

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

Second Sunday of Easter

28th April 2019

## PARISH CONTACTS

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## 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 :

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Ps 29: 2, 4-6, 11-13

Apoc 5:11-14,

Jn 21: 1-19

## Gospel Reflection for the Second Sunday of Easter

### Finding Faith

Poor old Thomas! Condemned to go down in history as 'Doubting Thomas', for demanding proof of the risen Jesus. Yet how many of us would admit to a sneaking sympathy for Thomas. How many of us would have done exactly the same thing in his shoes? In our defence we come to the story from a slightly different angle to that of Thomas's; we come with a twenty first century agenda. We have been brought up in a culture where science rules the day and physical proof is all important. We live in a society where belief in the spiritual is viewed as naive; eccentric even. Yet we are expected to believe.

The story of 'doubting Thomas' is comforting to our twenty first century ears and perhaps that's what John, the gospel's writer, intended. Surely John must have known that faith, or lack of it, would be an issue especially for those without the benefit of first hand evidence. So what are those of us who are struggling with our faith to take from this story?

The most important thing to notice is that Jesus doesn't condemn Thomas for not believing. He simply offers himself as proof. He helps Thomas to believe. Perhaps Jesus does not rebuke Thomas because he knows how much Thomas loves him, and how badly he wants to believe. Doubt might feel like a very negative emotion, but in actual fact, doubt is a sign that we are struggling to find answers and that has to be better than apathy or outright disbelief. Very often doubt is a prelude to firm faith. In fact, a faith besieged by doubt but based in a deep train of thought can be ultimately better than a faith built on little or no thought whatsoever.

In our struggle to find faith we should first take heed of today's story and acknowledge that doubt is 'normal' and not necessarily a bad thing. Next we should acknowledge that the faith others have isn't just some warm and fuzzy feeling, but a conviction and a commitment. It's all too easy when we cannot determine a faith of our own to decry the faith of others as delusion, but this is to simply dismiss out of hand the thinking of centuries of intelligent and gifted men and women.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Jesus applauds those who have arrived at their faith, but for those of us who are still struggling we are promised the Holy Spirit to point us in the direction of a well founded and enduring faith.

<b>St. Joseph &amp; St. Benildus</b>	<b>27th/28th April 2019</b>	<b>4th/5th May 2019</b>
<b>6.30pm Saturday</b>		Margaret Byrne
10.00am Sunday:	Michael & Elizabeth Cusack	
12 Noon Sunday:	John Barron	Nora Holden
<b>St. Mary's, Ballygunner</b>		
7.00pm	William & Mary Sharpe Declan O'Sullivan Helena Kearney	
11.00am Sunday	Dick Cullinane Maureen & William Fitzgerald D.B Cahill, Stephen Ewing	Colm Hartley

**Please pray for those who died recently**



**Pat O'Sullivan  
And those whose birthday or anniversary**

**occurs**

**John & Mary Hearne, Karen Ann Finnerty**

**Easter Dues**

**Many thanks to all who returned their Easter Dues Envelopes last weekend. Anyone who wishes to return theirs may drop it into the Sacristy or Parish Office.**

**If you did not receive an envelope, they are available at the back of the church, in the Sacristy and in the Parish Office. If you would like to have one delivered to your home, please let the Parish office know and this will be organized for you.**

**Recent Baptisms**

We welcome the following who were baptised recently:

Lara Swift Jones, Manus Richard Ruth.

Please keep them, their parents and godparents in your prayers.



**Easter Gifts**

Thank you to all who contributed so generously for those living in the Direct Provision Centre. We were able to make up 87 bags of toiletries and Easter eggs and these were handed over on Good Friday.

**Trocaire says Thank-you!**

"This is the Lord's doing; and it is wonderful in our eyes." Psalms 118:23. Trócaire thanks all parishioners and clergy for their support of this year's Lenten campaign. Please return Trócaire boxes so donations can be put to use as soon as possible helping the most vulnerable in the developing world. [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

**Diocese of Waterford & Lismore  
Knock Shrine Pilgrimage.**

Tickets €25.

The Pilgrimage will be by bus. (Pay on the bus)  
Leaving Tramore (Church Carpark) at 6.30am.  
Leaving Waterford (Miller's Marsh Car Park) at 7.00am.

Leaving Knock at 5.30pm.

Contact: John Waters: 087 2138831

Michael Drohan 089 4204804

Anne O'Connor 051 381351

*Last Sunday's  
Collection  
€3680  
Thank you*



**Live Streaming of Masses**

[www.churchservices.tv/  
stjosephswaterford](http://www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford)

**AND**

[www.churchservices.tv/](http://www.churchservices.tv/)

[marysballygunner](http://marysballygunner)

**Recordings of recent concerts are also available to watch on the St. Joseph's site.**

**Pilgrimage to Lough Derg**

Lough Derg has been welcoming pilgrims for over a thousand years. The flame of faith, hope and love once lit in Ireland by St Patrick in the fifth century, continues to be rekindled year after year by generations of pilgrims families.

**Some are searching...**

...they may be successful in the sense of having a job and good friends but somewhere their lives seem in a bit of a rut and they lack a sense of fulfilment...  
...this place apart and the pilgrimage can give them just the lift they need to enter into a new stage in their lives and in their relationship with God.  
...others seek answers to life's questions and have come to pray for guidance, patience, courage and peace of mind.

For others Lough Derg is simply an indispensable part of their relationship with God. They come every year so they can better face the challenges of their day-to-day lives.

Please consider joining us on Pilgrimage to Lough Derg from Sunday 8th June to Tuesday June 10th.  
Contact: Frances Doyle 087 2067813 or Parish Office 878977



**61st Annual Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage**

Wednesday 5th June to Monday 10th June 2019.

Bookings: Lourdes Office, St. John's Pastoral Centre, John's Hill, Waterford. 051 878900. Cost €785, inclusive of Tax, Insurance, Airport Transfers. Full Board Basis.