



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



NEWSLETTER
Third Sunday in Advent
Gaudete Sunday

11th December 2016
Volume XV Number 3

PARISH INFORMATION

PRIESTS

Fr. Liam Power PP 873073
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MASSES THIS WEEK

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

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

St. Mary's Ballygunner

Saturday: 7.00pm
Sunday: 11am

Gospel Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent
Great Expectations



John the Baptist had been praying for a Messiah, but Jesus wasn't what he had expected. Perhaps he had been expecting a fire-and-brimstone leader who would arrive in the manner of a king or a warrior with all the power and status to conquer the oppressor. Instead, the Messiah turned out to be a man from humble origins whose mission was simply to heal and teach God's love. In today's gospel we see an imprisoned John send a message to Jesus. "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Ever the psychologist Jesus sends a 'work it out yourself' kind of answer. Jesus asks John to look at the evidence. "...The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed."

That even John had a moment of doubt in Jesus is very comforting for the rest of us. The message seems to be that it's okay to have doubt, what's important is how we respond to that doubt. A good starting point is to examine how our doubts have arisen in the first place. John's doubts spring from his expectations. Based on his belief that Rome was the enemy, perhaps John thought that the Messiah would come and 'sort the Romans out'. Of course 'sorting the Romans out' wasn't what Jesus was about at all, this would have been an extremely myopic mission for the Son of God.

So what do we think God is about? Are we guilty of myopic expectation? Do we have lapses in faith when we pray hard, only to be disappointed when God fails to cure an ailing grandparent; fails to get us our dream job; fails to make the partner of our dreams appear on the doorstep? Or do we have greater expectations? Do we believe that God is there to change us; guide us through our daily choices; prepare us for his Kingdom. As John was invited, so too are we, to look at the evidence and work it out for ourselves.

If you wish to prepare next
Sunday's Readings:
4th Sunday of Advent
Is 7:10-14.
Ps 23:1-6.
Rm 1:1-7.
Mt 1:18-24.

MASSES

St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church

6.30 pm (Sat)

10 am (Sun)

12.00 Noon (Sun)

St Mary's Church

7.00pm (Sat)

11.00am (Sun)

10th/11th Dec 2016

**Eddie Doyle
& Helen Lewsley**

**Anita Curry
& Michael, Mary & Catherine Hearne**

**Ben Wadding
& Matthew & Lily Barry
& Phyllis Houlihan**

Helen & Margaret Power

Kathleen Power

17th/18th Dec 2016

Frank Coughlan

Margaret (Peg) Power

**Tom & Joan Foskin
& Patrick Gahan**

Gary Murphy

**John Foskin (M.M)
& Charles Murray**

Last Sunday's Collection

€2,616
Thank you for your generous offering

Recent Baptisms

We welcome *Eva Ng*,
Muireann Patricia Cooke,
 and *Adam Purcell* who were baptised recently. Please keep them, their parents and godparents in your prayers.

**A Morning Prayer Group—
Prayer & Praise**

A Morning Prayer Group—Prayer & Praise—takes place every Thursday in the Parish Centre attached to St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church, Waterford shortly after the 10.30am Mass. All welcome.

Gaultier Camogie Club,
 Annual Christmas fundraiser takes place this Sunday, December 11th in Jack Meade's. Activities start at 2pm. All welcome !!!

Blessed Sacrament Adoration

On Wednesday 14th Dec, Adoration will take place after the 10.30am Mass until 2pm only. There will be no further Adoration until the normal schedule resumes on Jan 11th.

**Christmas Reflection at
St. John's Pastoral Centre**

Wednesday 21st Dec, 7.30-8.30pm. Facilitators; Antoinette Dilworth rsj & Ann O'Farrell. An opportunity to slow down our hurried pace of life to prepare our minds and hearts to receive the gift of Emmanuel.

Christmas in Benildus

An evening of Music & Readings on a Christmas Theme.

Guest Presenter: Gerry Kane

Weds 21st Dec, at 7.30pm in St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church.

Featuring international artists : Niamh Murray, Dominic McGorian, Valerie Leahy, Jacob Shaw, David Lau Magnussen & Eugenia Ottaviano.

Waterford's top choral groups: Dordán, Ad Hoc Chorale, Trinity Gospel Singers, St. Joseph & St. Benildus Parish Choirs.

Details: Parish Office, 051 878977. Tickets 15euro.

Concert & Raffle tickets

Tickets for the "Christmas in Benildus" concert, as well as Raffle tickets, will be on sale after all Masses this weekend.

They are also available via the Parish office. 051 878977.

Concert tickets: 15euro each.

Raffle tickets: 2euro each, or 6 for 10euro.

Exploring the Christian Faith

Series of Ten Sessions : Ten DVDs, each exploring different aspects of faith. Includes discussion & reflective sharing.

Dec 14th: Mary the Mother of God. Come and explore the mystery of the incarnation. ALL ARE WELCOME, ESPECIALLY PEOPLE WISHING TO EXPLORE THEIR RELIGIOUS FAITH AND THOSE STRUGGLING WITH THEIR FAITH. 7.30pm—9.00pm. St. Joseph & St. Benildus Parish Centre.

Christmas Mass Times

The Vigil Mass in both St. Mary's Church, Ballygunner and the Church of St. Joseph & St. Benildus will be at 9.00pm Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, Mass will be celebrated in the Church of St. Joseph & St. Benildus at 10.00am and 12noon. Christmas Day Mass will be celebrated in St. Mary's at 11.00am.

Service of Reconciliation

A Service of Reconciliation will take place in St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church on Monday 12th December at 7.30pm. The Service will involve Reflections, Readings and Hymns, as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Please remember in your prayers those who died about a month ago

John Foskin

and those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur:

Edward Nevins, Michael Higgins,

Jackie Goode, Rose O'Connor,

Bridget Butler, Sharon O'Neill,

Breda Brady (& son & daughter),

Mary Kennedy, Eamon Lahart, Amy Cooke.

Newsletter Notes: This Newsletter welcomes any notices presented for non-profit making events, subject to certain conditions. Items for inclusion may be handed into the sacristy at St Joseph & St Benildus Church. **The deadline, however, is every Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.** We are particularly grateful to **Intercom** for resources used in this publication. All details included in this issue were correct at time of going to print.