

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

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4th Sunday of Advent

22nd Dec 2019

Gospel Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent : Difficult Decisions.



If we are lucky we might get through life without making any painful or difficult decisions, but we can't all be so lucky. There are some who will choose to give birth to a child knowing that the baby has a disability. There are those who will choose to care for a relative who is very ill or dying. These decisions are made with no real clue of what lies ahead, but they will always be made out of love.

There's no doubt about it, for people who make difficult decisions in life there will be great difficulties ahead. What is equally certain is that there will be great rewards too.

Our Nativity scenes show Mary and Joseph smiling fondly at the Baby Jesus as though bringing the son of God into the world had been one of the easiest decisions to make. As we look in at the cosy scene, we have to remember that the history of salvation would have been completely different if either Mary or Joseph had said 'no' to God's plan. Saying 'yes' to God's plan didn't give Mary or Joseph an easy life, but being part of God's plan in such a direct and practical way must have brought them great fulfilment, and of course, it earned them a place in the history books for all eternity.

We too are part of God's plan, though it probably doesn't feel like it. We too have a part to play in leaving the world a better place than we found it. What is God asking of each of us? Advent is a time to make decisions that will turn our predictable lives into roller-coasters with difficult lows but rewarding highs.

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)

No 7.30am Mass Bank Hols

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

Beannachtaí na féile oraibh go léir

<i>St. Joseph & St. Benildus</i>	<i>21st/22nd Dec 2019</i>	<i>28th/29th Dec 2019</i>
6.30pm Saturday	Michael, Mary & Catherine Hearne Jim Whelan	Michael Kearney
10.00am Sunday:	Brian Fitzgerald	Patrick Troy
12 Noon Sunday:	Joan & Tom Foskin	(M.M.) Michael Walsh Niall Larkin
St. Mary's, Ballygunner		
7.00pm Sat:	William, Mary, Nancy & John Sharpe	John & Bridget Keane, Pierce Dower Fr. Joe Cullen, Fr. Pat Burrows, George Murphy
11.00a.m Sun :	Charles Murray	Mary Cummins Luke Kenny & Bridie Flynn

IF YOU WISH TO

PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS :

Holy Family

Eccles 3:2-6, 12-14.

Ps 127:1-5.

Col 3:12-21.

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23.

Please pray for those whose anniversary or birthday

occurs



Anthony Coakley,
Bridget Kennedy,
Thomas & Mary Cummins,
Eileen & Jim Jackman,
Jack & Claire O'Brien,
Rose O'Connor,
Frank Hutchinson,
John Bradley,
Tom Broderick (Snr.,)

Last Sunday's



Collection
€2,800

*Thank you for
your generosity*

Live Streaming of Masses

www.churchservices.tv/
stjosephswaterford
AND
www.churchservices.tv/
stmarysballygunner

Newsletter "News"

If parishioners are aware of any forthcoming events (of a non-commercial nature) that might be of interest to readers, please contact jbmnews@gmail.com by 11am on the Tuesday before printing.



Christmas Dinner

On your own on Christmas Day?

You are most welcome to a Christmas Dinner (free of charge)...from 12.30—2.00pm in St.

Joseph's School, Parnell Street, Waterford.

Contact John 087 688 9047



Drop—in Centre, St. Joseph & Benildus Parish Centre. Christmas Day

On Christmas Day between 2 pm and 4.30 pm the over- 50s, especially those living alone are invited for tea, cake, chat, storytelling and song at the Parish Centre, St Benildus Church, Newtown. The event is being hosted by the parish and the Waterford Older People's Council, a new county- and city- wide body set up under the auspices of Waterford Council to promote the well-being of the over 50s. That's Christmas Day between 2 pm and 4.30 pm especially for the over -50s.

St. Mary's Rota

The Rotas for Eucharistic Ministers and Ministers of the Word for St. Mary's are available for collection in the sacristy.

**Christmas Mass
Bouquets** are available for purchase in the Parish Office.

Attention all Distributors

The Christmas Dues Envelopes for the support of the Bishop and Priests of the parish are now available for collection in the Parish Office.

Care for Our Common Home :

Eco Tips for Christmas Wrapping Paper

If you are buying your Christmas wrapping paper this week give a thought to recycling. Paper that can be recycled will be labelled.

Blessed Sacrament Adoration will not take place over Christmas and will resume on Wednesday 15th January 2020.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2019

CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday 24th December : Mass 10.30am

CONFESSIONS 11am- 12.30pm and 3pm – 4pm

CHRISTMAS DAY – Liturgy of the Nativity of Our Lord

Tuesday 24th December : Carol Service : 8.30pm

Christmas Vigil Mass : 9.00pm

Wednesday 25th December : Children's Christmas Mass : 10am

Parish Mass : 12 noon

No evening Mass Christmas Day

St. Stephen's Day : Thursday 26th December : Mass 10.30am

Feast of the Epiphany : Mon 6th January, Mass 11am No vigil Mass

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BALLYGUNNER

CHRISTMAS DAY- Liturgy of the Nativity of Our Lord.

CHRISTMAS EVE : Tuesday 24th December : Carol Service 8.30pm

Vigil Mass : 9.00pm

Wednesday 25th December : Mass : 11am

(Confession will be available in St. Mary's after Masses this weekend, 21/22 Dec)

Feast of the Epiphany ; Mon 6th January : Mass 11am. No vigil Mass

We wish all our parishioners a Happy and Blessed Christmas

Care for our Common Home : Choose a Live Tree

Although plastic Christmas trees are reusable from year to year, real trees are the more sustainable choice. Plastic trees are made of petroleum products (PVC), and use up resources in both the manufacture and shipping. Discarded artificial trees are then sent to landfills, where their plastic content makes them last forever. Live trees, on the other hand, are a renewable resource grown on tree farms, that are replanted regularly. They contribute to air quality while growing, and almost ninety percent are recycled into mulch.

Live trees also smell like Christmas!

CHANGE IN MASS TIMES: There will be **NO** 7.30am Mass from 25th Dec to Tues 6th January, inclusive.