

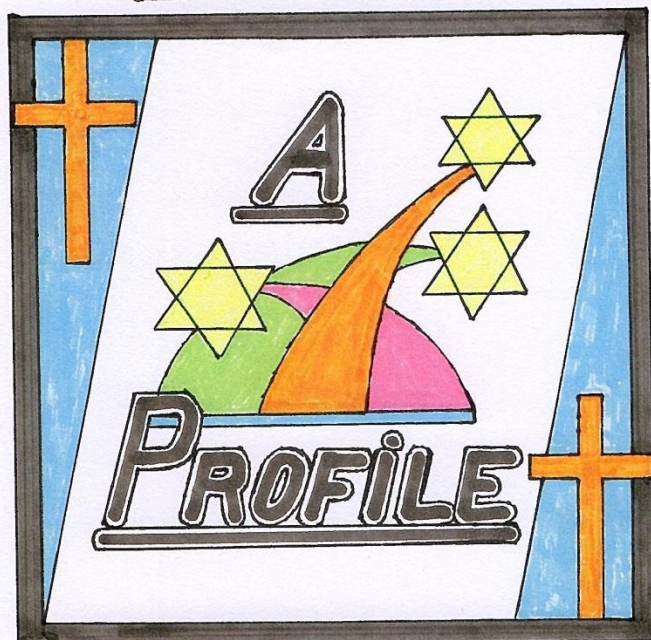
PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH & BENILDUS & ST. MARY'S




PARISH PROFILE

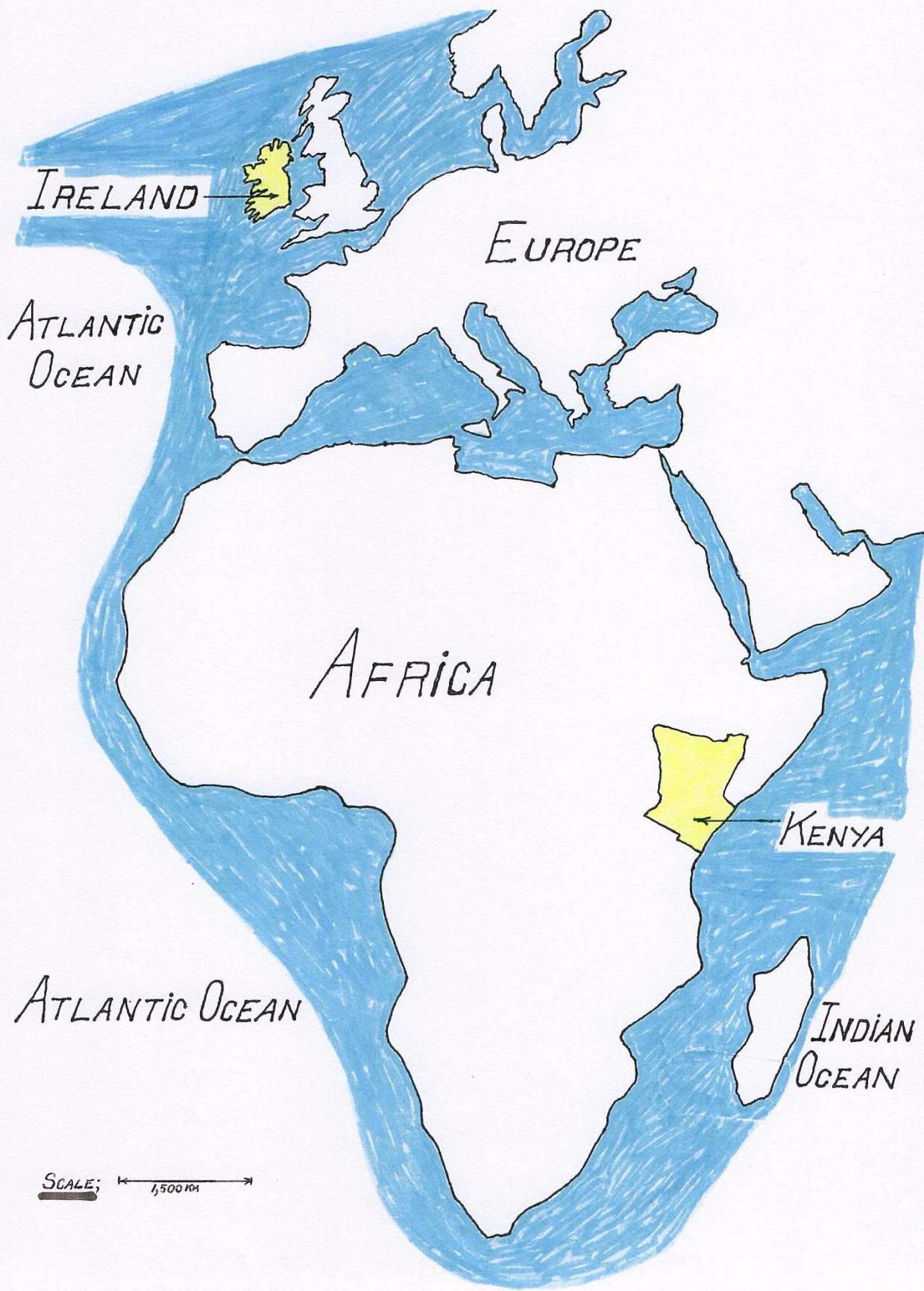


PARISH
OF
ST. JOSEPH'S, ST. BENILDUS' & ST. MARY'S
(DIOCESE OF LISMORE & WATERFORD)



