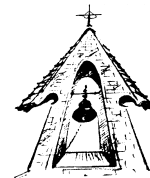


Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland



NEWSLETTER
Fourth Sunday in Advent

18th December 2016
Volume XV 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

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 & 9pm

Sunday 10.00 am & 12pm

St. Mary's Ballygunner

Saturday: 9.00pm

Sunday: 11am

Gospel reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
'Count Me In.'

Our Nativity scenes show Mary smiling fondly at the newborn baby Jesus and Joseph looking protective and relaxed as though bringing up the Son of God might be the most normal thing in the world. The couple look like they have slipped into the history books with the greatest of ease, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Without the benefit of hindsight, things must have felt very different. Mary was taking terrible risks by saying 'yes' to God's plan, yet without her agreement the history of salvation would have looked very different.

Joseph's agreement to God's plan was of equal importance. Without Joseph, Mary would have had no one to support her. Without Joseph, Mary would not even have been accepted. Without Joseph, Jesus would have had no family in which to grow up.

It is a tribute Mary and Joseph's faith that they were prepared to accept what was being asked of them without the faintest idea of where God's plan might take them.

The interesting lesson to learn is that what might originally seemed to have been difficult demands on the couple turned out to be gifts of hope and joy and love, not in a 'happy ever after' kind of way, but in a 'lasting fulfilment' kind of way.

We too are part of God's plan. We too have a part to play in leaving the world a better place than we found it. The challenge is to discover what God is asking us to do, and to say 'Count me in' to his plan wherever that plan might take us.

If you wish to prepare
next Sunday's

Readings:

Christmas Day

Is 52:7-10.

Ps 97:1-6.

Heb 1:1-6.

Jn 1:1-18.

Please see
 above listings
 (and overleaf)
 for details of
 Church Services
 in the parish this
 Christmas.

MASSES

17th/18th Dec 2016

St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church

6.30 pm (Sat)

Frank Coughlan

10 am (Sun)

Margaret (Peg) Power

12.00 Noon (Sun)

**Tom & Joan Foskin
& Patrick Gahan**

St Mary's Church

7.00pm (Sat)

Gary Murphy

11.00am (Sun)

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

Last Sunday's Collection

€3,038
Thank you for your generous offering

Confessions:

St. Joseph & Benildus Church:
 after 10.30am Mass Mon-Fri this week, and on Sat Dec 24th from 11am-1pm.

St. Mary's: Sat 24th from 12-1pm.

Community Employment Programme
St. Joseph & Benildus Parish, Waterford City.

Clerical Assistant – CE 2022237
 Clerical Assistant needed to work on this scheme in our parish.

Duties to include: dealing with the public in person & on the phone; inputting of historic records on computer; issuing certificates & all other admin duties. Computer skills desirable. Please note: applicants must be eligible for CE Scheme. Please contact Parish Office for details: 051 878977

Blessed Sacrament Adoration

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

The concluding DVD in the series will be presented on Wednesday

Jan 4th 2017. **Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas**

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. **Please note, there will be no children's Mass in either church on Christmas Eve.***

Lightfever

A Lightfever event will be held in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity on Friday Dec 23rd, from after the 5.30pm Mass & finishing at 9.30pm.

Lightfever is an evening of "Open Church" where street missionaries go in pairs onto the streets & invite people to experience a special atmosphere of music, prayer & candlelight. Come & leave as you want.

Coffee Morning

The weekly Coffee Morning will resume its usual schedule (Wednesday after 10.30am Mass) on January 11th 2017.

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

John Foskin

and those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur:

Brendan Lea, Jack & Claire O'Brien, Frank Hutchinson, John Bradley, Fr. Celestine O'Leary, Bridget Kennedy, Brian Fitzgerald, Anthony Coakley, Martin Sullivan, Noeleen Lonergan, Thomas Broderick.

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.