

PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH, ST. BENILDUS & ST. MARY'S

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IF YOU WISH TO
PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S
READINGS :

Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
Ez 34:11-12, 15-17.
Ps 22:1-3, 5-6.
1 Cor 15:20-26, 28.
Mt 25:31-46.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th November 2017

Gospel Reflection for the Thirty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time : No Pain No Gain

The third servant in today's parable was trying to bury a responsibility that he wished to avoid. The treasure he had been given was an opportunity for him to invest and please his master, but instead of putting himself out, he buried the treasure where he could forget about it and go about his own affairs. Buried deep, the treasure was no longer an uncomfortable reminder of his master's expectations. Meanwhile, the other two servants, realising that there is no gain without pain, risked everything on their master's account. They invested and multiplied their gifts, and their master was pleased by their efforts.

Like the three servants in this story we too have been given talents and gifts, and with those talents comes a responsibility to use those talents as an opportunity to make the world a better place. Our talents are varied, some great, some small, but we are all gifted in some way. Some have high profile and very obvious talents ... there are those who are great musicians, surgeons, sports people and scientists. The rest of us might have less obvious talents. We might have a talent for caring, listening, speaking, growing things or solving practical problems. Whatever our particular gift we are urged to step out with it ... stick our neck on the line and invest our gifts in God's cause. God will not be so impressed if we are too afraid, embarrassed or lazy to use our talents. Ever heard the expression 'Use it or lose it.' If we ignore our gifts long enough, there will come a time when we can no longer rely upon them. This is what happened to the third servant.

One of the excuses that the third servant made for not investing his gift was that he was fearful of losing it. But the message today is not to be fearful. God never asks us to do something we are not capable of doing, and he is not judging us by our levels of productivity. The master in the story did not judge the third servant for producing nothing from his gift, but rather for being lazy and for his bitter indifference to his master's generosity. The master would not have judged him harshly, if he had tried his best but failed.

Today we are invited to look again at what gifts we have been given and how we are using them for the benefit of all. We are asked to examine what gifts we might be ignoring because we are too embarrassed or afraid, and we are asked to live a little dangerously and invest more of ourselves in God's cause.

Mass Times:

ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm, Sunday 10.00am & 12 Noon

Monday–Friday

7.30 am & 10.30am

Saturday 10.30am

Holy Days of Obligation

6.30 Vigil and 11.00am

CONFESSIONS

Confessions immediately following the 10.30am on Saturday and at the parish office by request

ST. MARY'S, BALLYGUNNER

Sunday

7.00pm Vigil, Sunday 11.00am

Holy Days of Obligation

7.00pm Vigil & 11.00am

First Friday:

9.30am

Visit to Ishisra Parish, Kenya

Three members of our parish, Chris O'Sullivan, Ben Nutty and Fr. Liam Power visited Ishiara Parish in Kenya, to establish a partnership. The visit lasted 9 days, beginning of October 30th and finishing on November 8th. The visit was organised by the Trocaire Director in Kenya, Mr Paul Healy who met us on arrival in Nairobi and introduced us to the development projects supported by Trocaire in the area. We can indeed take pride in the work that this great organisation is doing in the 3rd world. We were briefed on the programmes which include such diverse projects as the empowerment of women, support for those with aids, developing sustainable agricultural programmes to feed and provide a small income for families.

The parish visit was very well organised. It is located about 200kms north east of Nairobi and it took us about 3 hours to get there. The Parish is staffed by Augustinian priests who are natives of Kenya. There is a church and presbytery at the centre of the parish with 19 out-stations or small hut-like buildings which serve as community centres and places of worship on Sundays.

As it is a semi-arid land, the people are very poor and subsist on small holdings which because of climate change are unable to yield sufficient produce to support them. There are goats which are able to survive in semi-arid conditions and cows which are also suited to these conditions. They have no running water, no sewage system nor is there is electricity in most of the huts. The diet is very basic.

However, the parish is well organised and has a very active lay participation. The pastoral council is very dynamic and comprises representatives from each of the outstations numbering about 60 in all. The council meets once a month to discuss issues effecting the lives of the people. As the out-stations are organised and managed by the lay members, the pastoral council is an important forum for church governance and development. There are catechists working full time to support evangelisation and catechesis in the out-station communities. There is also a very active liturgy committee in the parish.

