

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

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Newsletter Team

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Happy 2nd week of Advent!



IF YOU WISH TO PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS :

3rd Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2, 10-11.

Ps lk 1:46-50, 53-54.

1 Thess 5: 16-24.

Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28.

2nd Sunday of Advent

10th Dec 2017

Gospel Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent: Finding 'You' Time.

How prepared are you? Have you ordered all the presents and put up the tree? Preparation is one of the most important parts of Christmas, but Advent was never supposed to be about fixing the fairy lights. Advent is about spiritual preparation. In all the whirlwind preparations for the Christmas celebrations, we need to prepare a way for the Lord, and this preparation begins with a call from an eccentric man living alone in the desert over two thousand years ago

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance. Today we might easily dismiss the rantings of a strange man who dressed in camel hair and fed on locusts, but interestingly, people travelled miles into the desert to be baptised by him, so charismatic a man was he, and so important his message. Two thousand years later, his message is just as relevant to those of us who want greater meaning in our lives. The repentance that John teaches means so much more than being sorry for our sins. Repentance means changing the direction of our lives away from poor and ungodly choices.

Was the direction of our life decided by what exams we did or didn't pass at the age of seventeen? Has the direction of our life been determined by arbitrary decisions and random circumstances? Advent is a time to decide what sort of a person we would really like to be, and in what direction we would really like to be heading.

"Prepare the way of the Lord," John tells us, "make straight his paths." To allow God into our lives, we are asked to remove any obstacles in God's path. How can we open our minds to God's will if our time is consumed in filling the freezer and making Christmas puddings? Advent is an opportunity for us to make some quiet time to contemplate and prioritise. What is it exactly that is preventing God's work in our lives?

"One mightier than I is coming after me," John tells us, "I have baptised you with water, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." In the desert of commercialism, we are reminded that the reason for the season is not turkeys and baubles.

Preparation is a time of reflection; a little 'You' time.



Mass Times:

ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS

Sunday

Vigil 6.30pm, Sunday 10.00am & 12 Noon

Monday-Friday

7.30 am & 10.30am

Saturday 10.30am

Holy Days of Obligation

6.30 Vigil and 11.00am

CONFESSIONS

Confessions immediately following the 10.30am on Saturday and at the parish office by request

ST.

MARY'S, BALLYGUNNER

Sunday

7.00pm Vigil, Sunday 11.00am

Holy Days of Obligation

7.00pm Vigil &

11.00am



PROJECT MUSIC MANAGEMENT
PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS IN BENILDUS 2

An Evening of Music, Poetry and
Readings on a Christmas Theme

FEATURING

SOLOISTS

Niamh Murray Soprano
Valerie Leahy Soprano
Vannesa Whelan Soprano
Dominic McGorian Tenor

CHOIRS

Parish Choirs
Edmund Rice Choral Society
SOSPIRO Male Voice Choir

MUSICIANS

Jacob Shaw Cello
David Lau Magnussen
Piano and Organ
Anna Eoghain Violin

GUEST PRESENTER

Gerry Kane

DETAILS

15 EURO

Wednesday 20th
December

St. Joseph and Benildus
Church

Doors Open at 7.30 pm
Concert Begins at 8.00 pm

GRAND FINALE

Massed Group
Hark the Herald, Adeste Fidelis
O Holy Night

RESERVATIONS

Monday to Friday
Parish Office
11am to 1pm

Kindly Supported by

email: pmmtickets@mail.com



Last Sunday's Collection

€2,583

*Thank you for your
generous offering*



Congratulations to **Debbie
Carroll and Kevin Foley**
who were married recently.



An Advent **Service of
Reconciliation**, with
readings, Gospel and hymns,
will be held in the church of St.
Joseph & St. Benildus at
7.30pm on Thursday 14th
December.

Traditional Latin Mass in Waterford Cathedral

A Traditional Latin Mass with Gregorian Chant will be celebrated on
Sunday 17th December at 10am in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Barronstrand
Street, Waterford City. Celebrant Fr. Andrzej Komorowski FSSP.

