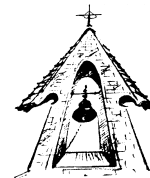


Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's  
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland



**NEWSLETTER**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Date: 20th Dec 2015**  
**Volume XIV Number 4**

**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**

**A priest is available to help you**

**in St. Joseph & Benildus Church**

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY**

**from 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm.**

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

**St. Joseph & St. Benildus**

Mon 7.30am & 10.30 am

Tues 7.30am & 10.30am

Wed 7.30a.m & 10.30 am

**Thursday 10.30am & 5.00pm & 9.00pm**

**Friday 10.00am & 12noon**

Sat 10.30 a.m & 6.30pm

Sunday 10.00 am & 12noon

**St. Mary's Ballygunner**

**Thurs 5.00pm & 9.00pm**

**Fri 11.00am**

Sat 7.00pm

Sunday: 11.00 a.m.

**If you wish to prepare next**

**Sunday's Readings:-Holy family**

**1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28.**

**Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10.**

**1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24.**

**Lk 2:41-52.**

***Gospel Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent***

**The Promise of a Lifetime**

It's easy for us to take promises with a pinch of salt. Whilst growing up, we've learned that promises are easily made and easily broken. We make promises of our own with varying degrees of commitment. In short, promises are not always made to be kept, and our faith in a promise is seriously undermined. No wonder the promises we read in the bible don't always make us jump for joy.

Does a promise made to us by God carry any more weight? If we were truly convinced that God was making us a promise then it probably would. The problem is .... God somehow seems a rather remote and silent figure, and his promises don't always affect our lives in the way they ought. Instead of acting on his commands in the way Mary did, we hedge our bets. We don't forget about what God has asked us to do altogether, but we squash him into a small corner of our busy lives and get on with other things.

Mary is a perfect role model for us all. She believed in God's promise. She acted on God's commands. She didn't push God into a small corner of her life .... God was her life. "Blessed is she," writes Luke in today's gospel, "who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Today's gospel is an invitation for us to take God's promises to heart, to make them real in our minds, and act on them.

*Please remember in your prayers those who died recently*

***Kitty Sullivan, Woodstown & Havenwood***

***Michael Higgins, Grange Lawn***

***Joan Foskin, Ballygunnertemple***

*Those who died about a month ago*

***Teresa Harrington***

*And those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur*

***Brian Murphy, Noeleen Lonergan, Anthony Coakley, Rose O'Connor,***

***Rita & Dick Fitzgerald, Brian Fitzgerald, Frank Hutchinson,***

***Eileen & Jim Jackman, Jackie Goode, Jim Whelan,***

***Brendan Lea & Family, Bridget Butler***

***Thomas Broderick***

**MASSES**

**St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church**

6.30 p.m.

10.00 a.m.

12.00 Noon

**St. Mary's Church**

7.00 p.m.

11.00 a.m.

**19th/20th Dec 2015**

Noreen Phelan

Margaret Power

Mary Margaret Murphy

Garry Murphy ( A )  
& Teresa Harrington ( M.M )

Charles Murray

**26th/27th Dec 2015**

Patricia Mahon

Cathleen King

Tom Foskin

Mary Cummins

Kay Kurrid

## Last Sunday's Collection

**€2,018**

*Thank you for your generous offering*

### Recent Baptism

We welcome

*Chloe Sophie Sheahan* who was baptised recently. Please keep her, her parents and Godparents in your prayers.

### Christmas Reflection

St. John's Pastoral Centre, Waterford, Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> December from 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

*Facilitators: Antoinette Dilworth rsj & Ann O'Farrell. An opportunity to slow down our hurried pace of life by taking time to sit in stillness, join in prayer, sing Christmas carols and enjoy a cup of tea and Christmas cake.*

### Nightfever

A Nightfever event will be held in the Cathedral, Barronstrand street on Wednesday Dec 23rd beginning with 5.30pm Mass and finishing with Benediction at 10pm. Nightfever is an evening of "Open Church" where missionaries go in pairs onto the streets and invite people to come inside and experience a special atmosphere of music, prayer, confession and candlelight, allowing us spend time in prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Feel free to come and leave as you want.

### Pope Francis: On the Jubilee Year of Mercy

"I am confident that the whole Church, which is in such need of mercy for we are sinners, will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time. Do not forget that God *forgives all*, and God *forgives always*. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness. Let us henceforth entrust this Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey: our penitential journey, our year-long journey with an open heart, to receive the indulgence of God, to receive the mercy of God."

### Advent Evening Prayer

*Advent, a time of waiting, conversion and of hope.*

The final Evening prayer for Advent, with Music, Psalms and Readings, in *St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church* on *Sunday from 5.30pm-6pm.*

### Taizé-style Christmas Penitential Service

There will be one Penitential Service in the Parish this Advent. *A sub-group of the Liturgy Committee has worked on this to make it more meaningful, in light of the Year of Mercy.*

*The Service will include Music, Readings, Reflections etc., as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Monday 21st December in St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church at 7.30pm*

### Christmas Eve Children's Masses

To avoid overcrowding, and for Health and Safety reasons due to the ongoing work on the link corridor, there will be two children's Masses in the Parish this Christmas Eve. ***Both Masses will be celebrated at 5pm, one in St. Mary's and one in St. Joseph & St. Benildus.***

### CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2015 CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS

Monday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	Masses	7.30 am & 10.30am
		<b>Penitential Service</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Masses	7.30am & 10.30am
Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Masses	7.30am & 10.30am

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass	10.30am
		Confessions	11am – 12.30pm 3.00pm – 4.00 pm
		Carol Singing	4.30 pm
		Children's Mass	5pm
		Carol Singing	8.30pm
		Vigil Mass	9.00pm

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass	10am, 12 noon
		<b><i>No evening Mass Christmas Day</i></b>	

#### St. Stephen's Day

Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass	10.30am
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass	6.30pm Vigil, 10am & 12noon

Monday	28 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Mass	10.30am
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#### Feast of the Epiphany

Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> January,	Masses	6.30pm Vigil (Tuesday) 10am & 12noon
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### ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BALLYGUNNER

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup> December	Children's Mass	5pm
		Carols	8.30pm
		Vigil Mass	9.00pm

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass	11am
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	Masses	7pm Vigil (Tuesday) 11am

**We wish all our parishioners a Happy and Blessed Christmas**