

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

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The Ascension of the Lord

2nd June 2019

Gospel Reflection for the Seventh Sunday of Easter : Over to Us



In these final chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus is trying to sum up what his life and mission is all about. He speaks at length of the bond between him and his Father and it is from this bond of love that he is 'sent'.

Jesus tells us that we too are 'sent' to continue his mission. Friendship with Jesus is being with him, and being sent in his name. Our mission is to place his love and message at the centre of the world. In following him in mission and love, we too are 'being sent'.

On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we know Jesus' name throughout the entire globe two thousand years down the line. We have a much easier job than the early disciples had. Now all we need is a little bit of their sense of mission.

How should it feel to be entrusted with such an important job? Well for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world. We spend most of our lives worrying about work, money, illness, relationships and commitments. It's very hard to rise above worldly concerns. In fact for most of us it just seems impossible.

Today's gospel reminds us that Jesus' love for his disciples does not fade. It endures eternally. He asks the Father to protect and guide. He entrusts us, his friends and companions, to the loving care of his Father. Today is an invitation not to think of ourselves on the outside looking in, but to be as much a part as we can in impacting the world as much as those early disciples did.

Best wishes to all our young parishioners as they sit the State Exams, beginning June 5th.

There will be an **Evening of Taizé** in **Mt.Sion** on **Friday 7th June at 8pm.**

There will be a meeting of the **Liturgy Group** on **Weds 5th June at 7.30pm** in the Parish Centre.

Correction : Please Note: the Annual Cemetery Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 20th June at 7.30pm.

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 :

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11.

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34.

Rm 8:8-17.

Jn 14:15-16, 23-26.

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

1st/2nd June 2019

8th/9th June 2019

6.30pm Saturday

Gerry Grant

Jimmy O'Leary

John & Mary Coade

10.00am Sunday:

Mabel Grant , Michael Cshin

12 Noon Sunday:

Paddy Holden

M.M Agnes Kelly

Michael Power

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm

Fr. Eddie Conway,
Maria Sharpe, Pierie Dower
Barty & May Whelan

John Power
John Quann
The Mackey Family

11.00am Sunday

Mary Broderick
Pat Hearne

Maureen & Wally Threadaway
Christopher (Jim) Flanagan



**Please pray for those
who died recently**
Declan Clancy
whose birthday or anniversary occurs
Gerry Grant, Peter O'Brien
Jerome & Julie Hegarty, Clodagh Lee
Mary Broderick

Rescheduled Launch of Parish Vision Statement (where we hope to be in 5 years)

Due to printing difficulties, the Launch of the Parish Vision Statement was deferred from last Sunday to this weekend.

You may recall reading an invitation in the Newsletter recently, to a meeting on April 24th to discuss a Vision Statement for the Parish. During this time of crisis in the Church, the Vision Statement is to direct our Pastoral Programme for the coming years. Following the meeting, a Parish Vision Statement was drafted. It will be launched at Masses this weekend.

Comhghairdeas to the pupils of Ballygunner Gael Scoil who made their First Holy Communion last weekend. Thanks to their teacher and families who prepared them for the Sacrament.



Alpha

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone, anywhere to freely explore their unique questions about life, faith and God. It is a series of interactive sessions where we firstly share food, then watch a video, and discuss afterwards. All views are listened to and indeed respected.

Some of the topics explored are:

Is there more to life than this?

Who is Jesus?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What about the Church?

The sessions take place weekly over 11 weeks and include the opportunity to experience a quiet weekend away for those who wish to explore the work of the Holy Spirit – or someone who just might enjoy a quiet reflective time away.

Facts on Alpha

Over 29 million people have experienced Alpha. 84000 groups are running in 164 countries, in 112 languages. Alpha began in London in 1977 and has continued to flourish.

Update on Alpha in our Parish

We have just finished our second Alpha season (March - May) and were blessed with 29 guests – all of us experienced great friendship, food, prayer, and wonderful discussions. This is certainly the work of the Holy Spirit among us. We also shared time in Melleray – open to all guests.

Vision for Alpha in our Parish

Sept 2019 : we begin our third season of Alpha.

October 2019 : we launch our first Connect group! (as promised at first Alpha)

What is a Connect group?

This is where those who have completed Alpha (Alumni) will continue to stay connected. It is an opportunity to experience friendship, share food, pray and have discussions on a monthly basis! Please pray for the success of our new venture!

Many thanks for your prayers and support in so many ways.

Olive, Frances, Maria, Martina, Agnes, Ann, Denise (Alpha Team)

Parish Pastoral Council

Congratulations to James Brennan, the new Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. Many thanks to the outgoing Chair, Denise Hughes.

*Last Sunday's
Collection
€2,426
Thank you*



Live Streaming of Masses

www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford

AND

www.churchservices.tv/stmarysballygunner

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

Lasallian India Project 2019

Br. Tom Walsh would like to thank everybody who contributed to the recent collection for this year's project in India. A total of €3,720 was raised.

The Emerald Tenors

*All your Irish favourites plus so much more
with Ireland's newest trio sensation.*

St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church
Waterford City

Sunday 16th June, 2019 at 8.00 p.m.

Tickets €20

Phone box office 051 878977

Tickets on the door on the night.



There will be a gathering of **The Friendship Lunch** on **Monday 10th June** in the **Cove Bar** at 12.30pm. Please be there by 12.30 in order to facilitate the staff.

Recent Baptisms

We welcome **Indie Kitty Power** and **Elias Alan Cunningham** who were baptised recently. Please keep them, their parents and godparents in your prayers.



Sign-Up Sunday: thank You !

Thanks to everybody who gave us their contact details on "Sign-Up Sunday". If anybody else would like to help occasionally in small practical ways during Masses, please contact the Parish Office 051 878977.

FUTURE EVENTS IN OUR PARISH

We would like to inform you in advance of future events in the Parish:

01/06 : Mass for all 2nd level Exam students (6.30pm)

02/06: Talk by Welcoming Committee

09/06: Launch of Diocesan Pastoral Plan & "Name-tag Sunday".

16/06: Talk by member of Alpha Team

30/06: Talk by Nursing home Visitation Team

Explanatory Presentations will be made at Masses.

Keep an eye on the Newsletter for further information.