

## PARISH CONTACTS

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IF YOU WISH TO PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S **READINGS:** 

2nd Sunday of Lent

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18. Ps 115:10, 15-19. Rm 8:31-34. Mk 9:2-10.

## Gospel Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent It's Tempting

18th Feb 2018

What are you giving up for Lent? Chocolates .... smoking .... television ... wine? It's tempting to think that Lent is about saying a few extra prayers and giving up sweets or alcohol, but in truth, we are in serious danger of trivialising Lent. This forty-day journey with Jesus is so much more than resisting a few bad habits.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert and he remained there for forty days presumably to sort his priorities out. Whilst he was there, Satan confronted him with all the temptations we lesser mortals are great at falling for .... the promise of wealth, fame, power, and worldly success. Having overcome Satan's temptations, Jesus emerged all the stronger, and proclaiming God's gospel.

This Lent we are invited to share Jesus' wilderness experience. Over the next forty days, we are challenged to retreat into our own wilderness and face our demons. The power of evil seeks us out in our weaknesses. Lent is a time when we can strengthen the areas in our life that show weakness. Lent is a time when we can change our sinful habits, change our minds about the way we live and decide what we are really about. The wilderness is a place where we can be tested, where we can get to know ourselves better and grow in maturity.

The theme of today's gospel is the close link between the preparation by Jesus in the desert and the start of his preaching. Lent has an end result. What end result are we preparing for? In what ways could we emerge all the stronger by Easter? Could this Lent provide the starting point we need to change the direction in our lives?

### 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 Amelia May Keogh,
Rian Gerard Lambe, and
Shane Thomas Elliot
who were baptised recently.
Please keep them, and their parents and
godparents in your prayers.



Last Sunday's Collection €2,460

Thank you for your generous offering

#### **WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES**

A national collection for the World Meeting of Families is to be taken up at all Masses on the weekend of 24th and 25th February 2018.

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.

Friendship Lunch: Oskar's. Tuesday 19th Feb, 12.30pm. All welcome. Ph: 087 2554760



There will be a Come considering a priestly
Thurles, from 6pm Fr
Details from : Rev. Sha
Priests Road, Tramore.

BOOK A SEAT!

Come & See Weekend

There will be a *Come* & See weekend for men considering a priestly vocation, in Pallotine College, Thurles, from 6pm Fri Feb 23rd to 3pm Sat 24th. Details from: Rev. Shane O'Neill C.C

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Pope Francis' Lenten Message

In preparation for Easter, God in His providence offers us the season of Lent as a "sacramental sign of our conversion". Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life. The Church, our Mother & Teacher, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of *prayer*,

almsgiving & fasting.

By devoting more time to **Prayer**, we enable our hearts to root out secret lies & forms of self-deception, and to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father & wants us to live life well.

Almsgiving sets us free from greed & helps us to regard our neighbour as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us!

**Fasting** weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us & becomes an important opportunity for growth.

MASSES	17th / 18th Feb 2018 <i>St. Joseph &amp; St. Benildus</i>	25th/26th Feb 2018
6.30pm Saturday	James & Esther Hoey	Pre Confirmation
10.00am Sunday	Molly & John Harney	Anna Maher
12 Noon Sunday	Joseph Jennings	Joe McGrath William Smith
S t. Mary's, Ballygunner		
7.00pm Saturday	Daniel O'Connell	Alice, Mick & Jackie Parle
11.00am Sunday	Damien Upton & Francis O'Keeffe	Jim Carroll

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY:

THOMAS WALSH (DIED RECENTLY IN DUBLIN) TONY HOWLETT (DIED IN USA)

Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur:

Michael Mc Cabe, Brian Moloney, Jack Barriscale, Helen & Lawrence Crowley. Anastasia & Philip Lahert

**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.

OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LENT. **SPRING 2018. TUESDAY AFTERNOONS, 3-4.30PM.** ST. JOSEPH & BENILDUS PARISH CENTRE. DISCOVER THE FIGURES WHO SHAPED THE CHURCH & CHANGED THE WORLD

# OTAL PLA

Tuesday 20th February

Tuesday 27th February



## ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Missionary and Saint

A controversial figure during her life and after her death, Teresa was admired by many for her charitable

## BL. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

The Convert

He used his intellectual gifts to help the Church better understand its identity and mission and engage the challenges of a secular age.



## Tuesday 6th March

## G.K. CHESTERTON

The Evangelist

His life shows that the fundamental disposition of effective evangelization is joy, and life in Christ is a day-to-day encounter with an abundant and surprising offer of grace.

## Tuesday 13th March

#### MICHELANGELO

The Artist

Through humanity's creative artistry we glimpse the power and glory of the Lord.



## Tuesday 20th March

Theologian/Martyr

He was arrested and executed in a concentration camp at the end of World War 2.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

# Tuesday 27th March

## OSCAR ROMERO

Theologian/Martyr

He spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations, and torture. In 1980, Romero was assassinated while offering Mass



## 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



Speakers: Fr. Sean McDonagh, Senator Grace O' Sullivan.

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.





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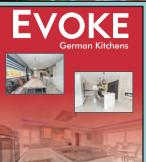




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- Lots of handy free parking. We are located at Ballinakill Shopping Centre on the Dunmore Road in Waterford. Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 6.30pm, Saturday: 9am to 6pm.



