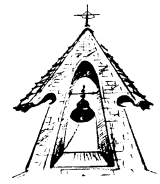




Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland



NEWSLETTER

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Date: 10th July 2016
Volume XIV Number 33

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

MASSES THIS WEEK

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

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

St. Mary's Ballygunner

Saturday: 7.00pm
Sunday: 11am

Gospel Reflection for the Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Who Is NOT My Neighbour?

Today a law student asks Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" he might just as well have asked, "Who is NOT my neighbour." The law student was a Jew, and as such would only have considered fellow Jews as worthy of his neighbourly love.

His loyalty to his own community would in itself have excluded those outside it. By asking Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" the lawyer is looking for excuses to withhold his love.

Are we sometimes guilty of the same transgression? We all agree in principle to Jesus' commandment to love our neighbours, but then we rule all sorts of people out. How can we love and respect those who don't show us any love or respect in return? How can we have sympathy for the benefit fraud, the drunk or the drug addict? How can we find any common ground with the teenager upstairs who plays his music too loud and at all times of the day.

Jesus responds to the law student by telling the story of the 'Good Samaritan'. That he chooses a Samaritan to be the hero of the story is no coincidence, since Jews had ongoing grievances against the Samaritans and their hostilities had long set them apart. The parable condemns non-involvement. How often do we refuse to be a 'Good Samaritan' because we fear for our own safety, or we are loath to spend money or time?

Regardless of who we perceive as our neighbours, and regardless of any excuses, today we are asked, "Can we truly keep the commandment that leads to eternal life?"

If you wish to prepare next Sunday's Readings:

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:1-10.
Ps 14:2-5.
Col 1:24-28.
Lk 10:38-42.

Please remember in your prayers those who died about a month ago

Tom Clarke,

And those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur

Joseph Augustine, David Walsh,

Elizabeth Ware, Bridget Doolan, Paddy Keyes.

MASSES

St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church

6.30 pm (Sat)

10 am (Sun)

12.00 Noon (Sun)

St Mary's Church

7.00pm (Sat)

11.00am (Sun)

9th/10th July 2016

Willie Mortell

Bill Henry

*Jim & Brendan Phelan
& Rosalind Walsh & Helen Fallon*

*Bridie Langford
& Margaret Reid*

Brendan Murray

16th/17th July 2016

Tom Clarke (M.M)

John & Claire O'Brien

Don Brennan

Thomas Keane

*Pierce Kennedy
& Pierce Kennedy Jnr & Patricia Kennedy*

Last Sunday's Collection

€2,328
*Thank you for your
 generous offering*

Recent Baptisms

We welcome

*Lauren Brid Flanagan,
 Joe Anthony O'Rorke,
 Abigail Jade O'Keeffe, and
 Pola Wawrzkiwicz*, who were
 baptised recently.

Please keep them, their
 parents and Godparents in your
 prayers.

The Good Samaritan

The great virtue of charity is put before us today. It is the virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God.

This is the new commandment of Jesus. He tells us to love one another as he has loved us. The story of the Good Samaritan is to show us that this is a virtue well within our reach.

Drop-in Meetings : St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church

The arrangement whereby parishioners could drop in to the sacristy on Monday, Wednesday and Friday has been temporarily suspended due to Fr. John's illness. Fr. Liam would be delighted to meet anyone who wishes to see a priest or arrange a wedding or Christening, etc, but it will be necessary to make an appointment in advance. Please ring the office (051 878977).

Green fingers???

Calling all gardeners. If you would like to help out with the floral decorations of the church, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. This would be on a rota basis. Please contact the Parish Office or Sacristy on 051 878977

Peter's Pence Collection

The annual Peter's Pence collection for the needs of the Diocese will be taken up this weekend. Among the diocesan activities aided by this collection are: CURA, Accord, Family Ministry, Religious Education, Diocesan Liturgy Assistant, Child Safeguarding. This year, the Diocese is embarking on an exciting evangelisation project, based in Glencomeragh House.

Prayer Meeting

Prayer Meeting at St. Joseph & St. Benildus Parish Centre . Starts at 8.15pm on Wednesdays. Prayers, Readings. Come along any evening. Tel: 087 981 7030.

Mick Wallace's Bill

We live in a democratic state and we expect our democratically elected politicians to legislate in accordance with democratic principles. One of the primary principles is surely the expectation that politicians adhere to constitutional rules. Article 15.4 states that "The Oireachtas shall not enact any law which is in any way repugnant to the Constitution or any provision thereof." Therefore it is surely incumbent on politicians when proposing legislation or deciding on a bill to inform themselves of its constitutionality.

So when the Attorney General advises the government that the bill on fatal foetal abnormalities may be unconstitutional, it is to completely disregard our democratic structures to proceed to vote on such a bill. Moreover, for a member of government (Mr. John Halligan) to declare that, "I don't know if this bill is unconstitutional and I don't care", is not only disrespectful of the democratic will of the people who voted for the 8th amendment to our constitution but also grossly irresponsible.

The Chilcott Report

The Chilcott Report on the Iraq war was damning in its critique of Britain's decision to support the war and of the execution of this war. It issues a searing critique of the decision to declare war which was based on faulty intelligence and made without any regard for the consequences and political fallout. The decision totally ignored the principles of the just war theory which provides some ethical guidelines when governments are faced with such a momentous decision.

The first principle states that a just war can only be waged after all peaceful options are considered. The use of force can only be used as a last resort. More importantly, the second principle declares that the decision to wage war can only be made by a legitimate authority. Tony Blair's decision to issue a joint declaration of war (with George Bush) was made independently of his own cabinet and without any authorisation from the United Nations.

When war is declared, there must also be a rational possibility of success. The dire regional consequences of the war could have been anticipated and the loss of millions of innocent civilians could have been avoided.

As Christians we follow the Prince of Peace. We pray that peace can be restored to this most troubled region.

From *The Joy of Love*, by Pope Francis: *Love is not rude*

To love is to be gentle and thoughtful, and this is conveyed by the next word, *aschemonéih*. It indicates that love is not rude or impolite; it is not harsh. Its actions, words and gestures are pleasing and not abrasive or rigid. Love abhors making others suffer. Courtesy "is a school of sensitivity and disinterestedness" which requires a person "to develop his or her mind and feelings, learning how to listen, to speak and, at certain times, to keep quiet".

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.