 IRELAND

— 2017 — 



IRELAND

EUROPE

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

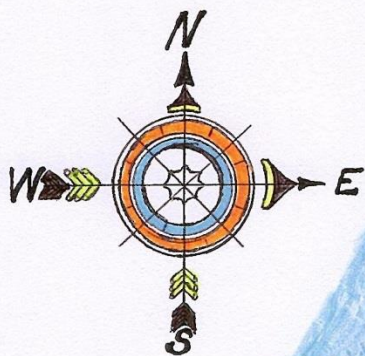
AFRICA

KENYA

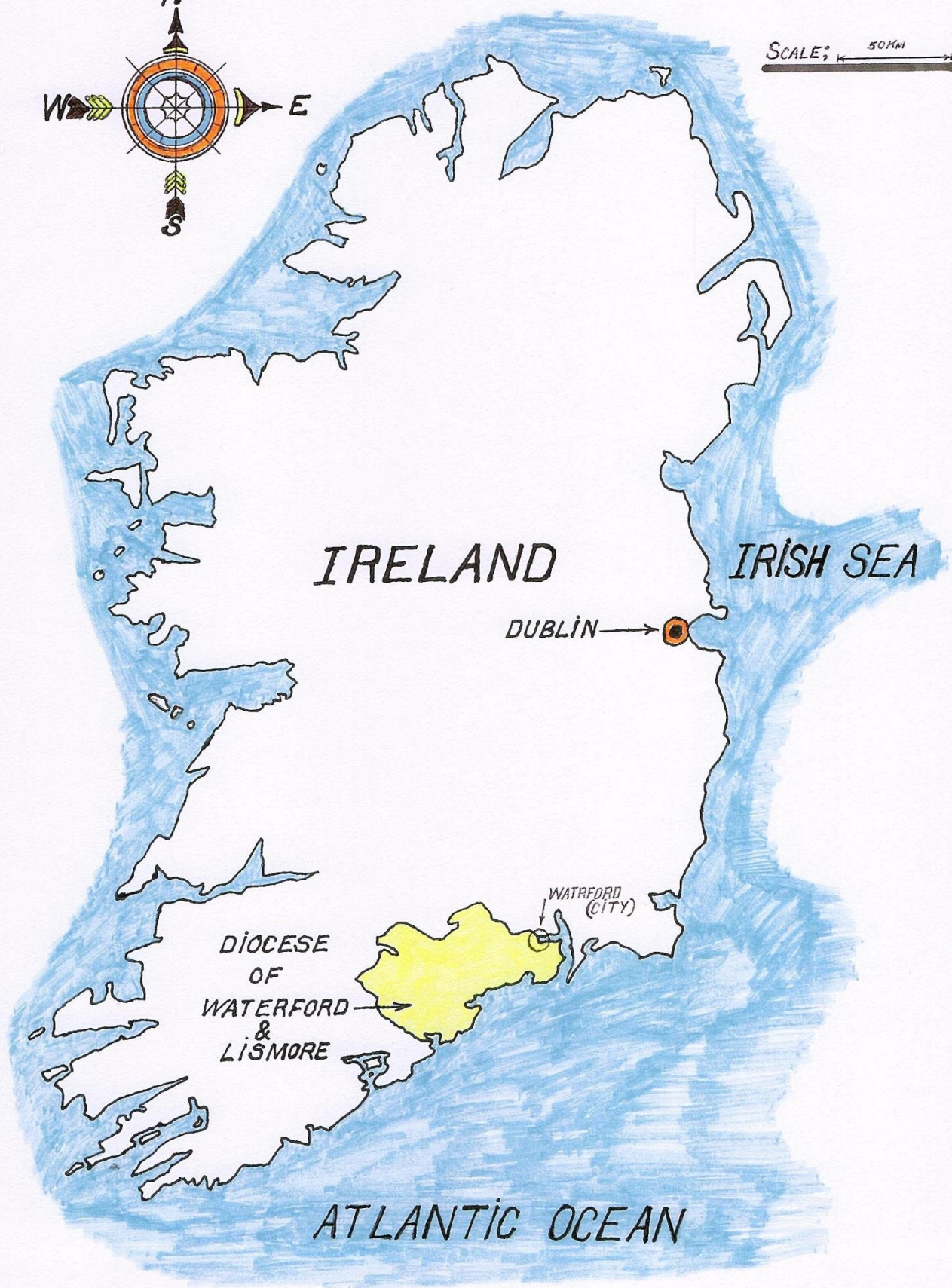
ATLANTIC OCEAN

INDIAN
OCEAN

SCALE; 1,500 km



SCALE: 50KM



Diocese of Cashal & Emlly

SCALE; 10 KM

Diocese of Ossory

Waterford City

Diocese of Ferns

PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH'S,
ST. BENILDUS & ST. MARY'S

