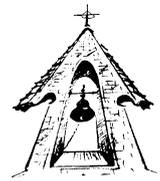




**Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland**



NEWSLETTER

World Day of Migrants & Refugees

Date: 17th Jan 2016

Volume XIV Number 8

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

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

*Gospel Reflection for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
If You Could Choose A Miracle?*

If you were in Jesus' shoes and you were about to grab the world's attention with your first miracle, what might that first miracle be? Might you reverse global warming or end poverty? Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at the Wedding of Cana. To many it seems a frivolous kind of miracle something akin to a party trick, but John relates the miracle with good reason.

John's gospel is quite different in character from the other three. It's written in a very symbolic style, and it doesn't follow the same order, or record the same stories as the others. St. John is concerned in showing us signs, which gradually reveal the glory of God through Jesus. The author seems to be mainly interested in the significance of the deeds of Jesus. So what is the significance of this miracle? John writes, "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." Suddenly confronted with enough wine to swim in, the disciples had no choice but to begin to believe in who Jesus really was. Neither would the symbolism have been lost on the people of the time. It was the people's belief that at the time of salvation God would provide a table for feasting for his servants and a cup that would never run dry. In short, the substance of the sign was of no consequence at all; it was the message the sign conveyed that was all-important.

The symbolism we read in this first miracle speaks of an old religion bogged down with oppressive rules and laws liberated by a new faith governed by love, compassion, joy, generosity, and abundance. Being a Christian is a very serious business, and as Christians we are asked to address life and death issues, but that doesn't mean we should trudge around with long pious faces. Jesus frequently likens the Kingdom of God to a feast, so smile.... the changing of water to wine is a sign of better things to come.

Please remember in your prayers those who died recently

Br. Raphael Weston, De La Salle

Kevin Higgins, Ballygunner Castle, Ballygunner

Those who died about a month ago

Malachy Heffernan

And those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur

Jerry & Bridget O'Shea, Eva Doyle,

Margaret (Gretta) Walsh, Thomas (Tom) Coffey,

Joan Shine, Adrian Neijenhuisen

If you wish to prepare

next Sunday's Readings:

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10.

Ps 18:8-10, 15.

1 Cor 12:12-30.

Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21.

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.

16th/17th Jan 2016

Michael Widger

Margaret Hogan

Gerry Harrington

Mary Sutton

John Gear

23rd/24th Jan 2016

Michael Higgins (M.M)

John Kennedy

Niall Byrne

Esther O'Keeffe

Last Sunday's Collection

€2,735

Thank you for your generous offering

Recent Baptisms

We welcome *Erin Constable* and *Emma Erett* who were baptised recently. Please keep them, their parents and Godparents in your prayers.

Peace Sunday

17th January 2016

Overcome indifference and win peace



“...We have been heartened by the outpouring of empathy and action that surrounds the current migrant crisis, but unless we combine this with work to stop the causes of war, the global arms trade and our part within it; the billions spent annually on war and war preparations – we will not win peace.” (Most Rev *Malcolm McMahon OP*)

World Day of Migrants & Refugees . Extract from a message from Bishop John Buckley

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus said “I was a stranger & you took me in “. The Bible repeatedly tells us to welcome the stranger. We Irish have much to learn from this. The Lord could tell us to remember we were treated harshly abroad. St.Patrick himself was a refugee, a slave & was trafficked for profit. Pope Francis says that the city, the town, the village that doesn't welcome strangers has forgotten to care for itself. This Sunday is an occasion to pray for all who are experiencing great suffering, remembering especially the persecuted Christians in the Middle East and Africa.

Christian Unity Week

18th -25th January

The theme of the Week of Prayer 2016 has been chosen by a group of people belonging to different churches in Latvia. God has chosen us not as a privilege, but to fulfil some purpose. Being a holy and priestly people means being at the service of the world. Christians live their baptismal calling and bear witness to God's mighty acts in a variety of ways. Awareness of our common identity in Christ calls us to work towards answering the questions that still divide us as Christians. We are called, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, to share our experiences and so discover, that in our common pilgrimage, Jesus Christ is among us. Through common social and charitable projects we reach out to the poor, the needy, the addicted and the marginalized.

There will be an Ecumenical Service for Christian Unity Week in Waterford Cathedral , Barronstrand Street, on Sunday 24th Jan at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Rev.Maria Janssen

Massed Choirs Concert

200 singers comprising the boys of De La Salle College Senior Choir and the girls of Coláiste Laurel Hill, Limerick, will join forces in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Barronstrand Street, Waterford on **Saturday January 23rd at 7.30pm** to give a very special performance of *Faure's Requiem*. Admission is free and all are welcome. Last January these two award-winning choirs got together in Limerick and gave a stunning performance of Faure's beautiful music. Such was the quality of the singing it received sustained applause and a standing ovation. Now Waterford audiences can hear the delightful singing of these young voices in a special performance not to be missed.

As well as Faure's Requiem the combined choirs will also sing *Adiemus* by Karl Jenkins, *And So It Goes* by Billy Joel, *Africa* by David Paich and a new choral setting of the *Laudate Dominum* specially composed for this concert by Br Ben Hanlon. Both choirs will be singing some of their own music and the Laurel Hill Orchestra will also be performing. The concert takes place at 7.30 and seating will be on a first come first served basis.

Parish Catechist

Welcome to our new Parish Catechist, *Olive Ruane*, who has been appointed to support the Parish-based preparation programmes for First Communion and Confirmation. Her work entails the preparation of children from Newtown Junior School who wish to receive First Communion. She will also co-ordinate and organize the Parents' Committees from different schools for the **Do This In Memory and Confirming Our Children** programmes.

She will co-ordinate the **Drugs Awareness** programme which involves Transition Year students who volunteer to be trained in Drugs Awareness, and who will present that programme to 6th class pupils.

We are aiming to pilot a programme **You Shall Be My Witnesses**, which involves adults from the Parish sharing their faith in small groups with children preparing for Confirmation.

Olive will also assist with the **John Paul 11 Awards**, involving Transition Year students, which we hope to begin shortly.