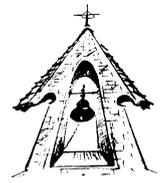


**Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland**



NEWSLETTER

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Date: 23rd August 2015

Volume XIV Number 40

PARISH INFORMATION

PRIESTS

Fr. Liam Power PP 873073

Fr. John Treacy, CC 843207

Fr. R. Liddane, A.P. 874284

Parish Office & Sacristy: 878977

Newsletter Team:

jbmnews@gmail.com

**A priest is available to help you
in St. Joseph & Benildus Church**

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

from 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm.

MASSES THIS WEEK

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

Mon 10.30 am

Tues 10.30am

Wed 10.30 am

Thursday 10.30am

Friday 10.30am

Sat 10.30 a.m & 6.30pm

Sunday 10.00 am & 12noon

St. Mary's Ballygunner

Sat 7.00pm

Sunday: 11.00 a.m.

If you wish to prepare next

Sunday's Readings:-

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8.

Ps 14:2-5.

Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27.

Mk 7:1-8, 21-23.

**Gospel Reflection for the Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time
Believe or Leave**

Like a barrister, St. John sets Jesus' case before us. He sets it out in measured bite sizes so that we can digest one fact before moving onto the next. We see Jesus healing people and curing the sick. We see him present us with a sign of his divinity in the feeding of the five thousand. We see Jesus teaching people about the more enduring bread sent to nourish us spiritually, and finally we learn that Jesus himself is that living bread come down from heaven to give us everlasting life.

The case is complete, but the audience have a sticking point. There were those amongst Jesus' disciples who could not accept that Jesus had come down from heaven, and they turned their backs and left. What was Jesus to do? Should he call them back and make the truth easier for them to understand? Should he work another miracle to convince them that little bit more? No! Jesus turns to those who are left and gives them a choice, they have heard what he has said about eating and drinking his flesh and blood, and now they have a choice. So, are they going to remain his followers or are they too going to turn their backs? The same choice is levelled at us today. We can believe or we can leave.

Difficult choices always have something in common; there is always some kind of sticking point. To make a difficult choice we often need a missing piece of information, or a new perspective. Peter gives us that perspective. "Master," he says, "to whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life." To Peter, the choice was easy. To Peter there was really no choice to be made. Who else was there to follow but Jesus?

We make the same choice as Peter every week in Mass when we celebrate the Eucharist. In celebrating the Eucharist we make a choice to follow where Jesus may lead.

MASSES

St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church

6.30 p.m.

10.00 a.m.

12.00 Noon

St. Mary's Church

7.00 p.m.

11.00 a.m.

22nd / 23rd August

Bridie & Pierce Caulfield

Helena Cahill

Michael O'Hanlon

Jim Tobin

Philip Lahert

29th/30th August 2015

John Hearne

Joe Reville

Jim Phelan

John Sheridan

Claire & Noel O'Donohue

Last Sunday's Collection

€2,264

Thank you for your generous offering

Recent Baptisms

A warm welcome to *Thom Butler* and *Christian Power* who were baptised recently. Please keep them, and their parents and godparents, in your prayers.

Voci Ladies Choir

Voci Ladies are having an open night for new members next Thursday 27th August at 8pm in St. Patrick's Church, Patrick Street. We welcome new members and look forward to seeing you there. Or you can contact us by email on info@vociwaterford.com

Rotas

The rotas for Eucharistic Ministers in St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church for the month of September are available in the sacristy.

Woodstown Fair

The Annual Woodstown Fair is being held on Sunday August 30th from 2-6pm. There will be pony rides, a chance to enter your dog in our dog show (entries include the "Dog you'd most like to take home"!), see Birds of Prey, enter the Best Dressed Teddy Bear competition (teddy should be dressed in Sunday Best !), plenty of home baking and cakes when you need refreshment, browse the stands, and more!

Admission 5euro. Free admission for children.

An Snámh Fada

Congratulations to Fr. Liam and to Christine Murphy who completed An Snámh Fada sponsored swim from the Guillamene to the Pier in Tramore. This was to raise money for the church renovation fund. Thank you to all who contributed.

Donations can be made in the parish office. Envelopes available at the back of the church.

Change in Mass time

Please note that the 7.30a.m Mass in St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church is discontinued until September.

"Link" corridor.

We wish to remind you that the upstairs "link corridor" between the Parish Centre and the rear hentrance to St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church remains closed. It has become structurally unsafe, and for safety reasons has been closed. The corridor needs to be removed and replaced. Work begins in the next few weeks. ***Please note that the church can only be accessed through the front door. You may still access the Parish Office through the Parish Hall.*** Thank you for your co-operation. Estimated cost 50-60,000euro.

Conference on local responses to Laudato Si,

**Pope Francis' encyclical on Caring For Our Common Home.
Saturday 3rd October 2015, Waterford Institute of Technology.**

Registration 9.00am

Speakers on the day will include:

- Dr. Seán McDonagh, who was involved in the drafting of the encyclical.
- Dr. Michael Lehane, Environmental Protection Agency.
- Staff members of W.I.T will be invited to discuss areas of research in environmental protection.
- Representatives from the National Biodiversity Data Centre will speak on challenges of biodiversity locally and nationally.
- Representatives from Waterford City and County Council will deliver a paper on council policies on pollution control, reduction in carbon emissions and water protection.
- Local environmental groups will be invited to contribute to the conference by erecting display stands to inform the public of their mission.
- ***The primary aim is to raise awareness of the content of the Encyclical and to explore how we are responding to the challenge of environmental degradation and the danger posed by climate change.***

Please remember in your prayers those who died recently

Gemma Phelan, Williamstown

and those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur

Mossie & Josie Phelan, John Murray,

Michael & Mary Walsh