

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

## PARISH CONTACTS

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IF YOU WISH TO  
PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S

READINGS :

1st Sunday of Lent

Gen 9:8-15.

Ps 24:4-9.

1 Pet 3:18-22.

Mk 1:12-15.

## Gospel Meditation for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11th Feb 2018



In the 1870's, the idyllic sunny island of Molokai might not have been one of your top holiday destinations. Molokai was a settlement where the government kept segregated all persons afflicted by leprosy. It was here that a young priest named Joseph Damien de Veuster (Fr. Damien), at his own request arrived at the settlement to preside as its resident priest. There were then six hundred lepers many rendered helpless by the disease.

For a long time Fr. Damien was the only person to bring them the help they needed, both spiritual and practical. After twelve years of this heroic service he eventually contracted the disease himself. At the age of forty five he stood before his brethren and addressed them, "My dear brethren .... my fellow lepers. ... I am one of you now."

In today's gospel Jesus is called upon to cure a leper. Jesus could have done this with a few words, but he does more than this ... he reaches out and heals the leper not only with words but the touch of his hand. This might seem a small detail, but the simple gesture speaks volumes. The gesture tells us that Jesus was setting aside the stigma that accompanied this terrible disease. Jesus is able to take on the leper's condition and know his needs. We call it empathy, an empathy essential for true compassion. This is the example that we see Fr Damien live to the letter.

To learn from Jesus' example we do not have to rush off and find a leper colony as Fr Damien did. There are plenty of social lepers everywhere we look. There are all sorts of social misfits that we stigmatise and push to the edges of our society.

If we are to learn by Jesus' example we have to employ all our powers of empathy before we can even begin to make changes.

## 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

## BAPTISMS

We welcome *Anna Wegner* and who was baptised recently. Please keep her, and her parents and godparents in your prayers.



*Last Sunday's Collection*

**€2,341**

*Thank you for your generous offering*

Thanks to funds raised by the *Finbar Wright* concert, we are pleased to announce that a **chairlift** has been installed in the **Parish Centre**, located beside the link corridor outside the rear door of the church. It leads to the top floor of the building, and provides easy access to the parish office.

## Conference: Responding Locally to “Laudato Si” : Pope Francis’ Encyclical “On Care For Our Common Home”.

The purpose of the conference is to identify local, practical and implementable actions that parishes and groups affiliated to Waterford Public Partnership Network (PNN) can undertake to help increase awareness of the increasingly disastrous effects of climate change and damage to our natural eco systems. **Climate Change** and **Biodiversity** thus become the 2 major themes of this conference.

**Speakers:** Fr. Sean McDonagh, Senator Grace O’ Sullivan.

**Panellists:** Trevor Sargent, Justin Kilcullen, Bernadette Guest,  
Fr. Michael Long, Niamh Brennan.

**Venue:** St. Paul’s Parish Centre

**Date:** Sat 3rd March 2018

**Time:** 9.30am—1.00pm.

**Registration** €5

**Booking:** 051 874199: Secretary, St. John’s Pastoral Centre.

Jointly organised by the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore,  
and Waterford PNN.

The conference will be promoting the Green Flag Award for parishes.

**Photos, L-R: Fr. Seán McDonagh, Justin Kilcullen,  
Trevor Sargent, Grace O’Sullivan**



## SURVIVORSHIP MEETING

Survivors of childhood and adolescent cancer, their families and friends are welcome to a **SURVIVORSHIP MEETING** in the **Clayton Hotel Cork City** at 5.30pm on Thursday 15th February. This meeting is to discuss the health concerns and long-term follow-up of survivors. For more information contact Patricia McColgan at 086 2532819 or [info@cancare4living.ie](mailto:info@cancare4living.ie).

