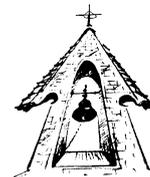


**Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland**



NEWSLETTER

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

20th August 2017

Volume XV Number 39

PARISH INFORMATION

PRIESTS

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Fr. John Treacy, CC 843207

Fr. R. Liddane, A.P. 874284

Parish Office & Sacristy: 878977

Newsletter Team:

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MASSES THIS WEEK

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

Mon 10.30am

Tues 10.30am

Weds 10.30am

Thur 10.30am

Fri 10.30am

Sat : 10.30am & 6.30pm

Sunday 10.00 am & 12noon

St. Mary's Ballygunner

Saturday: 7pm Vigil

Sunday: 11am

Gospel Reflection for the Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Is God's Salvation for Us All?



Just when we thought that Jesus' love was all embracing and all compassionate, he shocks us by behaving in a way that can only be described as harsh and unfeeling. In today's gospel Jesus is approached by a Canaanite woman, who pesters him to cure her daughter.

'Canaanite' was the name given to the older inhabitants of Israel who were dispossessed as unclean by Jesus' own people. Jesus would not have been expected to fraternise with such a woman. True to expectation, Jesus does not respond to the woman, explaining that he has been sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel ... this woman is therefore not his problem! Could Jesus really have held this harsh opinion, or was he testing his disciples? The Canaanite woman continues to pester. She has great faith that Jesus will eventually give in and cure her daughter. Again Jesus responds harshly. "It is not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs..." In other words, only Jews had a right to be treated as 'children of God'. The Gentiles on the other hand are likened to 'dogs'. This opinion seems even less like the Jesus we know! Much more likely is the notion that Jesus is stretching his disciples' understanding of God's boundaries, or rather, lack of.

When we first read the Bible we get the feeling that God is simply there for the 'Children of Israel' or the Hebrew Nation, but the truth is that God does not limit his promises to just certain categories of people. The story finishes with Jesus rewarding the woman's faith with a cure. At first it might appear that Jesus is giving in to 'pester power', though it is much more likely that Jesus had decided from the very outset that he would help this woman. In awarding a cure, Jesus is showing his disciples and us, that faith has the power to melt boundaries and prejudice. Even today we probably imagine God's salvation is for a select few, but today's story teaches us that salvation is there for anyone and everyone who places their trust in God.

If you wish to prepare next

Sunday's Readings :

21st Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Is 22:19-23.

Ps 137: 1-3,6 8.

Rm 11:33-36.

Mt 16:13-20.

MASSES

St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church

6.30pm (Sat)

10.00am (Sun)

12.00pm (Sun)

St Mary's Church

7.00pm (Sat)

11.00am (Sun)

19th/20th August 2017

Anne Carmody

Claire Carroll (M.M)

Milo Corcoran

*Edward Hartley (M.M)
& Patrick Nugent*

26th/27th August 2017

John Hearn

Billy Kenneally

*Anthony Mescall (M.M)
& Claire O'Donoghue*

*Biddy Warren
& her son Niall*

Kitty Lyons

Last Sunday's Collection

€2,079

*Thank you for your generous offering***Congratulations**

We congratulate *Amy Fanning & Derek McManus*, as well as *Una O'Shea & Ethan Battersby*, who were married recently.

Barbeque

Thanks to all who helped to organize the Parish BBQ, which was very successful. Congratulations to Yvonne O'Brien who won the Raffle prize, which was 2 tickets to the Finbarr Wright concert on Oct 22nd in St Joseph & Benildus Church.

Finbarr Wright Concert

Finbarr Wright, leading Irish tenor, will perform a concert in St. Joseph & Benildus Church on October 22nd. Finbarr is one of Ireland's best loved tenors. He has a wide ranging repertoire, from John McCormack ballads to world famous operatic arias. Proceeds are in aid of funding for a chairlift in the Parish Centre.

Saturday Night Cards !

Cards (30s) are back on Saturday 2nd Sept, upstairs in the Parish Centre, from 7.30—10.00pm. Contact Larry 087 215 4540 or Peter 087 902 1955.

New members welcome!

A traditional **Latin Mass with Gregorian Chant** will be celebrated in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Barronstrand Street, Waterford, on Sunday 27th August at 10.00am. Celebrant: Fr. Andrzej Komorowski.

Sharing your Gifts: Invitation to Meeting

A meeting will take place on Weds 23rd August from 7.30-8.30pm in the Parish Hall (St. Joseph & Benildus Church), for all who put their names forward to join the Ministries & Teams in the Parish and share their gifts. The meeting will introduce you to your team leaders and cover the paperwork and possible training (depending on the team you are interested in).

If you didn't get a chance to put your name forward and would like to offer some of your time—maybe you are at Mass already and would like to become a Minister of the Word or of the Eucharist, or maybe you've a few hours a month (or even once a year ?) and would like to share your skills and experience with others in the Parish. If so, feel free to attend the meeting on the 23rd of August.

Beginning Experience

The next weekend is being held at the Ennismore Retreat Centre, Cork from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th October, 2017. For further details please contact 087 9886480. Email: beginningsexperiencecork@gmail.com

Launch of the Preparation for the World meeting of Families in 2018 Families from across Ireland have been invited by their diocese to come to Knock, Co Mayo, on Monday 21 August to be part of the celebrations for the official launch of the preparatory programme and to mark the one year countdown to next year's WMOF2018. This day of celebration will include liturgies and prayers including the Anointing of the Sick, and the celebration of the Eucharist. It will also offer workshops, and lots of family-friendly activities that will be available from 11.00am until 7.00pm.

At 3.00pm: Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will preside at Mass in the Basilica where he will preach the homily on the theme 'When Plates Fly: Pope Francis on the joys and challenges of family life'. This Mass will be concelebrated by bishops and priests from across the country; The WMOF2018 Icon of the Holy Family will be unveiled and anointed at this Mass and it will then begin its journey around the dioceses of Ireland. The Icon will visit our parish for the week beginning the 9th September. The official prayer for WMOF2018 will also be presented at this Mass. The prayer cards are available at the back of the church. Also being launched on Monday is the *Amoris: Let's talk Family! Let's Be Family!* programme. Using a range of online and parish based resources, this programme will offer families, parishes and wider society an opportunity to think about and discuss our vision and hopes for family and marriage, particularly in light of Pope Francis' *The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)*, his 2016 Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family.

Exam Results

We wish every blessing on our young parishioners who received the results of the Leaving Cert Exams on Wednesday 16th August. Some will be happy, some will be a little disappointed. We should remember that exam results do not define us. Exam results do not measure how intuitive we are, how energetic we might be, how kind we are, or how practical and entrepreneurial we may be. *Remember, it isn't the results themselves that are important, but how you move forward from that point. Comhghairdeas libh go léir !*

Please pray for those who died about a month ago

Claire Carroll, Edward Hartley

And those whose anniversaries or birthdays occur:

Michael & Alice Phelan,

Mossie & Josie Phelan,

John Murray,

Richard & Rita Fitzpatrick, Mary Aylward,

Bridie & Ned Dunne.

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 Tuesday at 1.00 pm.** 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.