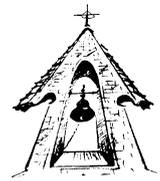


Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's  
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland



**NEWSLETTER**

**Date: 10th Jan 2016**  
Volume XIV Number 7

**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](mailto: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**

**St. Joseph & St. Benildus**

Mon 7.30 am & 10.30 am  
Tues 7.30 am & 10.30 am  
Wed 7.30 am & 10.30 am  
Thurs 7.30 am & 10.30 am  
Fri 7.30 am & 10.30 am  
Sat 10.30am & 6.30pm  
Sunday 10.00 am & 12pm

**St. Mary's Ballygunner**

Saturday: 7pm  
Sunday: 11am

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

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary  
Time**

**-Is 62:1-5.**

**Ps 95:1-3, 7-10.**

**1 Cor 12:4-11.**

**Jn 2: 1-11.**

**Gospel Reflection for the Baptism of the Lord  
New Beginnings**

What does Jesus' baptism say to us? What do we learn from Jesus' baptism? January is a time for new beginnings and fresh resolution. John the Baptist was an expert on this. John's ministry was all about repentance and reform ... that's what his baptism was all about. But anyone who has ever seriously tried to change themselves will know how difficult change really is. We all fondly imagine that change is just beyond our reach, and all we have to do is reach that little bit further.

Yet every January we find ourselves in much the same situation as the previous year. Those who were baptised by John were baptised as a sign of their intent to change from their old ways, but knowing how difficult change can be, we can't help wondering how successful they must have been. Perhaps John appreciated this too when he said "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

When we look for change in our lives, perhaps we are looking in all the wrong places. Perhaps all we need to do is to ask the Holy Spirit for help. We are told that the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus at the outset of his ministry, is the same Holy Spirit that is given to us in our baptism.

Validating our baptism anew every day, knowing that we are filled with the Holy Spirit ..... perhaps change isn't just beyond our reach after all.

*Please remember in your prayers those who died recently*

**Josephine Bolger, Upper Grange**

**Amy Cooke, Dunmore Road,**

**Niall Larkin, Grantstown Village**

**Dr.Noel O'Shea, Viewmount Park**

**Michael O'Donnell,**

**Knockboy**

*Those who died about a month ago*

**Kitty Sullivan,**

*And those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur*

**Jim McNamara, Eamonn Long, Noel Long,**

**Paddy Troy, Molly & Michael Fitzgerald**

**Richard Purcell,**

**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.

**9th/10th Jan 2016**

Maureen Robinson

Michael Wallis

Matthew & Lily Barry

Tom Mulcahy

Cassie Gough

**16th/17th Jan 2016**

Michael Widger

Margaret Hogan

Gerry Harrington

Mary Sutton

John Gear

## Last Sunday's Collection

**€2,421**

*Thank you for your generous offering*

### Wanted.... Unwanted Christmas Presents!

*Save lives. Declutter yours.*

If you opened your Christmas presents this year and thought, "Great! Just what I always wanted!" you're probably one of the lucky minority. For the rest of us the house can easily become cluttered with things that we don't really want and certainly don't need. But before you stuff those unwanted gifts at the bottom of your wardrobe, give the charity shops a thought.

**Your local charity shop** can convert your gifts into cash to fund their work – helping deliver urgent aid in emergencies, better education, and health care. Perhaps just after Christmas is a bad time for us to make cash donations because most of us are all spent up, but it's the perfect time to set our world to rights with a serious clear-out!

### Parents' Baptism Meeting

We wish all parents a very Happy New Year and every blessing for 2016. Our next meeting is Wednesday January 13th, from 7.30-8.30pm, in the Parish Centre, ( upstairs ). Time is inclusive of tea/coffee. etc.

### Liturgy Group Meeting

There will be a meeting of the parish Liturgy Group on Monday 11th January at 8pm in the Parish Centre, St Joseph & Benildus Church

### St.Mary's Parish Committee

The next meeting of the Ballygunner Committee has been rescheduled to Wednesday 3rd February at 7.45pm in the Sacristy.

## Message from Fr.Liam

As we begin the New Year, the Priests of the Parish, Fr.John, Fr.Ray and myself wish to thank most sincerely all those who serve our Parish Community and help to build it up through their various ministries, enabling it to be as faith-filled, welcoming, inclusive and supportive as possible.

I begin with members of the Parish staff,

**Anne and Betty** in the Parish Office,

**Christy and Tess**, church maintenance,

and a very special thanks to **Tom O'Brien** who acts as **Parish**

**Manager** in a totally voluntary capacity, and without whose expertise the Parish would struggle to stay out of NAMA, given the extent of the current Parish Debt. Tom also chairs the **Parish Finance Council**.

We thank our **Sacristans, Betty Flynn, Martha Flood, Vincent Walsh** and **Gerry Grant**, ( & **David Butler** who helped at Christmas ).

In relation to ministry, we must begin with our **Parish Pastoral Council**, under the Chair of **Chris O'Sullivan**.

Next we thank all in involved in **Liturgical Ministry**:

The **Parish Liturgy Group**, Chaired by **Mary Lawrence**.

The **Parish Choirs**, with Directors **Br.Ben, Sr.Úna, Dr.Joe O'Beirne** and **Anne Coady**.

- **Eucharistic Ministers,**
- **Ministers of the Word,**
- **Basket Collectors,**
- **Welcoming Committee,**
- **Altar Society,**
- **Flower Arrangers,**
- **Altar Servers**
- **Blessed Sacrament Adoration Group,**
- **Prayer Group.**

We are grateful to the **Adult Faith Formation Group** under the Chair of **Denise Hughes**, and the **Baptism Preparation Team**.

Thanks to the **Parish Maintenance and Support Ministries**:

- **Counters,**
- **St.Mary's Church Committee,**
- **Envelope Distributors.**

We also appreciate the tremendous commitment shown by the

**Outreach Ministries:**

**St.Vincent de Paul Society,**

**Hospitality Group,**

**Visitation Group.**

Last, but not least, we thank our **Communications Ministry**, responsible for our **Newsletter and Website**, which are produced and updated each week by **Angeline**, with the support of **Deirdre** from St.John's.