

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

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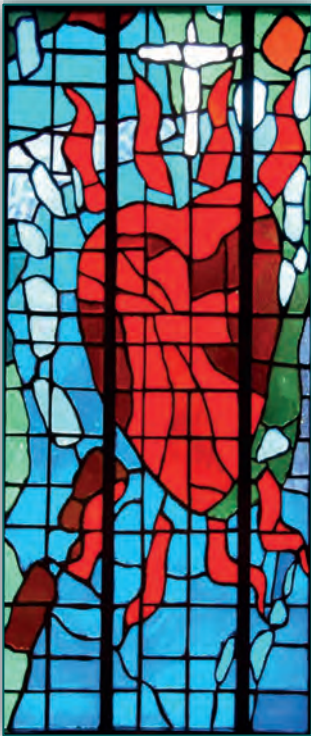
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7th January 2018

Gospel Reflection for the Baptism of the Lord The Past Doesn't Have to Equal the Future.



What does Jesus' baptism say to us? Jesus' thirty years of preparation before his public baptism remind us that it takes time to get ready for God's mission. How many countless hours did Jesus spend in prayer? What study, what thought, what vision must he have undergone before appearing in front of John asking for baptism? What do we learn from Jesus' baptism? January is a time for new beginnings and fresh resolution. John the Baptist was an expert on this. John's ministry was all about repentance and re-form ... that's what his baptism was all about. But anyone who has ever seriously tried to change themselves will know how difficult change really is. We all fondly imagine that change is just beyond our reach, and all we have to do is reach that little bit further. Perhaps we would be more giving if we had more money. Perhaps we would be more helpful to others if we could manage our time better. Perhaps we would manage to be tidier if we had a home extension. Perhaps we could be happier if we found a perfect partner. Perhaps we could feel better fulfilled if we changed our job, passed a few more exams, moved to the country, lost weight, got a promotion, had a baby... the list goes on and on. Yet every January we find ourselves in much the same situation as the previous year. Those who were baptised by John were baptised as a sign of their intent to change from their old ways, but knowing how difficult change can be, we can't help wondering how successful they must have been. Perhaps John appreciated this too when he said "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." When we look for change in our lives, perhaps we are looking in all the wrong places. Perhaps all we need to do is to ask the Holy Spirit for help. We are told that the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus at the outset of his ministry, is the same Holy Spirit that is given to us in our baptism. Validating our baptism anew every day, knowing that we are filled with the Holy Spirit perhaps change isn't just beyond our reach after all. The past doesn't have to equal the future.



IF YOU WISH TO
PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S
READINGS :
2nd Sunday in Ordinary
Time

1 Sam 3:3-10, 19.
Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10
1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20
Jn 1:35-42

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

First Friday:

9.30am

Retrouvaille – A Lifeline for Married Couples:

Do you want to improve the communication with your spouse? Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you hurt, frustrated or angry with your spouse? Does talking about it only make it worse? The Retrouvaille programme can help marriages at all stages.

Next programme starts 2nd – 4th February 2018.

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.

COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL

Parents' Baptismal Meeting

Wednesday January 10th,
8-9pm, upstairs in the Parish
Centre. Come and explore the
sacrament of Baptism, and meet
other parents.

Last Sunday's Collection

€2,822

*Thank you for your
generous offering*

Ministers of the Word

Rotas for January for Reader in St. Joseph & St. Benildus
Church are available for collection in the Sacristy.

Cnoc Bui ARA

Happy New Year to all. Our next meeting is Wednesday 3 Jan in Woodlands at 2pm. Annual membership fee now due, €20 in an envelope with name and details. We hope to go to Mt Mellary on 17th, if interested please have €15 with your details in an envelope. AGM on Feb 7, three vacancies on committee, if interested please contact any committee member at our January meeting.

Waterford Garden Plant Society

The AGM of the above Society will be held in the St. Benildus Parish Centre on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7.30pm followed by a lecture on "Pearls of Lake Como" by Paddy Tobin (ISPS). New members welcome—subscription €25 per person for €40 per family) Non members €5. For further details contact Tom O'Brien on 873937

Pope Francis Prayer Intention of January 2018

On the third day of his recent visit to Myanmar, Pope Francis entered the Kaba Aye Centre, one of the most important Buddhist temples in Yangon, with his shoes off in accordance with local customs.