Diocese

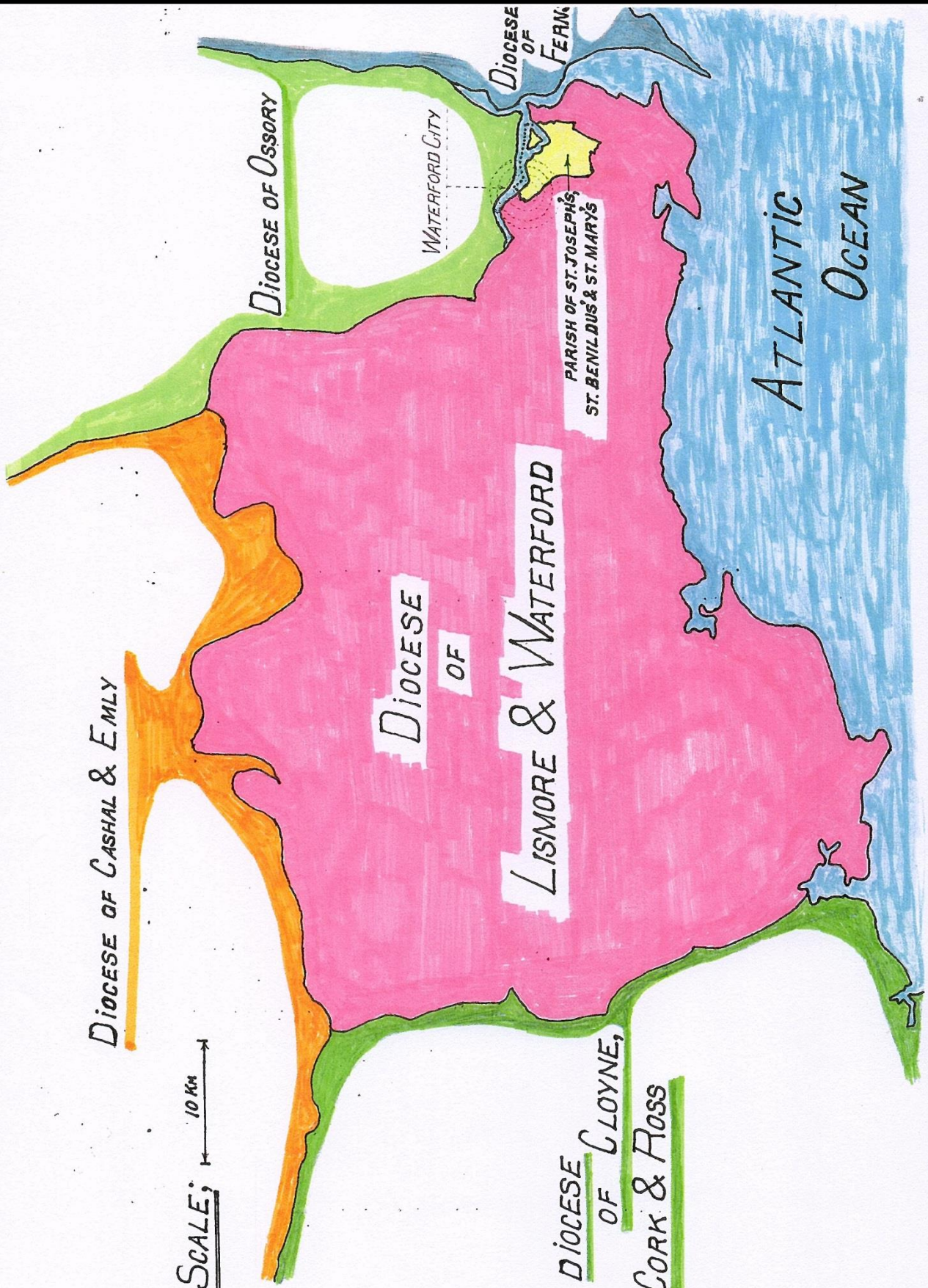
OF

Lismore & Waterford

Diocese
OF Cloyne,

Cork & Ross

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

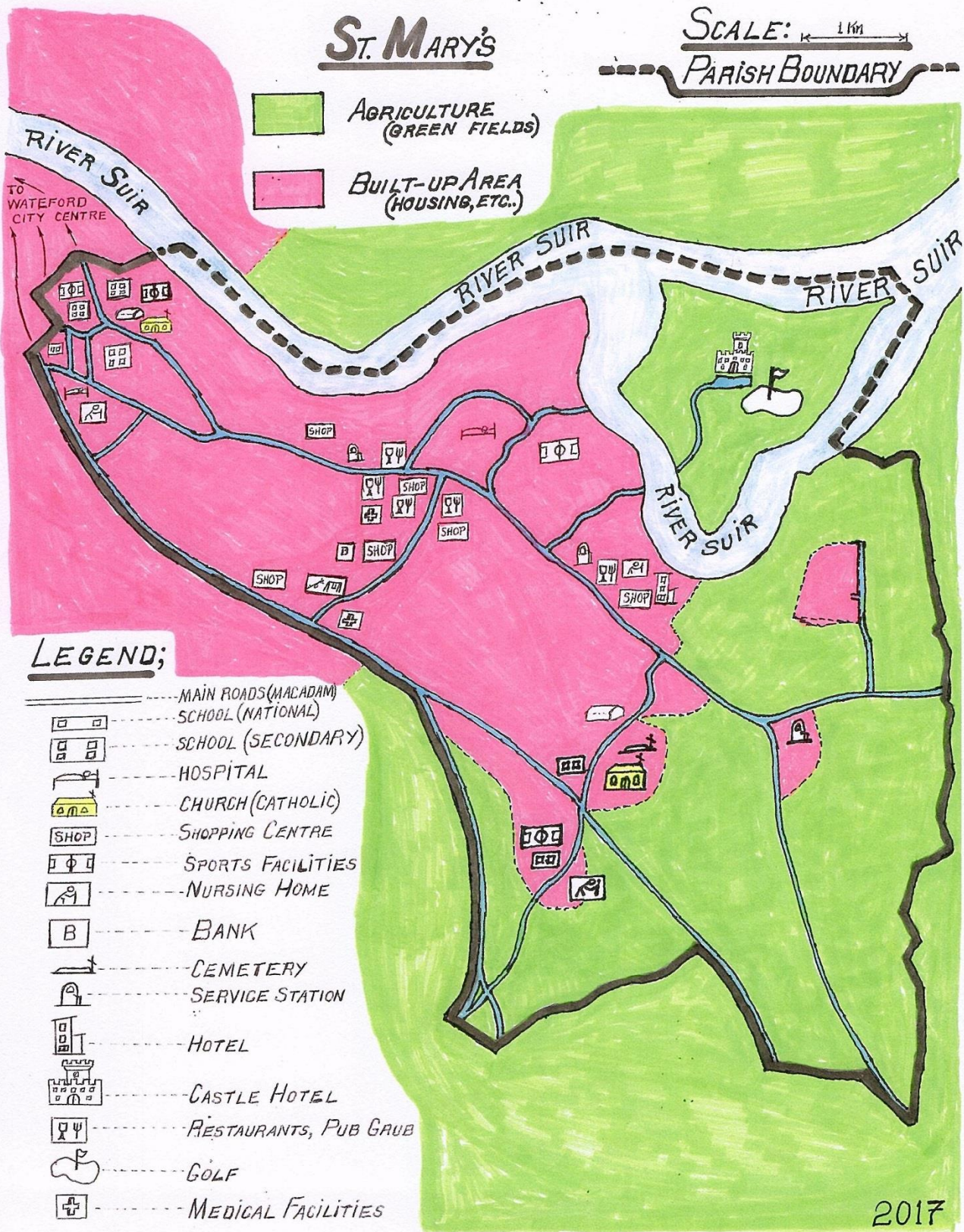


PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH'S & ST. BENILDUS'

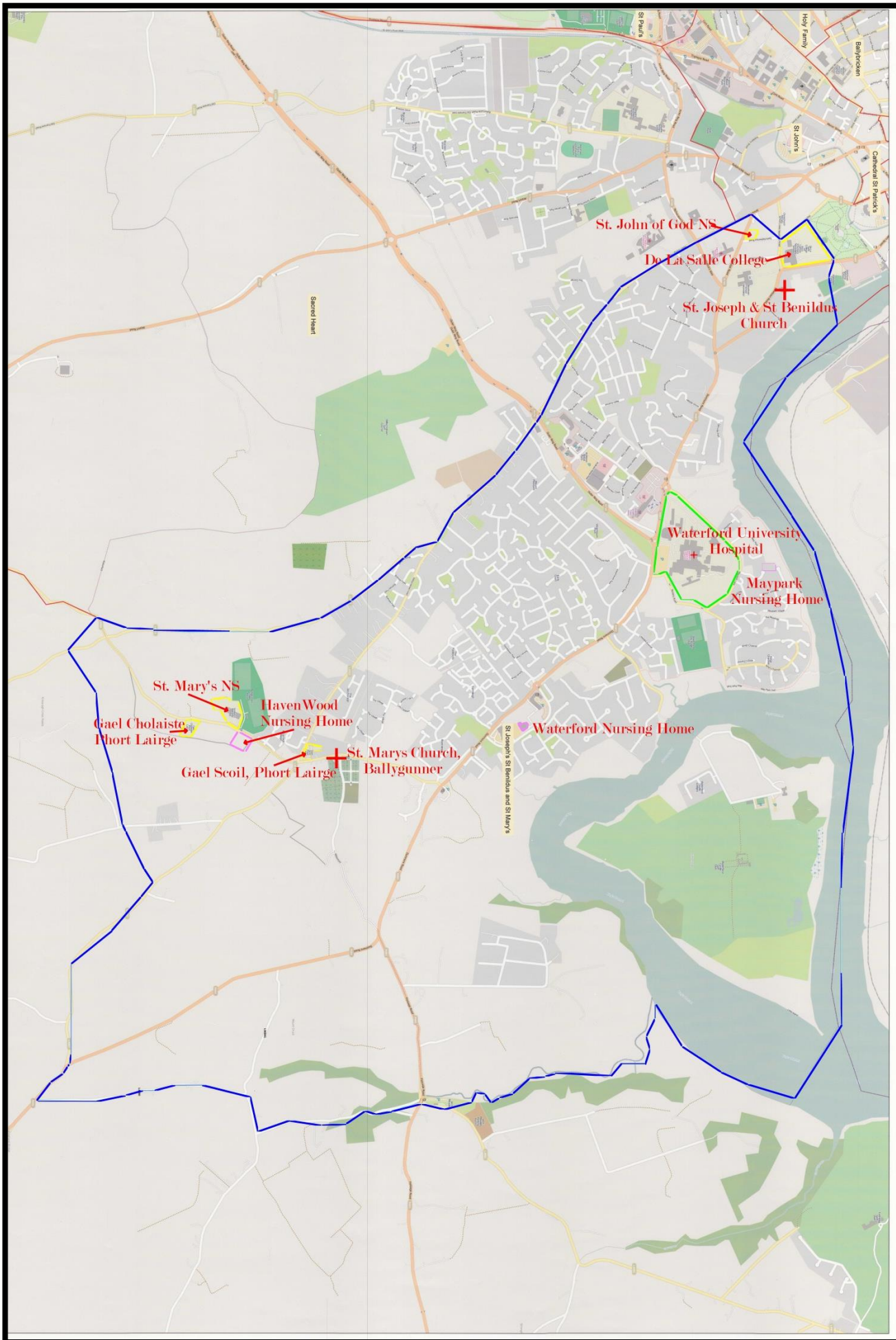
ST. MARY'S

SCALE: 1 km

PARISH BOUNDARY



2017



St. Joseph, St. Benildus & St. Mary's Parish

Our parish is the largest parish in the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore. The Central Statistics Office, records 13,751 Roman Catholics in our Parish. The Parish is situated in the south-east of Waterford City, it stretches from St Joseph & St Benildus Church on Newtown Road to St Mary's Church in Ballygunner.

The Parish of St Joseph and St Benildus and St Mary's serves over 4,500 families in the area, comprising over 16,000 people approximately. There are two churches in the Parish, St. Joseph & St. Benildus in Newtown and St Mary's Ballygunner. The Church of St Joseph and St Benildus was opened on 19th March 1968 and consecrated on 19th March 1981. The Parish was established in 1974. St. Mary's Ballygunner dates back to the early 18th century

We are a vibrant faith community with many people involved in Administrative, Liturgical, Formation, and Pastoral Ministries.

