

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

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Gospel Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Branching Out

29th April 2018



There's a lot of work to do in today's world. Almost daily, the TV and Radio brings terrible news of atrocities and disasters around the planet. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the bad news and to feel powerless to do anything. We do not consider that we can individually instigate change for lots of reasons. We do not feel clever enough, or brave enough or rich enough. In short it's hard to know where to begin and even whether change is possible. The inspirational message in today's gospel is that we can make changes as long as we work together.

We are already familiar with the ethos of trade unions. Trade unions operate on one powerful principle. Individually we can be easily overlooked but together we have the power to bring the whole country to a stand-still and sway governments. If a trade union wanted to promote solidarity and unity, the vine would make an ideal logo. The vine itself is the heart of the union, the part that determines the ethos. The branches do the work of the vine and the fruit they bear is the outcome the final result.

Today we are told that with Christ as our vine we can do great things. All too often we become wrapped up in developing our own spirituality, trying to work out what God means to us as an individual striving to find our niche. It's easy to forget that we are part of a huge family of people the biggest union on the planet. With Christ's teaching and pruning, we as a body, have the ability to transform the world by putting faith into action.

Our individual responsibility is to look for ways in which we can become part of the overall plan. We don't have to branch out alone, we branch out as a team.



IF YOU WISH TO PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS :

6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35,
44-48.
Ps 97:1-4.
1 Jn 4:7-10.
Jn 15:9-17.

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

Recent Baptisms

We welcome Maeve Connolly, Ellie Cheasty and Luke Thor Hennessy who were baptised recently. Please keep them and their parents and godparents in your prayers.

Baptism



Last Sunday's Collection

€ 2,765

Thank you for your generous offering

PUBLIC DEBATE

ON THE 8TH AMENDMENT

Professor Fiona de Londras will ask voters to vote "Yes" for repeal of the 8th Amendment and Caroline Simons will ask voters to vote "No".

**WOODLANDS HOTEL
WEDNESDAY 2ND MAY**

TIME: 7.30PM

This is the only public debate in our area; it will afford people an opportunity to clarify the issues before they come to vote.

For more information contact 051-878977

This is the only public debate on the upcoming referendum in the South East. We encourage parishioners to attend and to seek clarification on any outstanding issues surrounding the complex question that will face them as they go to vote on 25th May 2018. The outcome of the referendum will have a serious impact on our society. Voters should try their best to be as well informed as possible before they vote.

Ms Vicki Wall to speak at Masses next weekend.

Ms Vicki Wall, whose baby was diagnosed with a life-limiting condition during pregnancy and who decided to keep the baby and bring it to birth, will speak at Masses in our parish next weekend (May 5th and 6th). Vicki has been granted permission by Bishop Cullinan to share her story at Masses throughout the diocese and has been well received by congregations who have heard her. We look forward to welcoming Vicki and take this opportunity to give advance notice of her visit.

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore : Knock Shrine Pilgrimage

Under the leadership of Dr. Alphonsus Cullinan D.D. Bishop of Waterford & Lismore. Sunday 6th May 2018. Tickets €25.

Bus leaving Waterford (Miller's Marsh Car Park) at 7.00am. Leaving Knock at 5.30pm. There will be a break at Tullamore on each journey. To book a seat, please contact one of the following before 1.00pm on Friday May 2nd, as numbers need to be confirmed.

John Waters: 087 2138831 Michael Drohan : 089 4204804

Anne O'Connor : 051 381351 May Connolly : 086 2502448

SPEAKERS

PROF. FIONA DE LONDRAS



Fiona de Londras is Professor of Global Legal Studies at the University of Birmingham. She advocates repeal of the 8th Amendment

CAROLINE SIMONS



Caroline Simons is a solicitor and legal advisor to the Pro-Life campaign. She advocates retention of the 8th Amendment

CHAIR

SARAH McDONALD



Sarah McDonald is a freelance journalist based in Dublin. She contributes to the The Irish Independent, The Tablet and NCR.

