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IF YOU WISH TO PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS : 2nd Sunday of Easter Acts 4:32-35. Ps 117:2-4, 22-27. Jn 5:1-6. Jn 20:19-31.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

April 1, 2018 Easter Sunday

The first light of Easter dawn had begun to creep over the horizon. The steadfast women from Friday's gory events are returning again to the body of their Lord. "Who will roll back

the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" How quickly we return to mundane concerns and how thoroughly God wants to surprise us! Imagine the utter shock upon seeing the stone rolled away, the tomb empty, and a stranger clothed in light proclaiming the impossible. "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." He is risen indeed and the world will never be the same.

We know from other Gospel passages that Mary Magdalene made haste to the disciples to proclaim the Good News. We know that Peter and John rushed to the tomb to see for themselves. We know that the wonder and awe of the Resurrection permeated the lives of the apostles until their own dying day.

Can we comprehend the utterly world-changing nature of this surprise? The historical reanimation of a dead man is of no real value to us. But we know that Easter Sunday is so much more. By the Resurrection of Jesus, life has triumphed over death for us all. The gates of heaven are opened and the treasury of graces is poured out upon the here and now. This Resurrection Day, let us draw near, amazed yet unafraid, to the risen Christ. Let us recall the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, "Jesus is not a character from the past. He lives, and he walks before us as one who is alive, he calls us to follow him, the living one, and in this way to discover for ourselves the path of life" (Easter Vigil, April 15, 2006).

Beannachtaí na

Cásca ar gach éinne



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 ST. MARY'S, BALLYGUNNER Sunday 7.00pm Vigil, Sunday 11.00am Holy Days of Obligation 7.00pm Vigil & 11.00am First Friday: 9.30am

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

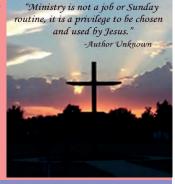


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Day of Retreat for Those in Parish Ministry: Saturday 21st April, 2018. "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength".

Facilitator: Dom Richard Purcell (Abbot of Mount Melleray Abbey).
 Day of input and reflection from Fr.Richard, with quiet prayer as we reflect on our individual ministries in our parish life.
 Mount Melleray Abbey, Sat 21st April, from 11.00am—4.00pm.
 Cost: €10, includes light refreshments.
 Booking Essential: 051 874199



WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES: DUBLIN, AUGUST 2018

Dublin, Ireland, has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018, guided by the theme "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World". Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church. The event has at its heart the following key moments:

21 August 2018, a National Opening of WMOF2018, which will take place simultaneously in all the different dioceses of Ireland.

22 to the 24 August 2018, a three-day Congress. Each day will reflect on the theme "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World" chosen by the Holy Father and will include an enriching programme for adults of keynote speakers, workshops, talks, testimonies and discussions; an engaging and exciting programme for young people as well as fun activities for children. The Congress will also include daily celebration of the Eucharist,

prayerful activities, exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances. **Saturday 25 August** 2018, a Festival of Families, comprising a reflective concert style event within a prayerful

and joyful atmosphere, in which personal stories of faith will be shared by families from all continents. **Sunday 26 August** 2018, WMOF2018 will close with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration, that will gather thousands of people from Ireland and all over the world.

PARISH DAY-TRIP TO WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

We plan to run a bus from the parish to the World Meeting of Families on Thursday 23rd August,

2018. The full programme for the day can be viewed on the parish website: jmbparish.com. If you are interested in travelling on the bus, please complete the expression of interest form (on the

website), and return it to the parish office or sacristy OR simply contact the parish office.

IN LOVING MEMORY PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY JOHNNY THOMPSON, MARY LYONS, BETTY WALSH THOSE WHO DIED ABOUT A MONTH AGO: PAT HENNESSY, SHEILA HEFFERNAN Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur : Michael Fitzpatrick, John Corcoran, Harry Geraghty.

Mass Times

There will be no 7.30am Mass during Easter Week, Monday 2nd to Fri 6th April, inclusive. The 10.30am Mass will be celebrated as usual.

EASTER





Special Intergenerational and Family Tree Healing Mass

Friday 6th April @ 7.30pm.

Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Waterford.

The Mass will be celebrated by Most Rev. Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford & Lismore. All are welcome. Please invite friends & family, and share.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG

Join us on a Parish Pilgrimage to Lough Derg, From June 10th to 12th. A journey to a Sacred Place.....Time & space for prayer and reflection. Contact: Frances Doyle 0872067813

Easter Collection

The Annual Easter Collection for the support of the priests of the parish will be taken up this weekend at all Masses. Thank you for your generous contribution.

New Emergency Lighting System Fitted

Mr Tony Gleason, (formerly Chief Fire Officer with the Waterford City Council) compiled a report on the "Management of Fire Safety" in the parish. The report alerted us to the fact that our fire protection systems were not in compliance with the Fire Services Act of 1981 and consequently to ensure the safety of parishioners who use the church and the parish hall, these systems need to be updated. Mr Pat Sheridan, Electrical and Fire Safety Consultant agreed to design and oversee the upgrading of our fire safety systems.

We were advised that the emergency lighting system should be upgraded as a matter of urgency. The system in place was not in compliance with the standard required (Is 3217). Signage was totally inadequate and the emergency lighting could not be relied on if there was a power outage. None of the lights were working. As you can see, a whole new system has been installed by NWE Electrical at a total cost of €5,500.00. It will be certified shortly.

We now have to review the fire alarm systems in the church and parish hall and upgrade them to ensure compliance with IS 3218:2013. We will report on the recommendations we have received and on the installation of the upgraded system over the next few weeks.

MASSES	31st Mar/1st Apr 2018 <i>St. Joseph & St. Benildus</i>	7th/8th Apr 2018
9.00pm Saturday	Easter Vigil	6.30pm: John Corcoran
10.00am Sunday	Donal McBride	Sr. Rebecca Ellickson Pauline & Rita Ellickson
12 Noon Sunday	(M.M) Pat Hennessy James & Catherine Ellickson <i>S t. Mary's, Ballygunner</i>	Michael Moynihan
9.00pm Saturday	Easter Vigil	7.pm: (M.M) Paula Fogarty
11.00am: Sunday	Tony Power	(M.M) Breda Bennett Michael Whelan Daniel Douglas Maeve Farrell

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