We are currently engaged in a project to engage the services of a full time lay parish pastoral worker as we are beginning to experience a serious shortage of priests in our diocese. The services of such a worker are badly needed at the moment as we are experiencing a rapid process of secularization in our country and this is evident by a sharp decline in the number attending Masses and the lack of vocations. We will have much to learn from you in relation to evangelization as we have very little experience of this in our diocese.

OUR CHURCHES

ST JOSEPH & ST BENILDUS CHURCH

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil: 6:30pm
Sunday Masses: 10:00am & 12:00p
Confessions: Saturday: 11.00am-12pm
Adoration: Wednesdays – 11.00am 7.00pm
Weekday Masses: Friday: 7.30am & 10.30am
Saturday: 10.30am only
Holy Day: 6.30pm Vigil & 11.00am



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BALLYGUNNER

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil: 7:00pm

Sunday Service: 11.00am

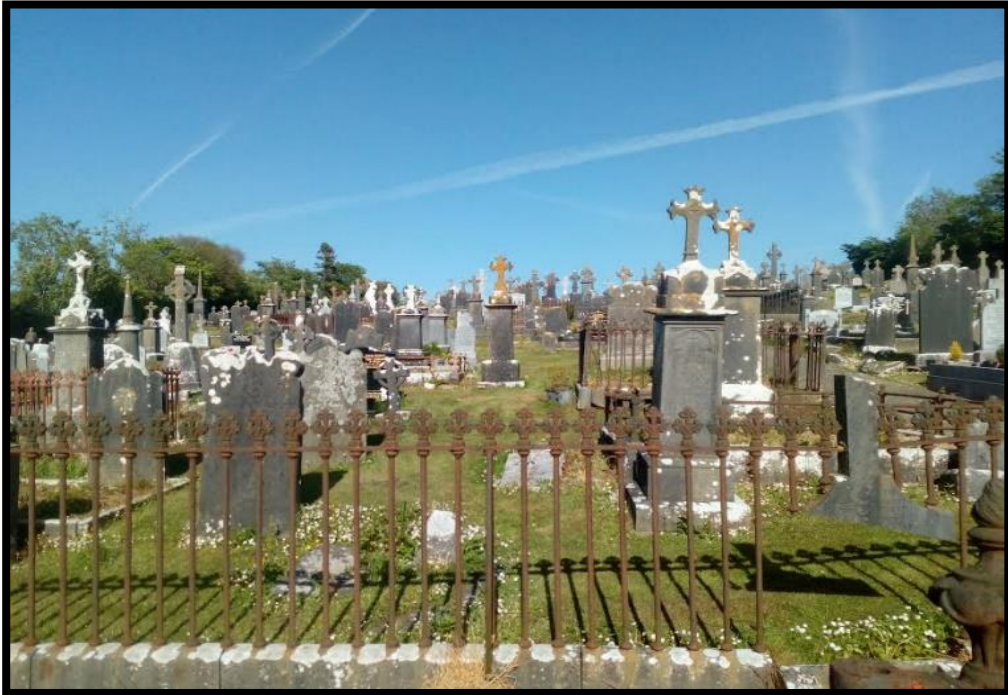
Holy Day: 7.00pm Vigil & 11.00am

Children's Liturgy Service : Every first and third Sunday of month



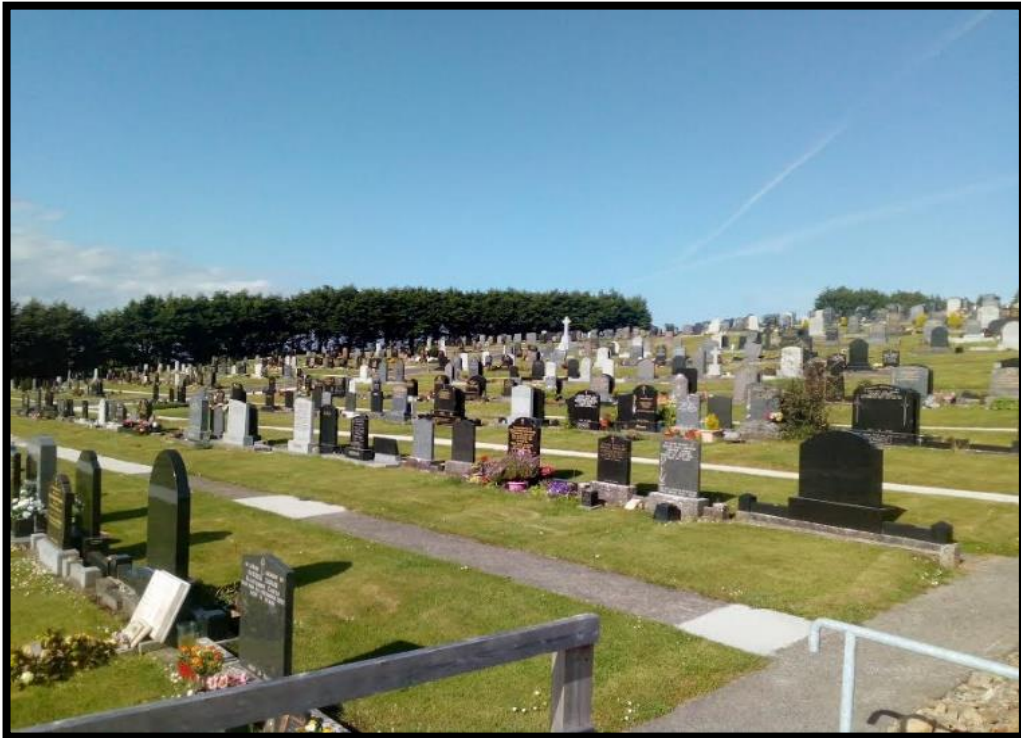
ST. MARY'S CEMETERY, BALLYGUNNER

Old Cemetery



The old Cemetery in Ballygunner dates from the early 1800's

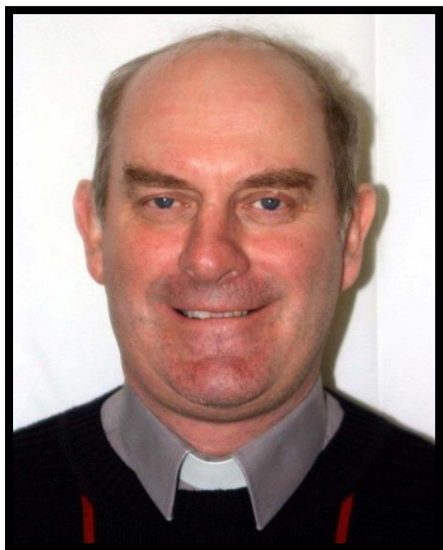
New Cemetery



The new cemetery at Ballygunner was first opened in 1992 and new sections are currently being developed as the cemetery has reached its capacity. A cemetery Mass for all those interred in St. Mary's Cemetery is celebrated every year during the month of June and also in November

OUR PRIESTS

Fr. Liam Power PP



The Very Rev. Liam Power was ordained in 1980 and was appointed Parish Priest of Saint Joseph & Saint Benildus in 2013.

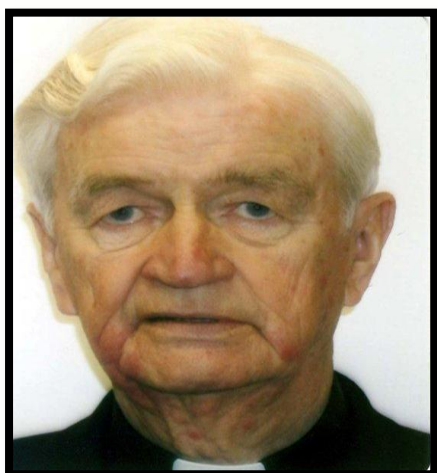
Fr. Liam is also the communications officer with the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore and diocesan director of Pastoral Development.

Fr. John Treacy CC



Rev. John Treacy was ordained in 1993 and has been a curate in St. Joseph and Benildus since 2007. Prior to that Fr. John served as curate in Ballybricken parish in Waterford city and St. Peter & St. Pauls Parish, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Fr. Raymond Liddane AP



The Very Rev J.R. Liddane was ordained on June 19th, 1955 in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Waterford. He was Administrator of St Joseph and St Benildus, & St Mary's Parish from 1979 to 1985.

In 1985, he became the first parish priest appointed to this parish. In 2005, he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his Ordination and continued to serve as parish priest until his retirement in 2008. At present, he serves our parish as Associate Pastor.

OUR PARISH GROUPS

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council meets on the third Wednesday of every month (except July, August and December), in the Parish Centre, St Joseph and St Benildus Church, Newtown, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm or in the Sacristy in St Mary's, Ballygunner

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a leadership group through which priests and other members work together as co-responsible partners in furthering the mission of Christ in our parish. Through this partnership the council aims to build up a vibrant Christian community in our parish, rooted in baptism and marked by its faith, worship and service.

