



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



**NEWSLETTER**  
Second Sunday in Advent

**4th December 2016**  
Volume XV Number 2

**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:  
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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 & Vigil  
**6.30pm**  
Thurs **11.00am ( Dec 8th )**  
Fri 7.30am & 10.30am  
Sat 10.30 am & 6.30pm  
Sunday 10.00 am & 12pm  
**St. Mary's Ballygunner**  
**Wed 7pm: Vigil**  
**Thurs Dec 8th: 11.00am**  
Saturday: 7.00pm  
Sunday: 11am

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

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Is 35:1-6, 10.**  
**Ps 145:6-10.**  
**Jas 5: 7-10.**  
**Mt 11:2-11.**

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Change of Heart**

We embark on a diet and the days of lettuce and low calorie drinks loom gloomily. We embark on a fitness regime and our subconscious whispers, "Fifteen more minutes under a warm duvet versus a jog round a freezing park .... I know what I'd choose!"

In today's gospel, John the Baptist preaches "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The idea of 'repentance' fills us with about as much excitement as a cold shower on a winter's morning, but it doesn't have to be like that. Diets, fitness regimes and repentance all have one thing in common .... we emerge as new people at the end. Repentance doesn't mean throwing ourselves round in fits of Catholic guilt, it simply means having a change of heart, and becoming new and better individuals as a result. There are areas in all our lives that can be improved or turned around. The idea of repentance is actually quite exciting.

John's Advent call for a change of heart is for each and every one of us. We might think we are good enough as we are, but that's probably how the Pharisees and Sadducees in today's reading also felt. True enough they turned up for John's baptism, but had they really turned up in a spirit of repentance? John is clearly suspicious of their motivation, and challenges them to prove their commitment. Declaring our intention to change is all well and good, but our commitment must also 'bear fruit' ... show results.

At this time of year, every year, we are asked to change our lives. For the less optimistic amongst us, the idea reminds us of new year resolutions; easily made, easily broken and all a little bit pointless. John's message is a tough one. Changing our lives is far from easy. One of the problems of course is that when we try to change we usually rely solely on our own will power, which is notorious for letting us down. John the Baptist reminds us that when we are baptised in the name of Jesus we will receive the Holy Spirit, a divine power that will help us towards God when our will power fails. All we have to do is ask and keep on asking.

Change is not beyond any of us. John might have given the Pharisees and Sadducees a hard time but in truth the message is clear. "There is none so lost, they cannot be found, none so helpless that their life cannot be changed."

**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 )**

**3rd/4th Dec 2016**

**Jim Whelan**

**Anne Robinson**

**Séamus & Eileen Lennon**

**Marie Cullinan  
& Kitty Sullivan**

**Pat Flynn ( M.M )  
& Paddy Dempsey**

**10th/11th Dec 2016**

**Helen Lewsley**

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

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

**Helen & Margaret Power**

**Kathleen Power**

**Last Sunday's Collection**

**€2,422**  
*Thank you for your generous offering*

**Recent Baptisms**

We welcome

*Scott John Anthony Tobin,*

*Josh Martin McGrath,*

*Katie Louise Power,*

*Harry Denis Weir,*

and *James Gilbert*, 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 this Thursday in the Parish Centre attached to St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church, Waterford shortly after the 11.00am Mass ( Dec 8th )

**Advent Calendar:** the link for the Advent Calendar is [www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar).

**Waterford Monthly Bereavement Support Group**

The December meeting will take place on Wednesday 14th, from 7.30-9.30pm, in Slí na gCroí, Chapel Lane, Dunhill, Co. Waterford.  
 Further information: 085 7798288

**Ethical Christmas Shopping**

Some charities now run a 'virtual Christmas present' scheme. You buy a goat, or food for a family, a mosquito net or a survival kit.... your loved one gets a card to say that their present has been shared with someone who really needs it. Ideal for the person who has everything! Do your ethical shopping at Trocaire .

**St. John the Baptist**

John the Baptist is a prophetic voice for all ages. His message speaks to us today.

**Live Streaming,  
 St. Joseph & St. Benildus &  
 St. Mary's Church Services**

Live services from these Churches are available on:

<http://jbmparish.com> *and*

[www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford](http://www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford)

[www.churchservices.tv/stmarysballygunner](http://www.churchservices.tv/stmarysballygunner)

**Exploring the Christian Faith**

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

**Session 9: Dec 7th: Prayer: How does our encounter with Christ transform us? Come and explore together.**

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.

Dec 7th and 14th.

**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.

**Change in Holyday Mass Times**

On Holydays in the future, there will be one Mass in the church of St. Joseph & Benildus on the day, at 11.00am. This replaces the 10.00am & 12noon Masses.

The Vigil Masses continue as normal in both churches. ***This will come into effect on Dec 8th. The usual Holyday 11.00am Mass will take place in St. Mary's.***

**NET Ministries Team**

We welcome the NET Ministries Team of young people who will speak at all Masses this weekend about their mission to youth in the Diocese.

On Sept 1st a new convent of three sisters of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart opened on John's Hill, Waterford. Srs. John Catherine, Catherine & Colleen are now living, praying and working here. Please keep them in your prayers. May they be happy in their new home and serve the Lord fruitfully.

Please remember in your prayers those who died recently  
***John Byrne ( Kings Langley, UK., & Waterford )***

Those who died about a month ago

***Catherine Connolly, Pat Flynn***

and those whose anniversaries and birthdays occur:

***Kevin Doyle, Malachy Heffernan, Michael Troy,  
 Denis & Sarah Murphy, May, Bob & Maeve Quinn,  
 Moira Coady, Kate & Pierce Dalton,  
 Nancy O'Gorman, Agnes Rea, Kathleen Quinlan.***

**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.