Carols at Ardkeen Shopping Centre:

Thursday 14th Dec 2017, from 6-7pm.
St Joseph & St. Benildus Children's Choir & Friends. All Welcome.
In aid of S.V.P.

Trocaire Project in Ishiara

Ishiara is a designated ASAL area, which means it is an arid and semi-arid land. The annual rainfall lasts for three months and sometimes less and this makes the community vulnerable to famine and loss of livestock due to long spell of drought. Being ASAL water is a problem. Because of climate change, the annual rainfall is drastically reduced and is not sufficient to support the harvesting of crops needed for basic nurturance. To enable the people to respond to this crisis, Trocaire are funding a major irrigation project in the parish whereby water is sourced from a river some miles away and piped to the area. Trocaire invested almost €300,000.00 in the project and to date over 700 families have benefited from the supply of water. It enables families to grow their own food on small holdings. Prior to this, the father of a family was forced to migrate to earn a living and was separated from the family for a long period of time.

Trocaire also set up a local committee and trained them to manage the irrigation project. We met with some members of this committee and they outlined some of the challenges they are facing. They need to install more efficient irrigation system called drip irrigation which will conserve the water and also to develop a system to water storage. The installation of simple tanks in dwellings would be of great assistance to families. They also informed us that because of the rate of growth and the harvest in the rainy season they cannot find immediate markets for their produce of mangos, sugar cane, kasava etc. New methods of conserving mangoes or producing mango juice need to be explored and expertise is needed to source new market outlets. We believe there may be opportunities to develop our partnership project by providing technical support and expertise for this project.

This is Catherine, leader of the Trócaire project



Carols For Our Times:

Edmund Rice Chapel, Barrack Street.
Friday 22nd Dec, 8pm.



IN LOVING MEMORY
PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED
RECENTLY

PEARL WHIFFIN

ABOUT A MONTH AGO

PAT MURNANE, MARIA CHEASTY

Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur

*Anita Curry, Helen Lewsley, Margaret Murphy,
 Michael Coffey, Denis & Sarah Murphy,
 Jackie Goode, Amy Cooke,
 Margaret & Helen Power,
 Michael Troy, Pat Gahan.*

Scripture for Advent & Christmas
Facilitator: Fr. Michael Mullins DD

Fr. Michael will reflect on the scripture readings for this special season in St. John's Pastoral Centre, John's Hill, Waterford. Wednesday 13th December, 7.30p.m. (Donation: €5)

Parents' Baptismal Meeting
 Wednesday Dec 13th, 8-9pm, upstairs
 in the Parish Centre. Come and explore the sacrament of Baptism, and meet other parents.



The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has provided its online Advent 2017 Calendar which can be enjoyed by people of all ages. It is online at catholicbishops.ie

We have been asked to include the following notice in the Newsletter:
"ALONE OR IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS?"

Please come and join us for Christmas Dinner at 12.15pm on Christmas Day at St Joseph's School, Parnell Street. All are welcome. If you need a lift please call 087 6889047.

Catholicism: the Pivotal Players : DVD Presentation by Bishop Robert Barron.
 All are invited to the Parish Centre on Monday 11th & 18th Dec, where we will explore the lives of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Catherine of Siena, who shaped the Church and changed the world.



7.30—9.00pm.

Parish Centre.

Monday 11th: St. Francis of Assisi
Monday 18th Dec: St. Catherine of Siena



Praise and Worship

On 15th December at 8.00pm in the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Waterford, there will be Praise and Worship led by the Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh, Net Ministries and young people from around the diocese. They will sing contemporary songs of praise and worship.

MASSES

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6.30pm Saturday

DEC 9TH/10TH 2017

Pat Murnane (M.M)

Stephen Rogers

16TH/17TH DEC 2017

Joan & Tom Foskin

10.00am Sunday

Margaret & Aidan O'Reilly

Margaret (Peg) Power

12 Noon Sunday

Ben Wadding

Mary Kennedy

Elizabeth Kirimlidis

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Saturday

Stephen Ewing

Gary Murphy

11.00am Sunday

Maria Cheasty (M.M)

Charles Murray





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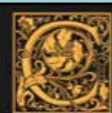
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