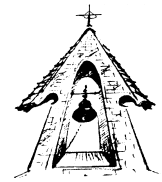




**Parish of St. Joseph & St. Benildus and St. Mary's
Newtown Road, Waterford City, Ireland**



NEWSLETTER

15th January 2017
Volume XV Number 8

PARISH INFORMATION

PRIESTS

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Newsletter Team:

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MASSES THIS WEEK

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

Mon 7.30am & 10.30am
Tues 7.30am & 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: 7pm
Sunday: 11am

**Gospel reflection for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Sunday 15th January)
Any Witnesses?**

There are those in our society who stand head and shoulders above the rest of us ... great entrepreneurs, politicians, writers, scientists and humanitarians. We look up to these people and wish that we were more like them. When interviewed, these great people might pass some of the credit for their success on to a teacher who has made a big impression on them, an influential mentor, or a family member.

Bearing witness is essential. Without witnesses we would know nothing of Jesus. Without John the Baptist, without the disciples, without the writers of the gospels, we would not have Jesus' teachings today. Without our parents and teachers, we would never have learned our first bible stories. Yet there are plenty of people in our world that would still benefit from Jesus' philosophy for living. There are plenty of people still consumed by greed, hate, crime obsession and misery. There are plenty of people who could still benefit from Jesus' teaching if only we as Jesus' witnesses could bring it about.

So why do we hesitate to bear witness? Well, first of all there's something about bearing witness that makes us feel uncomfortable. No one wants to be Eastenders' Dot Cotton visiting her neighbours with timely bible references. No one wants to be the man in the city centre wearing the biblical billboards. No one wants to be the woman with her foot wedged in the front door predicting the end of the world. Yet all these people are well meaning and trying to get God's message across in the best way they know how.

If these aren't the ways that we would choose then perhaps we can find other more imaginative ways, rather than do nothing at all. The challenge we are offered today is to reach those people who remain unaffected by God in ever new and more imaginative ways.

**If you wish to prepare next
Sunday's Readings:
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 8:23-9:3.
Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14.
1 Cor 1:10-13, 17.
Mt 4: 12-23.**

MASSES

St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church
6.30 pm (Sat)

10.00am (Sun)

12.00pm (Sun)

St Mary's Church
7.00pm (Sat)

11.00am (Sun)

14th/15th Jan 2017

Stephen Rogers

**Nora Tobin (M.M)
Brendan Maddock**

John Gear

Margaret Hogan

21st/22nd Jan 2017

Tom Keane

**Tim Walsh
& Jerry Harrington**

Niall Byrne

Kevin Higgins

Jimmy O'Neill

Last Sunday's Collection

€2,993

*Thank you for your generous offering***Traditional Latin Mass,
Waterford Cathedral.**

A traditional Latin Mass with Gregorian Chant will be celebrated on Sunday 22nd January at 10.00am in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Barronstrand Street, Waterford. Celebrant: Fr. Andrzej Komorowski, FSSP.

Adult Faith Series

We would like to thank all those who attended any or all of the sessions. It was indeed an enriching experience in so many ways for all of us. In the future, we hope to have similar sessions on Faith. *Keep an eye on the Newsletter for further details.*

Saint Ita

St. Ita was born in Co. Waterford of noble and Christian parents. Early on, she set about serving Christ in religious life. She founded a monastery in Kileedy, Co. Limerick. She died in 570 AD.

Parish Liturgy Group

The Parish Liturgy Group meets once a month, and organises various church celebrations, for example the Harvest Mass and Good Friday ceremonies. It is a most rewarding group to be involved with. We would like to encourage more parishioners to become involved in the Liturgy in both churches. Please contact the Parish Office if interested. 051878977.

Lasallian Projects: Volunteers Needed

Lasallian Projects are appealing for any people interested in volunteering to help construct a multi-purpose hall in Awo in Northern Ethiopia for the month of July. It will be a life-changing experience. If you are interested, or know anyone who is, don't hesitate to contact Br. Thomas Walsh at brt@hotmail.com or 086 345 3092. The website is www.ldwp.org for further information, and to learn what we have done over the last 30 years.

Retrouvaille: Marriage Renewal

*Retrouvaille is a non-profit organisation with a Catholic ethos, helping marriages. It is run by married couples and supported by priests, who are passionate about the marriage ministry, with no salaried positions. Retrouvaille is committed to continue to work closely with the Church and the World Meeting of Family team. **Our next programme takes place 10-12th February 2017 in Swords, Co. Dublin.** For information contact Tony & Anne (01) 495 3536, Mike & Anne (01) 450 0922, text or call 086 413 5440, or email info@retrouvaille.ie or visit www.retrouvaille.ie.*

**From a Message from Bishop John Buckley for
World Day of Migrants & Refugees**

Today, millions are displaced by war and hunger and oppression. We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life around the Mediterranean as desperate migrants try to enter the EU. Some will be coming to this country. They are hoping that Ireland will be a place where they can be safe and can begin to rebuild their lives. It is important that the local church be at the forefront of efforts to welcome them.

In one of the key phrases of Chapter 5 of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said "I was a stranger & you took me in". In the bible we are repeatedly told to welcome the stranger. The Old Testament says "you shall love the stranger for you are strangers in Egypt". (Deuteronomy). We Irish have much to learn from this. The Lord will say to us, Remember you too were treated harshly abroad, building London's underground, the mines of Yorkshire, in the docks in Boston, or in the new cities of Perth & Sydney. Saint Patrick himself was a refugee, a slave, who was trafficked for profit. Pope Francis said that the city, the town, the village that does not welcome the stranger has forgotten to care for itself.

Sunday is therefore an occasion to heighten our awareness of this phenomenon of immigration and the challenges facing immigrants to our country. Obviously we respect the rights of the State to devise procedures to address it. It is an occasion to pray for all who are experiencing great suffering, remembering especially, the persecuted Christians of the Middle East and Africa.

Bishop John Buckley is Bishop of Cork and Ross.

Please pray for the following who died recently

Nancy O'Leary

Those who died about a month ago

Nora Tobin

And those whose anniversaries or birthdays occur:

Eamonn & Noel Long, Nancy Daly,

Michael Wallis, Tom Coffey,

Margaret Gretta Walsh,

Robert Harte

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.