Conference for Young Adults:***

Saturday 7th October, 11am - 4.30pm. Venue: Imperial Hotel Cork.

The theme of the conference is *Towards Lifelong Formation*.

Speakers: Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan *Defending the Faith in the Public Square*;  
Fr Eamon Roche *Until Christ be Formed in You*; Fr Patrick Cahill *Studying Discipleship at the School of Mary*. Cost €15 including refreshments.

More info and to book in advance at Eventbrite click [here](#).

### Retirement

Pauline Twomey our parish secretary has retired. She has been a wonderful support to us all during her ten years of dedicated service to our parish and parishioners and to our clergy. Pauline has been at the helm since the parish office first opened its doors back in 2013, giving help and assistance to all who made contact. She has provided invaluable backup and support to many groups and individuals both within and outside the parish. She has been on call to provide information, referrals and help. We will miss her greatly and would like to wish Pauline and John all the very best.

### Welcome

We also give a big welcome to Maria Bucke who has been appointed as our new Parish Secretary. Maria is well known for many years as Patrickswell sacristan and will now be serving the parish in the extra capacity of parish secretary. We wish Maria every success in her new role and she may rest assured that the parish community will support her in every way we can.

### PARISH OFFICE – CHANGE OF OPENING TIMES

**Our Parish Office opening times have changed. The new opening times are Tuesday/Thursday/Friday from 11.30am to 3.30pm.**

***Coming Soon...Come and enjoy an evening of Music & Song with the musical Trio, ‘THE PRIESTS’ from the Diocese of Down & Connor in N. Ireland, in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Thurles on Friday, Septmber 29th. TICKETS AVAILABLE from Thurles Parish Office Tel. 0504 22229. Ticket donation €35.***

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Blessings and best wishes to Marian Hartigan and Garret Drummond who were married in Ballybrown Church last weekend

### **PARISH WEEKLY MASSES 25<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**PATRICKSWELL:** Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday & Friday – Mass at 9.30am.

**Lay Led Liturgy on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept at 9.30am**

(unless a funeral is scheduled). Saturday 6.30pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 11.30am

**BALLYBROWN:** Monday/Tuesday/Thursday & Friday – Mass at 10.30am.

**Lay Led Liturgy on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10.30am**

(unless a funeral is scheduled). Saturday 8.00pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday at 10.00am.

**Churches are open for quiet prayer from 11.00am to 5.30pm daily.**

**Baptisms** may be booked monthly in advance with the Parish Office for Ballybrown or for Patrickswell Church you may book with the sacristan Maria.

**Patrickswell Baptisms:** Saturdays at 2.00pm and Sundays at 12.30pm

**Ballybrown Baptisms:** Saturdays at 3.00pm and Sundays at 12.30pm.

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**



We remember in prayer the following whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

#### **Ballybrown:**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept:** Jimmy Roberts (10.30am)

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept:** Jack & Margaret Carroll; Billy & Mary Earls and grandsons Thomas & Alan Boyce.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Lorraine Power (Month’s Mind); Cathal Hensman (Month’s Mind)

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Josie Murphy

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Jimmy Morrissey

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October:** Elizabeth Halpin

#### **Patrickswell:**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept:** Mary Fitzgerald; Dan & Teresa Higgins

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Larry & Nora Maguire and their son Tony

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Jason Griffin; John Gavin; Anthony Murray;

Bridie McNamara & her grandson Gerry; Phylly O’Brien

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct:** Kevin Lynch (1<sup>st</sup> anniv);

Anne Shinnors; John Kennelly;

Ita & Eileen McNally

***The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.***

**Weekly Offertory Collection Last Weekend: €1,120.00**

*“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”*

*— Mother Teresa -*