IN LOVING MEMORY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED ABOUT A MONTH AGO:

BREDA PHELAN

Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur :

Bridie Meehan,

Nicholas Kennedy,

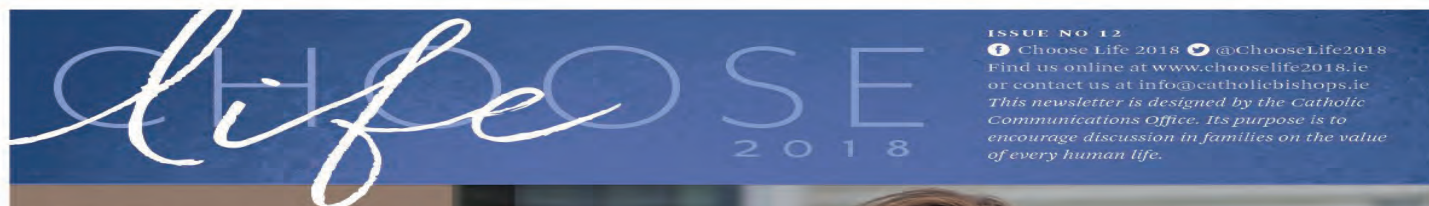
Mary Sadlier, Philip & Elizabeth Hartley.

**Responding Locally to Pope Francis' Encyclical :
'Laudato Si' : 'On Care for our Common Home'**

Theme of conference: to identify local, practical and implementable actions that parishes and groups affiliated to Waterford PPN (Public Participation Network) can undertake to help increase awareness of the increasingly disastrous effects of climate change and damage to our natural eco systems.

Venue: St.Paul's Parish Centre, Lisduggan. **Date:** Sat 5th May

Time: 9.30am—1.00pm. **Registration** €5



ISSUE NO 12

Choose Life 2018 @ChooseLife2018

Find us online at www.chooselife2018.ie or contact us at info@catholicbishops.ie

This newsletter is designed by the Catholic Communications Office. Its purpose is to encourage discussion in families on the value of every human life.

"It is not easy to be pro-life as a medical student. Some may criticise my stance, others may support me, but I chose a career in medicine to save lives."

Clare Crowley, 27, is a final year medical student at the University of Limerick >



Clare's Story "For as long as I can remember abortion has been a divisive issue in Ireland. At times, it is not easy to hold pro-life views as a medical student. I, like many other medical students, decided to pursue a career in medicine to help people and save lives. It is very easy to claim to be pro-choice, but committing the act is starkly different.

"I have read and heard the testimonies of doctors in other countries who have, and who continue to conduct abortions. It makes for very bleak reading. Initially an emotional conflict often exists, a tug of war between the woman's right to choose versus the humanity of the unborn baby. In time this conflict of conscience is slowly eroded and one becomes completely desensitised to the unborn baby, irrespective of the stage of pregnancy.

"Ireland has an excellent maternal care record. Despite the many faults of our broken healthcare system, this is a fact we should be very proud of. During my training, I have witnessed the amazing work of all those who are involved in caring for pregnant women from GPs to midwives and obstetricians. All deserve great credit for their unwavering work and dedication.

"Best obstetric care advocates caring for two patients – the pregnant woman and her unborn baby. Irrespective of the circumstances of pregnancy, a doctor has a duty to care for the health and wellbeing of both.

"Some pregnancies are planned, some unplanned and some even unwanted. In such instances, a woman needs compassionate care and support. The Eighth Amendment gives women in unplanned pregnancies time, instead of hastening into a rash decision they may later regret."

What can I do?

Be informed and prepared to have conversations with others about Ireland's culture of life. Visit www.chooselife2018.ie for ideas to start conversations!

Your Questions

What is the Eighth Amendment?

The wording of the Eighth Amendment reads as follows:

"The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right".

This is a declaration to respect, defend and vindicate the equal right to life of a mother and her unborn child. It enshrines in Irish law a deep conviction that every human life is precious, equal and worth cherishing.

What will happen if the Eighth Amendment is repealed?

If the Eighth Amendment is repealed the right to life for unborn children in Ireland will be without any constitutional protection. This would radically change the law, for all unborn children and indeed for all of us, that the right to life is a fundamental human right.

MASSES

28th/29th April 2018

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6.30pm Saturday

Séamus Reale

10.00am Sunday

Michael & Elizabeth Cusack

12 Noon Sunday

John Barron

Michael O'Donovan

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Saturday

Paddy & Maureen Moloney

11.00am: Sunday

Maureen & William Fitzgerald

D.B Cahill & Stephen Ewing

Breda Bennett

Johanna & Patrick Power

5th/6th May 2018

Nora Holden

Colm Hartley

Maurice & Mary Teresa Gleeson

M.M Breda Phelan

James Reville

Declan O'Sullivan

John Barry

Declan Keohan

Anastasia Lahart



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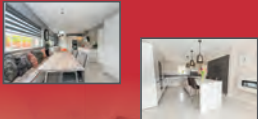


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