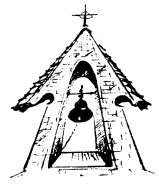




Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland



NEWSLETTER

**Date: 27th Dec 2015
& 3rd Jan 2016**

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 Ss. Joseph & Benildus Church**

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
from 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm.**

**MASSES THIS
WEEK**

Please see details next
page

**If you wish to prepare
next Sunday's Readings:**

**Second Sunday of
Christmas**

Ecc 24:1-2, 8-12.

Ps 147:12-15, 19-20.

Eph 1:3-6, 15-18.

Jn 1:1-18.

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Gospel Reflection for the Holy Family

Growing Pains

When we hear stories about the Holy Family we are struck by the normality of Jesus' upbringing. Mary and Joseph behave like any parents of today. Secondly we are struck by the love and tenderness that surrounds Jesus in his early years. The fact that he was born in a stable and grew up with no great wealth doesn't seem to matter. What matters is that Jesus grew up knowing that Mary and Joseph loved and cared for him.

Jesus would have been brought up in a Jewish tradition, and he would not have been expected to challenge this tradition. What is interesting for us to learn is, that by the tender age of twelve Jesus was developing a sense of who he really was. When Jesus causes his parents much distress by becoming separated from them to stay in the temple listening to the teachers, he tells Mary and Joseph, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" Mary and Joseph don't quite understand what he means, but we are told, "Mary stored all these things in her heart." She had faith in her son, and she allowed him to become the individual she always knew he was.

Sounds easy doesn't it, yet thousands of parents today must be shaking their heads. It's not easy to let go and allow your child to be his or her own person, especially if you see them making all sorts of mistakes. Today's gospel is a lesson in parenting. Surround your children with love and caring. Pass down all the good Christian traditions you yourself have learned, then have faith and allow your child to be the person they need to be.

Please remember in your prayers those who died recently

Emily Doolan

Those who died about a month ago

Bernadette Doyle

And those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur

Thomas Broderick,

Paddy Troy, Jim McNamara & relatives,

Brian Fitzgerald

MASSES

St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church

6.30 p.m.

10.00 a.m.

12.00 Noon

St. Mary's Church

11.00a.m

7.00 p.m.

26th/27th Dec 2015

Patricia Mahon

Cathleen King

Tom Foskin

Kay Kurrid

Mary Cummins

2nd/3rd Jan 2016

Michael Lane

Michael, Mary & Catherine Hearne

Brendan Maddock

Della Upton

John & Brede Mallowney

Last Sunday's Collection

€3,576

*Thank you for your generous
offering*

New Year Message from Pope Francis

"I would like to share my cordial good wishes for prosperity, peace and the fulfilment of the hopes of every man and every woman, every family, people and nation throughout the world, including all Heads of State and Government and all religious leaders for 2016. We continue to trust that 2016 will see us all firmly and confidently engaged, on different levels, in the pursuit of justice and peace. Peace is both God's gift and a human achievement. As a gift of God, it is entrusted to all men and women, who are called to attain it."

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2015 CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS

Sunday 27th December Mass 6.30pm Vigil, 10am & 12noon

Monday 28th – Friday 1st Jan Mass 10.30am

Feast of the Epiphany

Wednesday 6th January, Masses 6.30pm Vigil (Tuesday)
10am & 12noon

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BALLYGUNNER

Wednesday 6th January Masses 7pm Vigil (Tuesday)
11am

**We wish all our parishioners a Happy and Blessed
Christmas**

*Nollaig shona do gach duine sa pharóiste
agus athbhliain faoi mhaise*

Urgent intervention is required to prevent more families becoming homeless this winter. (Statement for The Irish Bishops')

A question of values

As we work for economic recovery, protecting the common good and promoting social cohesion need to be prioritised in policy decisions. Increasing numbers of individuals and families registering as homeless this year points to serious failures in social policy and inadequate social protection. In Dublin more families have presented as homeless in recent months than at the height of the economic crisis, or indeed at any time in modern Irish history. The problem is not limited to Dublin, however, and there are families in trouble across the island of Ireland. For those living in a property in mortgage arrears, the family home has become a source of constant worry and insecurity. We need a strategy for dealing with mortgage arrears which recognises that a family home is much more than a property or asset. It is vital that the policies of banks and financial institutions in relation to homeowners and tenants not only conform to the highest standards of ethical practice, but support the common good by working with families to enable them to stay in their homes. Urgent intervention is required to prevent more families becoming homeless this winter.

Pushing people to the margins of our society

Some groups of people experience particular obstacles in accessing housing, which can lead to feelings of isolation, alienation and a perception of rejection by society. The tragic loss of life experienced in the Travelling community in October this year highlighted the particular vulnerability of many Traveller families resulting from the failure to honour commitments to address the cultural needs of that community in relation to housing. The outpouring of concern in the wake of this tragedy needs to be followed by urgent action to ensure the safety of families.

Homelessness and housing insecurity have a major impact on wellbeing, affecting health, relationships, access to education and employment and a person's ability to participate in society and contribute to the community. Serious long-term consequences can arise from the impact of this insecurity on children. Housing issues can be both a major cause and a consequence of family breakdown. Unsuitable emergency provision – such as the housing of families in a hotel room – leads to serious child welfare and safeguarding concerns.

Newsletter Notes: This Newsletter welcomes any notices presented for non-profit making events, subject to certain conditions. Items for inclusion may be handed into the sacristy at St Joseph & St Benildus Church. **The deadline, however, is every Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.** We are particularly grateful to **Intercom** for resources used in this publication. All details included in this issue were correct at time of going to print.