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

NEWSLETTER
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Date: 24h July 2016
Volume XIV Number 35

PARISH INFORMATION
PRIESTS

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MASSES THIS WEEK
St. Joseph & St. Benildus

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

St. Mary's Ballygunner

Saturday:	7.00pm
Sunday:	11am

If you wish to prepare next Sunday's Readings:
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Eccl 1:2, 2:21-23
Ps 89:3-6, 12-14.17
Col 3:1-5,9-11
Lk 12:13-21

Gospel Reflection for the Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time.
Does Prayer Work?

Have you ever prayed really really hard for something and not had that prayer granted? Have you ever looked back in life at a prayer you once made and thought thank goodness God didn't grant it? This week's gospel reading is a lesson in prayer, but more importantly, it's a lesson in having faith that God is a parent who will not let us down.

Let's face it, we pray hardest to God when we want something. We pray hardest when something seems beyond our human means and we need some kind of miracle, this often leads us to make inappropriate prayers. How many of us pray that the love of our life will notice us in the launderette? How many of us pray to win the lottery and make secret deals with God that we will donate half the winning to charity in return? How many of us pray to God for our football team to score a winning goal in the closing minutes of a match? Worse… we lose faith when such prayers aren't answered! We find it difficult to believe that unanswered prayers might mean that God knows better, or has a different purpose for us.

Perhaps Jesus' disciples shared some of our frustration when they say, "Lord teach us to pray." In response Jesus gives us a model by which to pray. It's important to recognise it as a model and not a prayer as such. Reciting a prayer is not the same as praying. The model pray Jesus gives us, 'The Lord's prayer', invites us to pray to God as our Father, acknowledging his holiness and praying with the shared commitment to have his will done on earth. We are invited to pray for our 'daily bread', in other words, for the things we genuinely need. Pray for forgiveness, and promise to forgive others. Pray with persistence. Prayer is about building a relationship with God, speaking to him often throughout the day. Lastly, and most importantly we should approach God with the faith we approach a loving parent. "What father," reasons Jesus, "would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish?" or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?" Even parents with very average parenting skills know how to give children what they need. "How much more," says Jesus, "will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Please remember in your prayers those Months Mind occuer
Molly Gough
whose anniversaries and birthdays occur
Betty Molloy

MASSES	23rd/24th July 2016	30th/31st July
St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church		
6 .30 pm (Sat)	*Noreen Murphy*	*Grace Falconer & Relatives*
10 am (Sun)	*Eileen Dowling*	*Mary McGeary*
12.00 Noon (Sun)	*John Walsh*	
St Mary's Church		
7.00pm (Sat)		*Rita & Michael Quinlan*
11.00am (Sun)	*Mary & Nicholas Lyons*	*Michael Troy*
	Ann Marshall (2nd)	*Molly Gough (MM)*

Please Note: 7.30am Mass

The 7.30am morning mass will be discontinued from Monday 25th July 2016 until Monday 29th August 2016

Last Sunday's Collection

€2223

Thank you for your generous offering

Daughters of the Church?

Britain's new Prime Minister, Theresa May is the daughter of an Anglican priest, who, according to herself, never imposed his Christian faith on his daughter, has nonetheless inherited it. In an interview in Radio 4's Desert Island Discs in 2014, she stated that the Christian faith is part of who I am and therefore how I approach things...it helps to frame my thinking and my approach." Her choice of music on the show included two hymns, "When I survey the Wondrous Cross" and "Pange Lingua". She also seems to be quite at home with Catholicism having worked with Cardinal Vincent Nichols on human trafficking and modern slavery and met Pope Francis in the Vatican in 2014.

The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel is the daughter of a Lutheran pastor and theologian. Merkel shares her father's faith, claiming that: "I am a member of the evangelical church. I believe in God and religion is also my constant companion, and has been for the whole of my life". Her beliefs provide her "with a framework for my life that I consider very important".

Excerpt from an article in *The Tablet,* 16th July 2016

The Joy of Love

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of Love* Pope Francis talks about the spirituality of marriage and family: Pope Francis writes, "The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures." So it makes sense that he would encourage young married couples to develop a healthy sense of closeness and stability through shared daily rituals such as:

- a morning kiss;
- an evening blessing;
- waiting at the door to welcome each other home;
- taking trips together; and
- sharing household chores.

At the same time, he acknowledges the need to balance such routine with special celebrations and events in order to renew "our zest for life." (226)

Other quotes from *"The Joy of Love'* :

"Families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity." (7)

"The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church." (31)

 "The family is the image of God, who is a communion of persons."(71)

"In the family, 'three words need to be used. I want to repeat this! Three words: "Please", "Thank you", "Sorry". Three essential words!'" (133)

Social Justice Ireland (Fr. Sean Healy) welcomes the publication of the Government's Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness.

However, we have concerns about the scale of the plan and the length of time it implies for eliminating Ireland's housing crisis.

●We welcome the plan, entitled Rebuilding Ireland:It is the largest and most comprehensive attempt to address Ireland's housing needs that any Government has published for several decades.

●As the organisation that originally urged Government to pursue the flexibility clause on structural reform contained within the fiscal rules flowing from the Stability and Growth Pact, we are very glad that Government has taken up this proposal. We note that the Plan's estimate of €1bn in additional resources that would flow from this approach concurs with our own estimate.

We are concerned about the Plan because:

●Despite the plan's scale it falls far short of planning to produce the number of houses required if Ireland is to eliminate its housing need. Currently there are 90,000 households on waiting lists for social housing. If fully implemented the plan will meet a little over half of that requirement while making no provision for the growth in the waiting lists that is likely to follow the continuing rise in the cost of accommodation.

●Despite the scale of Government and other resources being allocated in this plan, it falls far short of meeting the need for 'off the books' financing which will be required if Ireland's social housing needs are to be met comprehensively.

●The assumptions concerning the capacity of Approved Housing Bodies would require additional support if they are to be

Live Streaming, St. Joseph & St. Benildus & St. Mary's Church Services

Live services from these Churches are available on:

http://jbmparish.com *and*

www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford

www.churchservices.tv/stmarysballygunner

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.