Parish Finance Council

The Parish Finance Council is a consultative body of laypersons established to advise the parish priest in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the parish. It is responsible for the formation of financial policies, including the devising and regular monitoring of a parish budget, and policies for the proper maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the parish. The Finance Council is an advisory council to the Parish Priest.

Since its establishment, the Finance Council has been involved in the provision of a Parish Centre, the maintenance of both Churches and the development and expansion of the new graveyard. In addition they were involved in the provision of two car parks, one at each of the Churches and in the enlargement and improvement of St Mary's Ballygunner

Parish Liturgy Team

The Parish Liturgy Committee meets on the second Monday of each month in the Parish Centre. The Parish Liturgy Committee plans for the liturgical year ahead and ensures that there is initial and on-going formation and support for all liturgical ministers. The committee also evaluates our liturgical celebrations and explores ways of enhancing the active participation of the congregation in the liturgy.

Baptismal team

In our parish, we have a Baptismal Preparation Team. The aim of this group is to help parents understand and prepare for the sacred celebration of Baptism and for the days that follow. Once a parent has booked their child's baptism, a member of our Baptismal Preparation Team will visit their home. This person will welcome the child to the parish and will help the parents to prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Parents are also expected to attend a Baptism Preparation Meeting which are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

Lay Ministries in the Parish

There are over two hundred volunteers active in various ministries in the parish. All parishioners are invited to participate in one or other of the groups.

Groups active in our parish:

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Altar Servers
- Altar Society
- Baptism Team
- Bereavement Group
- Cemetery Committee
- Choirs
- Church Cleaners
- Collectors
- Counters
- Envelope Distributors
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Family Mass & Children's Liturgy
- Finance Council
- Flower Arranging
- Home & Nursing Home Visits
- Hospitality Group
- Liturgy Group
- Ministers of the Eucharist
- Ministers of the Word
- Newsletter
- Parish Pastoral Council
- Parish Pastoral Youth Group
- Prayer Group
- Readers
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Visitation Team
- Wed Morning Social Group
- Welcoming Presence



OUR PASTORAL CENTRE



St. Benildus Pastoral Centre, which is situated adjacent to St Joseph & St Benildus Church, in Newtown, was opened in 1989. A two-storey building, with one large assembly room, two sizeable meetings rooms, and two kitchenettes, it provides an indispensable resource for our parish community. Our Pastoral Centre is a great resource for our community. Many social events take place here weekly.

