

First Reading	<i>Isaiah 25:6-10</i> The Lord will provide richly for His people.
Resp. Psalm	<i>Psalms 22(23):1-6</i> The Lord is our Shepherd.
Second Reading	<i>Philippians 4:12-14,19-20</i> Paul tells the Philippians that God provides whatever he needs.
Gospel Reading	<i>Matthew 22:1-14</i> Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a wedding feast.

Background on the Gospel Reading:

In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah and in today's psalm, the Lord's goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God's salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks.

The parable Jesus tells is straightforward. The king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king's invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again to the listeners' great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city.

With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation. Yet he asks us to repent for our sins.

Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.

(Loyola Press)



PARISH NEWSLETTER

15 OCTOBER 2023

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

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 pwbpparishoffice@gmail.com

Website www.pwbpparish.com

Feast Days

October 15th: Saint Teresa of Avila

October 16th: Saint Margaret Mary of the Sacred Heart

October 18th: Saint Luke the Evangelist

Prayer for the Global Synod – October 2023

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. *Amen.*

**October – Mission Month – Next Sunday 22nd October is
World Mission Sunday**

World Mission Sunday is the Holy Father's annual appeal for spiritual and financial support so that the life-giving work of overseas mission and missionaries can continue. It always falls on the second last Sunday in October, meaning this year it will be celebrated over the weekend of Sunday 22nd.

World Mission Sunday collections take place in every single parish where the Church is present. This includes not only Ireland and Europe, but also in poorer parishes in developing countries. It is a moment of universal solidarity when each member of the Church family, regardless of location or background, play their part in supporting each other. This is what makes it such a special celebration.

All offerings made on behalf of World Mission Sunday become part of the Holy Father's Universal Solidarity Fund. This Fund supports missionary activities in over 1,100 young dioceses, mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

As young dioceses grow, so too do their needs. On top of this, they are often found in remote areas devastated by conflict or natural disasters. This Fund provides aid so that missionaries can continue to go to these places to share the love of God. **We welcome your support to help the Missionaries.**

Theology on Tap: Join the Limerick Vocations office for a night out at **Fennessy's Pub** on **Tuesday 17th October**. The evening begins at **7:30pm**, and **Father Éamonn Fitzgibbon** will present *Why is the 'Common Priesthood' not so common?* beginning at 8:00pm. Finger food provided. For further information please contact vocations@limerickdiocese.org

"Do this in Memory Programme 2023/2024"

We look forward to welcoming the Second Class children from Ballybrown and Patrickswell National Schools, along with their families, to our Masses next weekend Sat 21st/Sun 22nd Oct as they prepare for their First Holy Communion.

Youth2000 Retreats: Faith, Fun and Fellowship for those aged 16–35

Excellent Speakers, Inspiring Talks and Workshops, Fantastic music, Group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, Reconciliation, prayer, Drama, Games and plenty of time to chill out, meet new people and find out what it means to be young and Catholic today! Some upcoming events listed below:-

20-22 October: Munster Regional Retreat, Middleton, Co. Cork

8-10 December: National Catholic Youth Retreat, Newbridge College, Co. Kildare. Donation only. For more details and information on how to book a retreat please email office@youth2000.ie or tel. 01 6753690. Web: <https://youth2000.ie/>

Ballybrown Church Choir begin Christmas rehearsals on Tuesday 7th November at 8.00pm (please note time change). New members most welcome.

Church Gate Collection – Patrickswell Church
This Sunday 15th October at 11.30am
In aid of Saint Ita's Hospital, Newcastle West.

Milford Hospice Coffee Morning:

A very big 'Thank You' to all who helped make a huge success of the recent Sunday Coffee Morning in the Ballybrown Community Resource Centre in aid of Milford Hospice. A special word of appreciation to all who brought baking and other goodies. The sum of €2,270 was raised which will be presented to Milford Hospice.

Patrickswell National School Enrolment:

Enrolment to Junior Infants 2024/2025 - Enrolment process for Junior Infants 2024/2025 is now open. **Closing date for applications is Friday 3rd November, 2023 at 5.00pm.** Please note: Pupils wishing to enrol into other classes should email the school office directly. Email: info@patrickswellns.com

Catholic Youth Ministry Internship Scheme:

The Diocese of Lancaster in England invites young people aged around 18-25 to join their Youth Ministry Internship scheme, based at Castlerigg Manor in the English Lake District. The scheme lasts for either one or two years and offers comprehensive training and experience as well as recognised qualifications. Participants receive free accommodation and food as well as £75 (€85) pocket money each week. If you think you may be interested, please contact the Director of Youth Services Jack Regan at jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk for an information pack. <https://castleriggmanor.com/>

PARISH WEEKLY MASSES: 16th October – 22nd October

PATRICKSWELL: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday & Friday: 9.30am (unless a funeral is scheduled). Saturday (Vigil Mass) 6.30pm, Sunday 11.30am.
Adoration: Saturday from 8.00am to 11.30am
BALLYBROWN: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday & Friday: 10.30am (unless a funeral is scheduled). Saturday (Vigil Mass) 8.00pm, Sunday 10.00am.
Churches are open for quiet prayer from 11.00am to 5.30pm daily.

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Ballybrown:</u>	<u>Patrickswell:</u>
Sat 14th Oct: John Madden (1 st anniv.)	Sat 14th Oct: Lily Woulfe (1 st anniv.);
Fri 20th Oct: John, Bridget, Denis & Willie Collins.	John O'Donnell.
Sat 21st Oct: Francis "Juicy" O'Reilly (1 st anniv.); Patrick, Niamh & Chloe Hartigan.	Sun 15th Oct: Denny & Maisie Gavin
Sun 22nd Oct: May Doolan	Wed 18th Oct: Maria Madigan

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

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.

Total Offertory Collection last three weekends: €3,021.60
September Diocesan Needs Collection: €581.60
Thank You for your support and generosity.