



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



**NEWSLETTER
Christmas Day**

25th December 2016
Volume XV Number 5

PARISH INFORMATION

PRIESTS

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Newsletter Team:

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MASSES THIS WEEK

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

Mon 10.30am

Tues 10.30am

Wed 10.30 am

Thurs 10.30am

Fri 10.30am

Sat 10.30 am & 6.30pm

Sunday 10.00 am & 12pm

St. Mary's Ballygunner

Saturday: 7pm

Sunday: 11am

Gospel Reflection for The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Spirit



You've done it! The hysteria is over and you have arrived at Christmas Day without too much physical or psychological harm. It's all too easy at this point to collapse in a heap with the Radio Times and an overly large sherry feeling that Christmas is safely over for another year.

But Christmas is more than just the culmination of Advent; it's the beginning of the Christmas Season, in which we are invited to contemplate on salvation "made flesh". As children we visited church on Christmas day to sing Christmas carols and peep in at the cosy crib scene. As adults we are invited to contemplate the deeper and long lasting meaning of Christmas.

How many times have we been guilty of thinking of God as a distant figure? How often have we wandered how to develop a relationship with a God who is supposed to love us, yet remains stubbornly silent and invisible. But on this day over twenty centuries ago, there was something of a miracle. God was no longer somebody we couldn't see or hear, God became "flesh" in the form a small child in a stable. God came into the world that he had created to save us.

Jesus is the face and voice of God. Jesus became the blueprint of how we should live our lives. His life and work is there for us all to read and remember. He has left the Holy Spirit as his legacy to help and guide us. Our acceptance of Jesus is key to our relationship with God.

We wish all our parishioners a Nollaig Shona, and every blessing for the Christmas season.

**Blessed Sacrament
Adoration**

There will be no further Adoration until the normal schedule resumes on Jan 11th.

Coffee Morning

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

Exploring the Christian Faith

The concluding DVD in the series will be presented on Wednesday Jan 4th 2017.

Thursday Prayer Group

Will resume after 10.30am Mass on January 11th.

Change to Daily Mass Schedule

Please note that there will be no 7.30am Monday to Friday daily Mass in St Joseph & St. Benildus Church from Friday 23rd Dec until Monday Jan 9th.

Last Sunday's Collection**€2,852*****Thank you for your generous offering*****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.

No evening Mass Christmas Day.

St Stephen's Day Mass 10.30am St Joseph & Benildus.

Masses next weekend
St. Joseph & Benildus

Sat 31st Dec 6.30pm : Michael Kearney

Sunday 10.00 & 12noon

St. Mary's

Sat 31st Dec 7pm: Kay Currid

Sunday 1st Jan 11.00am :

Mary Cummins

Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur

***Thomas Broderick,
Claire & Jack O'Brien,
Tom Mc Donagh,
Michael Kearney,
Mary Cummins,
Kay Currid***

At this time of year, the priests of the parish, Fr. John, Fr. Ray and myself wish to thank most sincerely all those who serve our Parish Community and help to build it up through their various ministries, enabling it to be as faithfilled, welcoming, inclusive and supportive as possible.

I begin with members of the Parish staff, Anne and Betty in the Parish Office, Christy and Tess, church maintenance, and a very special thanks to Tom O'Brien who acts as Parish Manager in a totally voluntary capacity, and without whose expertise the Parish would struggle to stay out of NAMA, given the extent of the current Parish Debt. Tom also chairs the Parish Finance Council.

We thank our Sacristans, Betty Flynn, Martha Flood, Vincent Walsh and Gerry Grant, (& David Butler who is helping at Christmas).

In relation to ministry, we must begin with our Parish Pastoral Council, under the Chair of Denise Hughes. Next we thank all involved in Liturgical Ministry: The Parish Liturgy Group, Chaired by Mary Lawrence. The Parish Choirs, with Directors Br. Ben, Sr. Úna, Dr. Joe O'Beirne and Anne Coady.

- Eucharistic Ministers,
- Ministers of the Word,
- Basket Collectors,
- Welcoming Committee,
- Altar Society,
- Flower Arrangers,
- Altar Servers
- Blessed Sacrament Adoration Group,
- Prayer Group.

We are grateful to the Adult Faith Formation Group under the Chair of Denise Hughes, and the Baptism Preparation Team.

Thanks to the Parish Maintenance and Support Ministries:

- Counters,
- St. Mary's Church Committee,
- Envelope Distributors.

We also appreciate the tremendous commitment shown by the Outreach Ministries:

- St. Vincent de Paul Society,
- Hospitality Group,
- Visitation Group.

Last, but not least, we thank our Communications Ministry, responsible for our Newsletter and Website, which are produced and updated each week by Angeline with the support of Deirdre . With every good wish for Christmas & the New Year :

Fr. Liam

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.