

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

PARISH CONTACTS

Fr. Liam Power PP
051-873073
Fr. John Treacy CC
051-843207
Fr. R. Liddane AP
051-874284
Parish Office & Sacristy
051-878977
Newsletter Team
jbmnews@gmail.com

MASS TIMES

ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS

Sunday: Vigil 6.30pm,
Sunday: 10.00am & 12 pm
Monday—Friday
7.30am & 10.30am
(except Holy Days of
Obligation)

Holy Day of Obligation
6.30pm 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

IF YOU WISH TO PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS :

4th Sunday in Lent
Jos 5:9-12.
Ps 33:2-7.
2 Cor 5:17-21.
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32.

Third Sunday In Lent

24th March 2019



Gospel Reflection for the Third Sunday of Lent : The Gardener, the Fig Tree and the Promise

When people die, especially in tragic or premature circumstances, we are left with a sense of injustice. There are some who will question what kind of God we have who can allow such unfairness. But the bottom line is that life simply isn't metered out to us in equal proportions. Death simply happens. There is no intent behind a natural disaster, and because there is no intent there can certainly be no injustice.

In biblical days people imagined that fatal disasters and terminal illnesses were sent as some kind of punishment from God. Had the victims brought about their own fate by living sinful lives? What will Jesus' answer be? No, of course untimely death is not sent as a punishment! But whilst we are pondering the fragility of our lives, Jesus reminds us that any one of us could die in similar circumstances. We only have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. None of us can bank on living to a ripe old age, and so we must consider how well we are prepared to live and how well we are prepared to die.

At first, today's reading feels uncomfortable. The parable of the fig tree reads like a threat. The tree is not bearing any fruit and so the master commands that it should be axed. A compassionate gardener begs that the tree be given a second chance, and so the master grants another year. It feels like a threat... bear fruit or else! But Jesus knows that threats don't bring out the best in us. Like the gardener who tends the tree and nurtures it, so Jesus is there for all who need a second chance.

For those of us who make a commitment to live life in a better way, Jesus is there to support and guide us towards our goals. The parable has moved from something that sounds like a threat to something that sounds like a promise.... something inspirational!

| St. Joseph & St. Benildus | 23rd/24th Mar 2019 | 30th/31st Mar 2019 |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 6.30pm Saturday: | Patrick O'Shea Frank & Joan O'Mahony | John Goff |
| 10.00am Sunday: | Robin Dawson Lily Glasheen Cormac McNamara | Gary Kelly |
| 12 Noon Sunday: | Thea O'Shea Nan, Bertie & Janet Downes | Martin Doheny |
| St. Mary's, Ballygunner | | |
| 7.00pm Saturday: | Tony Power | Tommy Hearne John Byrne |
| 11.00am Sunday | William Farrell Michael & Mary Fitzpatrick | Bobby O'Keeffe |



**Please pray for
those whose month's mind occurs**
Margaret Cleere
**And those whose birthday or anniversary
occurs**
Elizabeth Marshall,
John Goff,
Sr. Catherine Hopkins

Parishioners are invited to contact
the Newsletter Team :
jbmnews@gmail.com
with items of interest (of a non-
commercial nature) for inclusion in
the bulletin.
Please note that the deadline is
11.00am on the Tuesday before
printing.

*Last Sunday's
Collection
€2,811
Thank you*



ALPHA IN OUR PARISH

Alpha has started again in St.
Benildus Parish Centre - it
began Tuesday, March 5th.
You are probably aware that
Alpha is an opportunity for all of
us to explore our unique
questions about life, faith, and God. It is a series of
interactive sessions where we firstly share a meal, then
watch a DVD and discuss together. All views are
listened to and respected. Some of the topics
explored are :
Is there more to life than this?
Who is Jesus?
Who is the Holy Spirit?
The sessions take place over 11 weeks and last
approximately 2hrs. Alpha is not just another
programme – it helps to build community and creates
a sense of belonging. All of us are encouraged to
experience Alpha! For those who completed our last
Alpha it was an uplifting experience – a meal shared ,
questions explored, and of course great friendship!
Do think about joining us in St. Benildus Parish Centre.
Alpha is for everyone! Newcomers can join us up until
the 4th week—do make contact ! *If not coming, please
support us with your prayers.*
To book your place and for further information
contact :
Parish office 051 878977,
Denise Hughes 087 1512617
Frances Doyle 087 2067813



Live Streaming of Masses in both St.Benildus & St.Mary's :

www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford AND
www.churchservices.tv/tmarysballygunner
**Recordings of the Christmas in Benildus Concerts may
be seen on the same site.**

Evening Prayer During Lent

All are welcome to attend Evening Prayer every Wednes-
day at St. Benildus Church, from 6.30—7pm. This includes
Psalms and short Scripture Readings.

Sharing Cross : Lent 2019

The Sharing Cross is displayed in the alcove just inside the
front door of St. Joseph & Benildus Church. The idea
behind the Cross is that people are invited to place a nail
in one of the slots provided, replacing one already inserted,
praying for not only one's own intentions, but those of the
person who originally inserted the nail.

Lenten Movie : On Thursday 4th April at 7.30pm, a Movie
with a Christological theme will be shown in the Parish
Centre. It is envisaged that this year's movie will be "One
Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". All are welcome.

" Ciorcal Comhrá (Conversational Irish) "

Ciorcal Comhrá ar siúl gach Céadaoin ag 11 ar maidin sa
Cove Bar, Ard Chaoín. Fáilte roimh cách !
Conversational Irish every Wednesday at 11a.m in the
Cove Bar, Ardkeen . Everyone welcome !
Tuilleadh eolas/ further info : Aidan 087 2648363

St. Mary's and Havenwood Rotas

The Rotas for Havenwood and St. Mary's Ballygunner are available
in the Sacristy.

Mothers' Day Cuppa

All are invited to join us for a cup of tea in the Parish Centre on
Mothers' Day, Sunday 31st March, after 10.30am Mass.

Reflections: Stations of the Cross

After 10.30am Mass every Friday during Lent, there will be
Reflections on a section of the Stations of the Cross. All are
welcome to attend.

Maintenance Assistant Required: Ballygunner Graveyard.

To include: grass cutting, weeding, strimming, spraying
and litter control, church maintenance,
19.5 hours CE rates apply
CV to Georgina Kiely, Compact Communities,
Lady Lane, Waterford. Phone 051 875847

Café Theology: Tuesday 26th March 2019. Tapestry Room, Granville Hotel. 7.30pm.

Topic: *Providing True Health Care in an Abortion Environment.
How to cope with being asked to co-operate with abortion ser-
vices.*

Speakers: Mary Fitzgibbon, Midwifery Tutor.
Benedict O'Floinn, Barrister at Law.

Café Theology is free, but donations are welcome to cover
costs.

Please bring a friend, and enjoy the coffee and discussion.