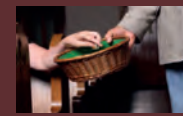


Fr. Liam, Chris & Ben in one of the Outstations

each week from our partners in Ishiara and we hope that parishioners will come on board with this project and support its progress.

Traditional Latin Mass in Waterford Cathedral

A Traditional Latin Mass with Gregorian Chant will be celebrated on Sunday 26th November at 10am in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Barronstrand Street, Waterford City Celebrant Fr. Andrzej Komorowski FSSP.



Last Sunday's Collection

€2,432

Thank you for your generous offering

Baptism



We welcome *Harper Leah Gray, John Patrick Donovan, Zoey Adeline Brid Moore, and Tadhg Michael Dwyer* who were baptised recently. Please keep them, their parents and godparents in your prayers.

Prayer & Praise

Prayer group meets every Thursday after 10.30am Mass in the Parish Centre at the Church of St. Joseph & St. Benildus. All welcome.

Prayer Meeting:

Wednesdays, at 8.15pm, in St. Joseph & St. Benildus Parish Centre. Prayer & Praise & Readings. All welcome.

Café Theology

Granville Hotel, Tuesday 28th November, 7.30pm.

A discussion on: Back to the Future, Hope for Today's Church from Israel's Past.

Speaker: David Breen

The time of the Babylonian Exile was a time of catastrophic loss for Israel. Their land was taken, their Temple was destroyed and their people taken into slavery in Babylon. The Church in Ireland is similarly going through a period of great loss. We find ourselves adrift in a sea of secularism and in the wake of catastrophic failure. Has Israel's experience anything to teach us in Ireland today? Can her achievement inspire hope in the Church today?

David Breen, originally from Wexford, is the Project Officer of a faith-based project in Co. Limerick, developing community between Travellers and the mainstream population. He has also worked in Canada and the Philippines.



IN LOVING MEMORY
PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED
RECENTLY

PAT MURNANE
BARBARA COSTIGAN
Those who died about a month ago
Michael O'Donnell, Paddy White,
Joe Cahill, Liam Walsh
Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur
P.J. Moloney, Margaret Ann Lunney,
Kate & Pierce Dalton,
May Keohan, Charlie Ware (Jnr.),
Anna Kavanagh (née Dunne),
Maureen O'Brien.

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



A talk on Elder Abuse will be held for members of the Home and Nursing Home visitation Teams on Tuesday 21st November 2017 at 7.30pm in Room 1 in the Parish Centre

A warm welcome back to Fr.Liam, Chris O'Sullivan and Ben Nutty, who have returned from a visit to our Partnership Parish of Ishiara, Kenya. Photos and reports from the visit will feature in the Newsletter in the coming weeks.

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

19th November 2017

This year the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church takes place in Ireland on Sunday, November 19 – and this year the organisers are calling on churches to dedicate the whole of November to pray for persecuted believers, using the message 'One Month, One Church, One Prayer'.

The IDOP focus this year is on Eritrea. Since 2002 the authoritarian regime of President Isaias Afewerki has closed all Evangelical and Pentecostal churches in Eritrea and imprisoned thousands of believers. We are asked to pray urgently for the immediate release of all Christian prisoners of faith in Eritrea, including the 173 who have been detained in appalling conditions for more than 10 years.

MASSES

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6.30pm Saturday

18TH/19TH NOV 2017

Michael O'Donnell (M.M)

Bernie & Dick Doyle

25TH/26TH NOV 2017

Paddy White (M.M)

Marie White

Paddy & Kitty O'Connor

10.00am Sunday

Peter Russell

Paddy Dempsey

12 Noon Sunday

Georgina Butler
John Mulcair

Nicola Doheny

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Saturday

Liam Walsh (M.M)

Turlough McNamara M.M
Gerard Hogan

11.00am Sunday

Joe Cahill (M.M)
Marilyn Brennan

Gerry & Evelyn O'Regan





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