

PARISH CONTACTS

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

PALM SUNDAY Is 50:4-7. Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24. PHIL 2:6-11. MK 14:1-15:47.

Gospel Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Lent Unless A Grain of Wheat Falls





'Eat drink and be merryfor tomorrow we die.' In a life or death situation, human nature would always prompt us to hold on to life no matter what the consequences, but in today's gospel a grain of wheat is used to teach us a valuable lesson. The selfless grain of wheat falls and dies to enable a fresh harvest. What point is there in choosing life, if that life boils down to nothing more than self preservation? On the other hand, what great value death, if that sacrifice gives others life.

Many of us fail to understand why Jesus perceived the necessity of going to Jerusalem where he knew he would die. Wouldn't it have made more sense for him to bypass Jerusalem and carry on teaching into his dotage? Jesus however, isn't about to compromise his purpose.

Jesus determines to give his life so others can find true life. This is what Christianity is all about. Jesus teaches us that we must 'die to self' before we can be of any use to God. Letting one's own ambition die to be replaced by God' plans for us? 'Dying to self? Could we blamed for not feeling enthused? How many of us really see the wisdom in ditching our own exciting life plans to go around being holy? Perhaps we need to think again about how exciting our ambitions really are. Perhaps sacrificing our own agenda and recognising God's plan in our lives could be the best and most exciting thing that ever happened to us. Perhaps sacrificing something of ourselves for a greater purpose could put us in touch with who we really are.

"Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." This epitomizes everything as Christians we are not!

ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS

Monday—Friday

Saturday 10.30am

Holy Days of Obligation

6.30 Vigil and 11.00am

CONFESSIONS

Mass Times

ST. MARY'S, BALLYGUNNER

Holy Days of Obligation

First Friday:

BAPTISMS

We welcome Rían Patrick Clooney, Amber Holly Walsh, Elva Quinn Murphy who were baptised recently. Please keep them, and their parents and godparents in your prayers.



Last Sunday's Collection €3,008 (2 weekends) Thank you for your generous offering

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

You are invited to join us for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday 26th March at 7.30pm. Please consider joining us and making an extra effort for Holy Week, the most important week in the Church year. This is not Mass, but a chance to go to Confession and receive absolution. The service will consist of prayers, readings & Taizé hymns. During the ceremony you will be invited, if you wish, to approach one of the five priests and ask forgiveness for your sins.

Every time we celebrate this sacrament, we become more deeply aware of the infinite mercy and love God has for us, and accepts us as we truly are.

We held a similar service on the Monday of Holy Week last year, and the feedback was very positive. It is a very meaningful ceremony, and all are invited to attend.

Traditional Latin Masses in Waterford Cathedral

A Traditional Latin Mass with Gregorian Chant will be celebrated on Sunday 18th March at 10AM and on Monday 19th March (Feast of St Joseph) at 11.30am in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Barronstrand Street, Waterford City. All are most welcome. Celebrant Fr. Andrzej Komorowski Rosary to the Mass Rocks

Fr will also lead a Rosary for Life and Faith at Our Lady of Waterford's Statue in Saint Saviours Priory, Bridge Street, Waterford City on Sunday 18th March at 2.30pm.

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

PIVOTAL PLAYERS

Tuesday 20th February

Tuesday 27th February

Tuesday 13th March

Tuesday 27th March



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Missionary and Saint
A controversial figure during her life
and after her death, Teresa was

and after her death, Teresa was admired by many for her charitable work

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.

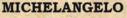


Tuesday 6th March

G.K. CHESTERTON MICHELAN

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.



The Artist

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



Tuesday 20th March

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER OSCAR



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

OSCAR ROMERO

Theologian/Martyr

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



IN LOVING MEMORY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY

Tony O'Grady, Breda Phelan, Delia Carroll

Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur:

Patrick O'Shea, Seán Rafter, Charlie Ware, Canon Frank Hopkins, Melanie Stynes, Jim Morrison, Barbara Hearne, Olga Bagriy, Thea O'Shea, Frank & Joan O'Mahony.

The Passion & Resurrection of Jesus : A talk in St. John's Pastoral Centre

Facilitator: Fr. Michael Mullins DD LSS . Fr. Michael will reflect on the scripture readings for the Passion & Resurrection of Jesus, Thursday 22nd March.

St. John's Pastoral Centre, John's Hill, Waterford. 7.30pm.

(€5 including light refreshments)

St Joseph Husband of Mary, 19th March

Joseph was wholeheartedly obedient to God In marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage. The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment in calling him a "just" man. This just man lived his life by faith, seeking to do good in every concrete circumstance of life a model for fathers everywhere.

International Day for the

Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21st March How can we create a future free of racial discrimination? The first thing is not to see it as an insurmountable problem. There are things that every generation can do to bring about racial harmony. Here are a few starters.

- Aim not to laugh at jokes that perpetuate discrimination.
- Educate yourself. Learn something new about someone else's culture.
- Read up on the political background of the countries of our refugees and asylum seekers.
- Give the children of the family the opportunity to mix with children of other backgrounds.
- Don't be put off befriending neighbours, just because their accent is difficult to understand.

St.Mary's and Havenwood Rotas

The Rotas for Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers and Rotas for Havenwood are available in the Sacristy in St.Mary's.

A volunteer list for ministers at Easter is also in the Sacristy.....please sign if you are available to take part.

Bank Holiday Monday

As Monday 19th is a Bank Holiday in lieu of St. Patrick's Day, there will only be one Mass, at 10.30am.

Earth Day, 22nd March 2018

On Earth Day, Pope Francis urges everyone to see the world through the eyes of God the Creator.

This year's theme urges the world to End Plastic Pollution, including creating support for a global effort to eliminate single-use plastics along with global regulation for the disposal of plastics.

MASSES	17th/18th Mar 2018 St. Joseph & St. Benildus	24th/25th Mar 2018
6.30pm Saturday		John Goff
10.00am Sunday	Ellen Glasheen	Robin Dawson Mary Flavin Christine Whittle
12 Noon Sunday	James Phelan	Martin Doheny Lily Marshall
S t. Mary's, Ballygunner		
7.00pm Saturday		John Byrne Tommy Hearne
11.00am Sunday	William Farrell John Hogan	(M.M) Joan Ryan Bernard Hayes



We will give you a Free family portrait experience voucher value €189 from Gerry O'Carroll Photography, 051 304050

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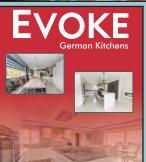




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- All prescription types dispensed Medical Card, DPS, Private, Long Term illness, Hospital **Emergency.** Easy transfer of prescriptions to Castle Pharmacy.
- Lots of handy free parking. We are located at Ballinakill Shopping Centre on the Dunmore Road in Waterford. Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 6.30pm, Saturday: 9am to 6pm.