The following are a list of the groups already availing of Parish Centre facilities:

- Bereavement Support Group
- Cards – Thirty Drive
- Line Dancing
- Montessori School
- Parish Pastoral Council
- Pioneer Total Abstinence Association
- Prayer Group
- St Benildus Bridge Club
- St Vincent de Paul Society, St Joseph & St Benildus Conference
- Tramore & Waterford Flower Club
- Waterford Garden & Plant Society
- Wed Morning Social Group (Coffee Morning)
- Yoga

LIVE STREAMING OF CHURCH SERVICES

We installed 'live streaming' in both our churches in 2016, this allows us to stream services over the internet to those confined to home or care facilities, and those living away from home, to keep in touch with their parish and continue to be part of the local community. It allows our parishioners to view Weddings, Funerals, Music, and all other kinds of events from our Churches.

Changes in the way people live and work, together with increased emigration in recent years, means that people are not always available to attend services in person or at the time they occur.

The live streaming service allows us to overcome this problem and expand our reach to a much wider online congregation to:

- Allow parishioners view services live free of charge from anywhere in the world
- Record, upload and view events that are special to our parish e.g. weddings, funerals, concerts, baptisms, mini documentaries etc.
- Inform people of parish news as and when it happens.
- Expand the reach of our parish.
- Place the parish back in the centre of society – electronically



EDUCATION IN IRELAND

Education is compulsory for children in Ireland from the ages of six to sixteen or until students have completed three years of second-level education.

The Irish education system is made up of:

Early Childhood

The compulsory school age in Ireland is 6 and all forms of pre-primary education are optional. However, children from the age of 4 can be enrolled in infant classes in primary schools. Nearly 40% of 4-year-olds and virtually all 5-year-olds attend primary school, where early education is provided in infant classes.

Primary

The primary education sector includes state-funded primary schools, special schools and private primary schools. The state-funded schools include religious schools, non-denominational schools, multi-denominational schools and Gaelscoileanna (Irish-medium schools). For historical reasons, most primary schools are state-aided parish schools, although this pattern is changing. The state pays the bulk of the building and running costs of state-funded primary schools, but a local contribution is made towards their running costs. Teachers' salaries are paid by the Department of Education and Skills, and the schools are inspected by the Department's Inspectorate. Although children are not obliged to attend school until the age of six, almost all children begin school in the September following their fourth birthday. Nearly 40% of four-year-olds and almost all five-year-olds are enrolled in infant classes in primary schools (sometimes called national schools). Primary education consists of an eight year cycle: junior infants, senior infants, and first to sixth classes. Pupils normally transfer to post-primary education at the age of twelve.

Post Primary

The post-primary education sector comprises secondary, vocational, community and comprehensive schools. Secondary schools are privately owned and managed. Vocational schools are state-established and administered by Education and Training Boards (ETBs), while community and comprehensive schools are managed by Boards of Management of differing compositions.

Post-primary education consists of a three-year Junior Cycle (lower secondary), followed by a two or three year Senior Cycle (upper secondary), depending on whether the optional Transition Year (TY) is taken.

Students usually begin the Junior Cycle at age 12. The Junior Certificate examination is taken after three years. The main objective of the Junior Cycle is for students to complete a broad and balanced curriculum, and to develop the knowledge and skills that will enable them to proceed to Senior Cycle education. A new Framework for Junior Cycle is going to make significant changes to the current Junior Cycle beginning in September 2014.

The Senior Cycle caters for students in the 15 to 18 year age group. It includes an optional Transition Year, which follows immediately after the Junior Cycle. TY provides an opportunity for students to experience a wide range of educational inputs, including work experience, over the course of a year that is free from formal examinations. During the final two years of Senior Cycle students take one of three programmes, each leading to a State Examination: the traditional Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) or the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA).

The Leaving Certificate

The traditional Leaving Certificate examination is the terminal examination of post-primary education and is taken when students are typically 17 or 18 years of age. Syllabuses are available in more than 30 subjects and students are required to take at least five subjects, one of which must be Irish.

OUR SCHOOLS

De La Salle College:

Number of pupils: over 1000

Number of teachers: 70



For over 120 years the De La Salle Brothers have been at the centre of education in Waterford. Today the Lasallian ethos lives on in the biggest boys' school in the country.

“De La Salle College, Waterford, is an all-boys Catholic school. It is a learning community where all students are valued and educated in preparation for a meaningful life”. The purpose of this College is to give a human and Christian education to the young. Inspired by the vision of St. John Baptist De La Salle, the Lasallian school prepares young people to take a mature and productive place in society, and the church as free and responsible citizens.

Gaelcholaiste Phort Láirge

Number of pupils:

Number of teachers:



Gael-Choláiste Phort Láirge is an All Irish Catholic school under the trusteeship of Foras Pátrúnachta scoileanna Lán-Ghaeilge. Priority is given to pupils on the understanding that they are fully accepting of the Catholic, All-Irish ethos of the school.

Gaelcholáiste Phort Láirge was founded in 2007 to enable parents to have their children educated through Irish at secondary level in Waterford. Pupils are accepted on the basis that they fully support the Irish speaking Catholic ethos of the school. We were initially located in The Rugby Club in Kilbarry until June 2011 and in September of that year we moved to Ballygunner. We have a very pleasant country location on the outskirts of the city without any external influences that provide for a special school atmosphere.

St. Mary's National School:

Number of pupils: 634

Number of teachers: 32



St. Mary's NS is a thirty-two teacher, co-educational, vertical primary school, which includes a unit for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs). It is under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Waterford and Lismore. The school has a current enrolment of 634 pupils and the attendance levels of the pupils are excellent.

Gaelscoil Port Láirge, Ballygunner

Number of pupils: 217

Number of teachers: 8



Gaelscoil Port Láirge is an all age mixed school which teaches all subjects through Irish (apart from English) in an attractive, encouraging environment. The children learn Irish through music, play, gestures and rhymes. The children achieve high standards in all curricular areas, including English and are very proud of being able to speak Irish.

