

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

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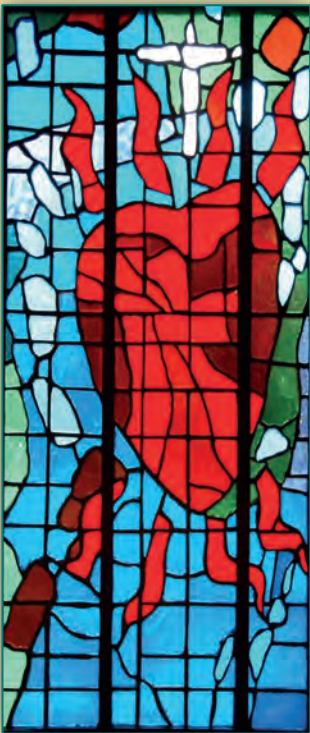
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Fr. R. Liddane AP

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IF YOU WISH TO
PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S
READINGS :

4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:8-12.

Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26,
28-29.

1 Jn 3:1-2.

Jn 10:11-18.

Gospel Reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter

15th April 2018

Finding the Meaning

Were the other disciples really so very different from Doubting Thomas? When they saw Jesus in their midst, they took some convincing that it really was Jesus and not a ghost that had come to visit them. The gospel outlines four pieces of proof that Jesus uses to convince them that he really has risen from the dead. They can look at the marks on his hands and feet, they can touch him to check that he is really flesh and bone, and they can watch him eat a meal that they have prepared. The fourth proof is when Jesus opens their minds so that they can understand the prophecies that were made in the Old Testament, and which he has fulfilled by rising from the dead.

We are not as lucky as the first disciples. Two thousands years down the line we do not have the benefit of their first hand experience. We cannot look at Jesus, we cannot touch him, or share a meal. The fourth proof though, the prophecies in the Old Testament are still there for us to read. The only trouble is, the Bible isn't always an easy book to read. We read a passage and fail to understand it. Sometimes we think we understand the literal meaning but the words fail to offer any significance. It would be good if Jesus could open our minds up as he did for those first disciples when they had trouble understanding the meaning of his death and resurrection. One thing is for sure, understanding the Bible isn't going to happen magically, just as it didn't happen overnight for the disciples. We know that everything worthwhile takes effort. Playing a musical instrument takes years of practice. Being good at a sport takes considerable traininglearning a language demands a concerted amount of study and hard work. So too, we have to apply ourselves to understanding what we read in the Bible. We have to consider each passage for some time before we can really grasp it ... sometimes a single verse or phrase. Often we can derive great satisfaction from knowing that those parts we struggled with the longest hold the greatest meaning. The Bible yields up its greatest treasures to those who persevere.

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

Recent Baptisms

We welcome Willow Eve Crotty Kavanagh, Sean Norman Butler, Laoise Mai Upton, and Eli Jacob Dunphy and who were baptised recently. Please keep them and their parents and godparents in your prayers.

Baptism



Last Sunday's Collection

€ 2447

Thank you for your generous offering

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG

Join us on a Parish Pilgrimage to Lough Derg, From June 10th to 12th.
Contact: Frances Doyle 0872067813

Coffee Morning

A Coffee Morning will be held in Room 1 in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 17th April 2018, from 11 am to 1pm for the Pro Life Campaign.

IN LOVING MEMORY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY

CATHERINE MELODY

THOSE WHO DIED ABOUT A MONTH AGO:

GERALDINE WALSH, JOHN THOMPSON

Whose birthdays or anniversaries occur :

*Therese Mariani, Delia Carroll, John Heffernan, Joyce Robinson,
Tom Sheridan*

Day of Retreat for Those in Parish Ministry: Saturday 21st April, 2018.

Facilitator: Dom Richard Purcell (Abbot of Mount Melleray Abbey).

Mount Melleray Abbey, Sat 21st April, from 11.00am—4.00pm. Cost: €10. Booking Essential: 051 874199

Bus going from St. Joseph & St. Benildus... contact Parish Office on 051 878977 for details

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.

Waterford Treasures Talks 2018 ; 'Pope Francis: the Man, his Style, his Message'
Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland.
Tuesday 8th May, 2018 at 7.30pm. Medieval Museum, Waterford.
€5 (towards the Museum acquisition and conservation fund).

Parish Pastoral Council

meeting:

Weds 18th April, 7.30pm, Parish Centre.

"What the Irish Church could learn from the Recent History of the Church in Holland".

Speaker: His Eminence, Willem Cardinal Eijk

Venue: The Park Hotel, Dungarvan. Date: Monday 16th April. Time: 7.30-9.30pm.

Granville Hotel, Waterford Date: Tues 17th April Time: 7.30pm

He will share the experience of the Church in Holland, which is experiencing serious challenges from the secularisation of the Church in Holland, such as the closure of churches, amalgamation of parishes and the rapid decline in the number of priests.

He will also speak on how the introduction of euthanasia has impacted on church & society in Holland.

MASSES

14th/15th April 2018

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

21st/22nd April 2018

6.30pm Saturday

Paddy & Eileen Foley
Peggy & Eileen Cunningham

Gerry McAllister

10.00am Sunday

M.M Geraldine Walsh
Kitty & Billy Walsh
Jack & Carmel Walsh

Newtown First Communion

12 Noon Sunday

Philip O'Keeffe

M.M John Thompson
Tom Sheridan
Fr. Tom Barron
Ted & Philip Barron

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Saturday

Eileen Whitty
Dave Cotter

Helena Kearney
William, Mary & Rosie Sharpe

11.00am: Sunday

(M.M) Mary Lyons
Bridie Flynn
Kathleen Barrett

Michael & Joan Cummins

Medical myths about Eighth Amendment must be challenged
Campaign of fear and misinformation has been deployed to tarnish reputation of Irish medicine
Prof. Eamon McGuinness

'The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right.'