There, he delivered a message: "For when we speak with one voice in affirming the timeless value of justice, peace and the fundamental dignity of each human person, we offer a word of hope." The pope also quoted Buddha himself, advising, "Overcome the angry by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness." This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention "...That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom."

IN LOVING MEMORY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY : MARY O'MARA (STOCKPORT) , MARY KELLY LATE OF THE MOORINGS & HAVENWOOD, , BETTY MCGINN, LATE OF SOUTH PARADE & HAVENWOOD, CHRISTY BOLGER , LATE OF BALLYGUNNER WHO DIED DURING THE WEEK.

Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur :

Eamon & Noel Long, John & Birdie Noonan, Mick & Nancy O'Leary, Noel O'Shea, Paddy Troy, Joseph Augustine, Pat Murphy, Richard Purcell, Michael Carroll.

MASSES

6th & 7th January 2018

13th /14th January 2018

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6.30pm Saturday

Jim Whelan

Maureen & Willian Robinson

10.00am Sunday

Michael Wallis

12 Noon Sunday

Michael Lane

Brendan Maddo

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Saturday

Cissie Gough

11.00am Sunday

Mary Sutton
Della Upton

John Gear
Martin O'Sullivan

The National Icon for the World Meeting of Families coming to the Cathedral.

The National World Meeting of Families Icon is coming to the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity from Wednesday 3rd-Saturday 13th January 2018. This is part of a National Diocesan tour of Ireland. All are invited to come and see this beautiful Icon.

On Wednesday 3rd January, Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan presided at a Holy Hour for families from 4-5pm. This will be followed by mass at 5.30pm.

The Icon, which is extremely large, will be in the Cathedral for 10 days and all are welcome to visit it and leave their petitions. Contemplative communities around Ireland will pray for the intentions collected during the coming year. The petitions will also be brought to World Meeting of Families 2018.



The icon of the Holy Family was specially commissioned by WMOF2018, written by iconographer Mihai Cucu, and assisted by the Redemptoristine Sisters of the Monastery of St Alphonsus, Iona Road, Dublin, as part of their ongoing prayer for families. The icon was unveiled and anointed on the 21st August 2017, during the launch of the one-year programme of preparation at the National Novena in Knock, Ireland.

This icon takes the form of a triptych which looks, from the outside, somewhat like a house with front doors. On these outside doors, we are presented with the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who carry with them the desire of God to protect. Their heads are bowed in adoration and service of God, the Holy One. On the base is the inscription "Amoris Laetitia", 'The Joy of Love', the title of Pope Francis' post-Synodal exhortation on love in the family, the source of our reflections during the World Meeting of Families 2018.

We see in the centre the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph seated at table, sharing a meal and sharing their faith. Their faith was celebrated in their home. It is in our home that the reality of God-with-us is communicated and passed on to future generations. Their gathering around the table is reminiscent of the Three Angels in the famous 15th century Icon of the Holy Trinity by Andrei Rublev. Christian Marriage is sometimes compared with the Holy Trinity, as a communion of the giving and receiving of love that is life-giving. Indeed, the family is called to be the "living icon" of the Most Holy Trinity. Similarly to the icon above, the Holy Family have a place at their table for us. They invite us to join them. They are no strangers to the trials of family life. They themselves have been refugees, fleeing the violence of Herod. They have known great anxiety. Hence the radishes and bitter herbs of the Passover meal represent the sorrows and trials of the people of Israel in their slavery also represent for us the trials and sacrifices of patience and love experienced in every family. The presence of the unleavened bread and cup of wine on their table call to mind the Eucharist for us.

Flanking the Holy Family icon are those two Gospel narratives: the Raising of Jairus' Daughter and the Wedding Feast of Cana. Passages in the Gospels in which we see Jesus' deep compassion and concern for marriage and for those living with the burdens of family life.

An icon is not like a photograph, nor is it a portrait. It is an image which invites us to prayer. It is our hope that it will invite people to prayer while we prepare our hearts for World Meeting of Families 2018.

The Icon has now started to travel to each diocese in Ireland to encourage reflection and prayer as part of the journey of preparations to WMOF2018. The icon is accompanied by petition boxes, where families can write their intentions and prayer. Contemplative communities around Ireland will pray for the intentions collected during the coming year. The petitions will also be brought to World Meeting of Families 2018.



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