

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

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IF YOU WISH TO
PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S
READINGS :
6th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Lev 13:1-2, 44-46.
Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11.
1 Cor 10:31-11:1.
Mk 1:40-45.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

February 4, 2018

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

For most of us, the dynamic between prayer and action is imperfect. Breakfast needs to be made and the kids dressed. Work demands our energy and additional responsibilities fill our evenings and weekends. Then there's the football game or a new TV series to stream. After all, don't we need to relax?

We're all busy. But just imagine Jesus' situation in today's Gospel. He heals Peter's mother-in-law, drives out demons, and cures diseases late into the night. With very little sleep, he arises before dawn to capture some peace and quiet, only to find "those who were with him pursued him." How often do we feel pursued by the harried commitments, even when we try to seek rest? Perhaps we can learn something from the response of Jesus.

Jesus models two key things: the essential nature of prayer and the essential call of vocation. "He went off to a deserted place, where he prayed." Despite inevitable exhaustion, Jesus prioritizes time with the Father. We might not have easy access to deserts and mountaintops, but today's Gospel challenges us to take intentional time set apart for God. We can designate a "prayer chair" in a corner of our home or leave a little earlier to pick our children up from school so we can snatch time in a nearby chapel. We can pray the rosary on our commute or take the dog for a long walk in silence.

However, when the Apostles arrive, Jesus doesn't linger overlong in the deserted place or make an excuse for why he can't return with his friends. Jesus is true to his calling. He continues on in his state of life, serving the people nearest to him. Like Jesus, we are invited to set intentional time for communion with God so that we can be refreshed and empowered for our communion with others.



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

BAPTISMS

We welcome *Shay Patrick Keane, Oliver Shay Forristal, Lorcan Conor Browne, and Noack Joshua* who were baptised recently. Please keep them, their parents and godparents in your prayers.



Last Sunday's Collection

€2,251

Thank you for your generous offering

Lasallian Projects are looking for volunteers for a building project in Keelamudiman this July. It's an experience of a life time to help build school facilities, some teaching of children, helping local communities and caring for children. *A volunteer has to fund-raise.* If you need more information, contact Br Thomas at 0863453092 or Tom O'Neill at 0871341637.

The Rota for Mowlam is now available in the Sacristy.

February 11th: World Day of the Sick
Special prayers for the sick will be said at all Masses on the day. **February 11th 2018 marks the 160th anniversary of the Marian apparitions to St. Bernadette in Lourdes.**

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

Blessed Sacrament Adoration
All are welcome to participate in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, from 11.00am to 7.00pm every Wednesday, after 10.30am Mass.

Cnoc Buí Active Retirement
AGM: Woodlands Hotel, 2pm Weds 7th Feb.
Membership now due. Please have €50 non-refundable deposit, for Cork trip, in an envelope with name and contact details.

The monthly **Saint Vincent de Paul** collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend. Thank you for your continued support .

Parishioners are invited to submit articles which may be of interest to readers of the **Parish Newsletter**, for example, notification of forthcoming events of a non-commercial nature. *The deadline for receiving any such items is Tuesday at 11.00am.*

Conference: Responding Locally to "Laudato Si" : Pope Francis' Encyclical "On Care For Our Common Home".

The purpose of the conference is to identify local, practical and implementable actions that parishes and groups affiliated to Waterford Public Partnership Network (PNN) can undertake to help increase awareness of the increasingly disastrous effects of climate change and damage to our natural eco systems. **Climate Change** and **Biodiversity** thus become the 2 major themes of this conference.

Speakers: Fr. Sean McDonagh, Senator Grace O' Sullivan.

Panellists: Trevor Sargent, Justin Kilcullen, Bernadette Guest, Fr. Michael Long, Niamh Brennan.

Venue: St. Paul's Parish Centre

Date: Sat 3rd March 2018

Time: 9.30am—1.00pm.

Registration €5

Booking: 051 874199: Secretary,
St. John's Pastoral Centre.



Jointly organised by the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore, and Waterford PNN.

The conference will be promoting the Green Flag Award for parishes.

The photo on the left shows Fr. Sean McDonagh.

IN LOVING MEMORY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED ABOUT A MONTH AGO : *Terry Sheridan, Christopher Bolger, Ger Kiely*



Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur :

*Eddie & Delia Grant,
Ethel & Jack Warren,
Ann & Adrian Neijenhuisen,
Margaret & Patrick Phelan.*

We have been asked to include the following in this week's Newsletter:

The Irish Cancer Society operates a free transport service for patients attending hospital for chemotherapy treatment. Volunteer Drivers pick the patient up at the door of their home, drop them at the hospital door, then when finished treatment, will pick them up and drop them home. Volunteer expenses are paid. Patients wishing to avail of this free service should contact their healthcare professional, visit the Society's website at irishcancer.ie or contact the Irish Cancer Society for more information on 01 2310 522.

The **February Rota** for **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** is available in the Sacristy, St. Joseph & Benildus Church.

We are pleased to announce that a **chairlift** has been installed in the **Parish Centre**, located beside the link corridor outside the rear door of the church. It leads to the top floor of the building, and provides easy access to the parish office.

The **Déise Active Retirement Mass** will be celebrated in the Woodlands Hotel at 11.00am on Thursday 8th February.

Pope Francis on Abortion and the Right to Life

"It is necessary to reaffirm our solid opposition to any direct offence against life, especially when innocent and defenceless, and the unborn child in its mother's womb is the quintessence of innocence. Let us remember the words of Vatican Council II: 'Therefore *from the moment of its conception life must be guarded with the greatest care* while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes' " (audience with Italian Movement for Life, April 11, 2014)

"Among the vulnerable for whom the church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenceless and innocent among us. Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this.Precisely because this involves the internal consistency of our message about the value of the human person, the church cannot be expected to change her position on this question...It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life..." Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium #213-214.

MASSES

3rd/4th Feb 2018

10th/11th Feb 2018

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6.30pm Saturday

(M.M) Terry Sheridan

Paddy McCarthy

10.00am Sunday

James & Eugene Power

(M.M) Julene Ranscombe

12 Noon Sunday

Seán Caraway

Liam O'Connell

Noel Cooke

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Saturday

(M.M) Christopher Bolger
Maureen, Harry and
Maria Sharpe

Bridget Keane
William & Nancy Sharpe
Nicholas Power

11.00am Sunday

Davy Doyle
(M.M) Ger Kiely

Monica & Richard Kervick
Michael & Kathleen Conway



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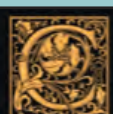
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