St. John of God National School

Number of pupils: 14

Number of Teachers: 260



St John of God is an all-girls Roman Catholic Primary School.

The original St. John of God school was founded in 1897 when a girls' school was set up on Alphonsus' Road in two rented houses. In October 1897, the Bishop opened Saint John of God School. The school had 100 pupils on its first day. The principal was called Sr. Aloysius O'Connell. The school continued in these two houses until 1964. By then it had grown and the two houses were too small for all the pupils. On October 14th 1964, Very Rev. Keane blessed and opened a new extension to the school. This consisted of a block of 10 classrooms, a domestic science room and a library. The ground school of the original building was changed to a hall. The sisters provided free secondary education for girls on the upper floor of the original school from 1943 until 1967. When free education was brought in by the government in 1967

LOCAL AMENITIES

WATERFORD UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL – ARDKEEN

Number of Beds: 545



University Hospital Waterford (formerly known as Ardkeen Hospital, and later Waterford Regional Hospital abbreviated as WRH) is a public teaching hospital located in Waterford city. It is managed by the Irish Government's Health Service Executive and provides acute-care hospital services, including a 24-hour emergency department, for the population of County Waterford and the South East. University College Cork is its primary academic partner, and it is also affiliated with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Waterford Institute of Technology.

The hospital provides 429 beds, of which 71 are reserved for acute day cases. A further 45 beds are for psychiatric services. In-patient services include general medicine, general surgery, accident and emergency, dermatology, nephrology and dialysis, oncology, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynecology, cardiology, pediatrics, endocrinology, geriatrics, rheumatology, orthopaedics, otorhinolaryngology,

haematology, psychiatry, respiratory medicine, anaesthesia, pathology, urology, and radiology.

The hospital is one of the eight cancer centres of the HSE's National Cancer Control Programme and one of two centres in the HSE South Network. Cancer services include chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments at St. Luke's Hospital, Rathgar; Whitfield Centre, Waterford; and Cork University Hospital



There are 3 nursing homes in the parish. We currently have a visitation team who regularly visit the residents of the nursing homes offering support and friendship. Mass is also celebrated in the nursing homes on a regular basis.

Nursing Home – Mowlam (Waterford Nursing Home)

Number of beds: 60



Waterford Nursing Home offers a choice of leisure rooms in which residents can enjoy group activities from the varied and popular entertainment programme. The highly-trained team also provide specialist dementia and end of life care as well as short term respite care.

Waterford Nursing Home has a range of different styles of large, airy rooms with pleasant views. All are warm and comfortable and residents are welcome to bring their own furniture to help them feel even more at home. There are several communal and quiet lounges around the home as well as areas where residents can pursue their hobbies or enjoy therapeutic activities. Residents sit or stroll in the secluded and private landscaped grounds. The Activities Co-ordinator organises both group and one-to-one activities. Many of the residents with dementia find the one-to-one time with staff particularly calming and rewarding.

Maypark Nurshing Home

Number of beds: 42



Maypark House is a private family owned 42 bedded Nursing Home, which stands on a beautiful 12 acre site with views of the River Suir below.

A sweeping tarmacadam drive from Maypark Lane, just off the Dunmore Road leads through lawns and gardens to the main building. With its many pathways and walkways it provides for the optimum in peace and tranquillity.

Maypark House has been designed to accommodate the needs of retired, infirm and sick persons. The facility has the capacity to cater for all levels of mobility which ensures a high quality of care for residents. Maypark House cater for all levels of dependency and also for High Dependency Residents. The aim is to ensure the maximum possible individual care and attention for all Residents of Maypark House.

Maypark House was originally operated as a private hospital and latterly as a nursing home. It is located beside Waterford Regional Hospital and Ardkeen Shopping Centre.

Havenwood Nursing Home

Number of beds:62



HavenWood is a family run organisation ensuring continuous personal attention to detail for all residents. HavenWood are committed to providing care in a secure and friendly environment through the provision of person centred care plans and evidence based practice.

HavenWood offer long and short stay facilities to people who require nursing care for:

Dementia / Alzheimers Disease

Convalescence / Palliative / Hospice Care

Rehabilitation – such as post-operative, Stroke and Cardiac/ Respiratory

Conditions associated with advancing age

Chronic Disabilities

Learning Disabilities

Acquired Brain Injury

Nursing care is provided twenty-four hours a day with a high ratio of staff to residents, far exceeding the minimum HSE requirements.

Woodlands Hotel



47 spacious en-suite bedrooms tastefully decorated with every modern facility. Accommodation includes a range of Executive rooms, large family rooms which can accommodate up to 2 adults and 3 children, bridal Suite and standard rooms.

Conveniently located 4 miles from Waterford City Centre, Waterford Crystal, Bishops Palace, Waterford Institute of Technology, 1 mile from University Hospital Waterford, Waterford Castle Hotel & Golf Club and 8 miles from the seaside locations of Dunmore East, Woodstown and Tramore

There are many shops and supermarkets within the parish including, Tesco, Aldi, Lidl. There are also a wide range of cafés, restaurants, bars to choose from.

Ardkeen shopping centre:



- Supermarkert
- Pharmacy
- Banks
- Community rooms
- Dry-cleaners
- Doctors Surgery/medical centre
- Jewellers
- Library
- Post office
- Butchers
- Boutiques
- Restaurants

THE SOLAS CENTRE



The Solas Centre is a place where people with cancer and their families can find support to help living with cancer. The centre provides confidential listening; relaxation therapies such as reflexology or massage; counselling; art therapy; support groups; stress management; art groups, yoga and art psychotherapy for children.

The SOLAS CENTRE which was built entirely by donations opened in 2011 and will improve and expand the service that the SECF provides in Waterford and throughout South East counties of Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Carlow and Wexford.

All services are provided free of charge, and are paid 100% from generous donations.