## GROW

**Are you : Struggling with anxiety or depression? Finding life difficult? Feeling isolated? In need of support?**

GROW is here to help you. GROW is a community-based mental health organisation which holds weekly meetings in your local community. GROW meetings provide help and support to anyone experiencing mental health difficulties or struggling with any aspect of their mental wellbeing. Meetings are confidential and no referral is necessary, simply come along. GROW promotes breaking social isolation and promoting social connectedness and is centred around the idea that ‘I alone can do it, but I cannot do it alone’. For Waterford, Groups are:

Wednesday @ 7.30pm St Bridget’s Centre, Lower Yellow Road, Waterford

**GROW in Ireland Web:** [www.grow.ie](http://www.grow.ie)

**Email:** [info@grow.ie](mailto:info@grow.ie)

**GROW in Ireland Infoline** 1890 474 474



## IN LOVING MEMORY

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED ABOUT A MONTH AGO : JULENE RANSCOMBE**

*Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur :*

**EDDIE & DELIA GRANT, KATHLEEN BYRNE,  
BETTY CUNNINGHAM, KITTY QUINN.**

## Diocesan Listening Process

A Listening Process for the development of the new Pastoral Plan for the diocese will take place during the months of February and March. Each session will begin at 7p.m. and finish at 9.30p.m. To facilitate participation, parishes are grouped in 6 Pastoral Areas. For this parish ( St. Lawrence Pastoral Area ), the date is Monday 26th Feb, in the Woodlands Hotel.

## LOURDES DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE : 60TH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE

WEDS 6TH—MON 11TH JUNE 2018. COST €750 INCLUSIVE OF TAX, INSURANCE, AIRPORT TRANSPORT, FULL BOARD BASIS.  
051 878900 FOR PILGRIMAGE BOOKINGS.  
SICK PILGRIM INFO: 086 0685213 ( Mary )



## OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

**SPRING 2018**

**TUESDAY AFTERNOONS, 3.00PM—4.30PM**

**ST. JOSEPH & BENILDUS, PARISH CENTRE.**

DISCOVER THE FIGURES WHO SHAPED THE CHURCH & CHANGED THE WORLD.

### PIVOTAL PLAYERS:

TUES 20TH FEB: ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA  
THES 27TH FEB: BL. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN  
TUES 6TH MAR: G.K. CHESTERTON  
TUES 13TH MAR: MICHELANGELO  
TUES 20TH MAR: DIETRICH BONHOEFFER  
TUES 27TH MAR: OSCAR ROMERO

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND ONE OR ALL OF OUR SESSIONS.  
REFLECTION & DISCUSSION THROUGH DVD.



*Photo on right: St. Teresa of Calcutta*

## Parents' Baptismal Meeting

Wednesday 14th Feb: Meeting of parents before Baptism of children. This is an opportunity to meet with other parents and to deepen our understanding of the wonderful sacrament of Baptism.

Meeting facilitated by Fr. Liam or Fr. John and members of the Baptism team.

St. Joseph & Benildus Parish Centre, Upstairs, 8-9pm ( inclusive of tea & biscuits ).

## CAFÉ THEOLOGY :

**Granville Hotel, Weds 21st Feb 2018. 7.30pm—9.00pm**

**Vicky Wall, Dungarvan: Have you doubts about the 8th Amendment?  
Listen to my Story.**

## MASSES

10th/11th Feb 2018

*St. Joseph & St. Benildus*

17th / 18th Feb 2018

6.30pm Saturday

Paddy McCarthy

James & Esther Hoey

10.00am Sunday

(M.M) Julene Ranscombe

Molly & John Harney

12 Noon Sunday

Liam O'Connell

Joseph Jennings

Noel Cooke

*St. Mary's, Ballygunner*

7.00pm Saturday

Bridget Keane

Daniel O'Connell

William & Nancy Sharpe

Nicholas Power

11.00am Sunday

Monica & Richard Kervick

Damien Upton

Michael & Kathleen Conway

Francis O'Keeffe



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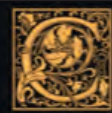


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