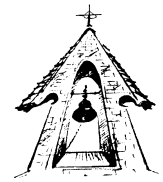




**Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland**



**NEWSLETTER
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday**

**Date: 6th Mar 2016
Volume XIV Number 15**

**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 7.30 am & 10.30 am
Tues 7.30 am & 10.30 am
Wed 7.30 am & 10.30 am
Thurs 7.30 am & 10.30 am
Fri 7.30 am & 10.30 am
Sat 10.30am & 6.30pm
Sunday 10.00 am & 12pm

St. Mary's Ballygunner

Saturday: 7pm
Sunday: 11am

**If you wish to prepare
next Sunday's Readings:**

5th Sunday of Lent

Is 43:16-21.

Ps 125.

Phil 3:8-14.

Jn 8:1-11.

Gospel Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

When People We Don't Like, Get a Lucky Break!

There's little doubt, when people we dislike get unexpected and undeserved mercy, it gets right up our nose! As adults we see someone getting something for nothing.... something that we ourselves have worked long and hard for, and we feel a rush of irritation. Or, we might see someone get a small sentence for an abhorrent crime and immediately we jump onto a moral high ground.

The parable of the 'Prodigal Son' perhaps more than any other, lends itself to the heart of Pope Francis's 'Year of Mercy'. It illustrates mercy from the point of view of the father who gives it, from the son who receives it, and from the point of view of the son who bitterly resents his brother's lucky break.

So with which of the sons do you most strongly identify? Do you identify with the wayward son who squandered his father's money then returned home for forgiveness? Or do you identify with the righteous son who stayed at home fondly imagining he hadn't put a foot wrong?

If you identify with the younger son this parable is for you. This parable is for anyone who has turned away from God but wants to put his or her life on track again. This parable is for anyone who has made bad decisions, and that's likely to be most of us. Of course none of us make bad decisions intentionally. Most of us make bad decisions by not giving any thought to the consequences of our actions. Bad decisions take us in the wrong direction and we might only realise it when we finally hit rock bottom. Only then might we admit the truth to ourselves; only then might we confess "I can't carry on like this something has to give ... something must change!"

If you identify more with the prodigal son's older brother then this parable is also for you. The parable is for all of us who judge others as unworthy of our respect or companionship. This parable is for all those who are uncompromising and unfeeling. Like the older son who resents his brother's welcome home party, we make God sad when we resent others being given a second chance, or when we are unable to forgive. At the end of the day we probably have a little of both brothers in us. The one character in the parable that we should strive to emulate is the father. Like God, the father is loving and compassionate.

Please remember in your prayers those who died recently

Agnes O'Brien, Viewmount

Eddie Toman, Dublin

Those who died about a month ago

Phillip Dunphy

Those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur

Peter Powell, Jack & Elizabeth Walsh,

Catherine Sheehan, Sophie Hopkins, David O'Brien

MASSES

St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church

6.30 p.m. (Sat)

10.00 a.m.(Sun)

12.00 Noon (Sun)

St. Mary's Church

7.00pm (Sat)

11.00a.m (Sun)

5th/6th Mar 2016

Eileen Falconer & Relatives

Dymphna Ryan
& Phillip Dunphy (M.M)

Breda O'Hanlon

Breda Gormley

Mossie & Josie Phelan

12th/13th Mar 2016

John Hogan

Patrick White

Patrick Joseph O'Shea

Linda Grace
& Mary & Tim Power

John Lyons

Last Sunday's Collection

€2,455

Thank you for your generous offering

Trócaire Lenten Appeal

Trócaire Lenten Boxes are available on tables in the church.

Parents' Meeting before Baptism of Children

At these meetings, parents and team spend time exploring our understanding of Baptism. It is also a time for parents to meet each other. *Our next meeting will be on March 9th at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.*

Liturgy Group

A meeting of subgroups took place recently, to plan for Holy Week services. The next Liturgy Group meeting will be in the Parish Centre, Monday 7th March at 7.30pm.

Aifreann as Gaeilge

Beidh Aifreann as Gaeilge i seipéal Naomh Mhuire, ag 11.00 ar maidin, Lá Fhéile Pádraig. Fáilte roimh chách.

There will be an Irish language Mass in St.Mary's at 11.00am, St.Patrick's Day.

All are welcome .

Child Safety:

Important Meeting

Avril Halley, *Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator* in the Diocese, would like to address all those involved in Ministries in the Parish.

Avril wishes to inform us of new protocols in relation to Child Safeguarding.

The meeting will be held on **Thursday April 7th, in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.**

Reflective prayerful reading of Scripture during Lent (Lectio Divina)

Come and join us for reflective reading of Sunday Gospels with prayer, music, stillness. March 10th, from: 7.30pm-8.30pm. The Cry Chapel, St.Joseph & St.Benildus Church. *Lectio Divina* : "it consists of reading God's word in a moment of prayer and allowing it to enlighten and renew us". (Pope Francis)

Lenten Movie

The movie "**ROMERO**" , on the life of **Archbishop Oscar Romero**, will be shown in the Parish Centre (Upstairs) on Tuesday 15th March at 8.00pm. Dr.Paul Clogher (Lecturer in Theology, W.I.T) will facilitate a discussion on the theme of Mercy which is one of the major themes featured in the film.

St.John of God Mass, Friday, March 11th at 10.30am.

Holy Week Retreat: Little Sisters of the Poor, Ferrybank

Mother Caroline, Mother Superior of St.Joseph's Home, is organizing a Retreat for young women, and would like to invite all young women to the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Ferrybank during Holy Week. Details from 051 833006

Colorado School of Mines Musicians

The Colorado School of Mines musicians, who are participating in this year's St.Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, have kindly offered to hold a Concert in aid of SVP, Waterford in Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford on Sunday march 13th, from 3-4.30pm. Admission is free. All are welcome. There will be a collection at the end of the performance. All donations will go to SVP.

Lenten Food Collection

Non-perishable food items are being collected in both churches after Mass each Sunday during lent. All items collected will be donated to the St.Vincent de Paul Society. Baskets at rear of both churches.

Visitation Team

Many thanks to all who have volunteered to be involved in the proposed Parish Visitation Team. Training will begin shortly. All those interested in taking part in this venture are invited to leave contact details with the Parish Office. 051 878977

Lourdes Fund

If there is a parishioner wishing to travel to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage, but in need of some financial support, there is a small fund available for this purpose, the proceeds of the weekly coffee mornings in the Parish Centre. Please enquire through the Parish Office 051 878977 or any of the Priests. All enquiries will be treated in confidence. The pilgrimage takes place from 6th to 11th June, 2016.