Those words were inserted into our Constitution by the Irish people in 1983. As a consultant obstetrician, and later as chairman of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, I served Irish women and their children under the auspices of the Eighth Amendment. It should be a matter of some national pride that Ireland, in that time, has been one of the safest places on earth to be a pregnant woman, and one of the safest places in the world to be an unborn child. In recent times, a sustained campaign has been waged by some people, including several of my colleagues in obstetrics and gynaecology, to suggest that the words at the beginning of this article put women's lives at risk. If that were true, I myself would be leading the charge to have them expunged from the Constitution. A constitutional restriction on my ability, or the ability of any of my colleagues, to save the life of a pregnant woman would indeed be intolerable. Let me therefore be clear: no such restriction exists.

The Eighth Amendment has one medical effect only: it prevents Irish doctors from deliberately, as an elective matter, causing the death of an unborn child. It awards to the child in the womb the right to have their life protected in Irish hospitals, in Irish GP surgeries, and in Irish operating theatres. That right does not restrict doctors from acting to save the life of a woman where a serious complication arises

Medical Council guidelines

In fact, Medical Council guidelines oblige doctors to act, even if that means the baby's life may be lost. They state that: "During pregnancy, rare complications can arise where a therapeutic intervention is required which may result in there being little or no hope of the baby surviving. In these exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary to terminate the pregnancy to protect the life of the mother while making every effort to preserve the life of the baby."

In plain English, that means: If a doctor feels that a pregnancy poses a real threat to a woman's life, even if that threat is not immediate, they may perform a termination, usually by delivering the baby.

Some of my colleagues have a personal view which is supportive of abortion; others, and I include myself in this number, believe the unborn child has a right to legal protection. However, the medical facts around the amendment are undeniable.

As recently as December 12th last, the Maternal Death Enquiry (Ireland) found that maternal deaths in Ireland were "extremely rare". Simply put, if doctors were being prevented by the Eighth Amendment from acting to save women's lives then this could not be the case. The facts support the contention that doctors are not restrained from carrying out life-saving interventions under the amendment.

Stories and claims

In recent weeks I have been made aware of a series of stories and claims being made online and elsewhere that simply do not reflect the reality of Irish medical care. For example, a pro-choice meeting in Kildare was recently told that a woman who has cancer while pregnant cannot avail of chemotherapy in Ireland. This is simply false, and it appals me that such a claim would ever be made about our health service. Let there be no doubt: in such a situation, a woman can indeed be treated, even if the treatment leads to a detrimental outcome for the unborn child. However, we now also now know that research has shown that chemotherapy and other treatments are usually safe for the unborn child.

Dr Frédéric Amant has been described by the Lancet as "leading the agenda on cancer in pregnancy". His research, published in peer-reviewed medical journals and presented at the European Cancer Congress, showed that cancer treatments for the mother do not harm the unborn child as was previously believed. Fear of chemotherapy is no reason to terminate a pregnancy, maternal treatment should not be delayed, and chemotherapy can be given, Dr Amant concluded, adding that there was "no evidence termination improves outcomes for the mother".

My colleagues in Ireland in oncology practice tell me they have always been able to achieve an optimal cancer treatment for the mother without the need to forgo the life of the child. There is no question of women being denied life-saving cancer treatment because of the amendment. Other pro-repeal stories have said that women will often be asked if they are pregnant before some tests are administered – this is true, but it is also true that in every jurisdiction, including those where abortion is fully legal, a doctor will want to know if a woman is pregnant before performing certain tests.

From where I am seated, it has been very disturbing to see what amounts to a campaign of fear and misinformation deployed to tarnish the image of Irish medicine and make Irish women fearful of the treatment they might receive.

The truth is that the Government proposes to legalise terminations through to the sixth month gestation, on the same basis as in Britain, in cases of a risk to the physical or mental health of the woman. In Britain, 98 per cent of all terminations are performed on these grounds.

Of those abortions, only 0.2 per cent are performed on the basis of a risk to physical health. The remaining 99.8 per cent of British "health ground" abortions are performed on the basis of a threat to mental health, and in nearly all cases this threat is not specified. This "health" ground, in Britain, is simply a pro-forma statement used to justify any abortion sought by and performed on a woman. There is a legitimate moral debate to be had about abortion. As somebody who spent his life delivering and caring for young children and their mothers, I have a very clear view about where I stand on it. For me, years of experience of sharing moments of joy and tragedy with Irish women has left me certain that a child is as human in the womb as it is when it first sees the light of the world. Others take a different view, and I believe the debate should be measured and respectful. What is regrettable, however, is the publication of untruths about Irish medicine and the role of the amendment we are debating.

Terminations required to save a woman's life are legal in Ireland. They have been legal since 1983. The amendment does not inhibit our ability to treat a woman. It does one thing only – it bans us from intentionally killing one of our patients. I shall vote to retain it.

This Referendum is not about the introduction of Abortion to respond to hard cases such as rape, fatal fetal abnormalities or life-limiting conditions. What we are being asked to vote for is unrestricted Abortion up to 12 weeks, which will introduce to our country one of the most liberal Abortion regimes in Europe. It is even more liberal than the law in the UK, which is restricted to Abortion on health grounds.

Prof Eamon McGuinness MA FRCPI FRCOG is a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist and a former chairman of the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. He is a medical adviser to the Save the 8th Campaign



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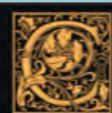
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