

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

Second Sunday of Christmas

5th January 2020

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)

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

Gospel Reflection for the Epiphany

A Beginner's Guide to Guiding Stars



God reaches out far and wide to announce the birth of his Son. He reaches out to simple shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem, and to great intellects from the East. He reaches out to those of different religions, to politicians and to scientists. The revelation that a saviour has been born is bigger than anybody. The story of the Magi, who followed the star and sidestepped the evil Herod, is tempting in its appeal to romanticise, but if we are to learn anything we have to focus on the nature of God's revelation.

It mightn't feel much as though God is reaching out to us. The stable with its shepherds and kings might seem very far away as we take down our Christmas decorations and recycle our Christmas cards. There's a sense of 'back to normal', and for most of us that means a hum drum cycle of boring jobs and making ends meet. Today's story tells us that it doesn't have to be that way. To follow the star is to make a conscious decision to cut out everything that is unimportant. The rules are simple. We have to make the right choices on a daily basis no matter what the consequences. In the light of poor decisions, we must learn to ask forgiveness and move away from regret. We must find time in a world full of distractions to listen to our inner voice. Most importantly we have to ask God to guide us as he guided the Magi.

Most of us get through life relying on the knowledge we already have. Today's challenge is to look for something new. Knowing where to look for our own guiding star is up to us, but one thing is for sure, if we are not looking for revelation, we will never find it. If we carry on doing the same things we will only get the same results.

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

4th & 5th January 2020

11th & 12th January 2020

6.30pm Saturday

Terry Sheridan
Sean McGrath

Michael Lane

10.00am Sunday:

Margaret & Aidan O'Reilly

12 Noon Sunday:

Tess Browne MM

Gerry Harrington

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Sat:

James & Ester Hoey

Cissie Gough

Alice, Mick, Jack & Helen Parle

John & Brede Mullowney

Tom Phelan, Christy Bolger

11.00a.m Sun :

Della Upton
May Power (20th A)

John Gear

IF YOU WISH TO

PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS :

The Baptism of Our Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7

Ps 28:1-4, 9-10

Acts 10:34-38

Mt 3: 13-17

Please pray for those whose anniversary or birthday occurs



Brian Fitzgerald,
Claire & Jack O'Brien,
Anne Malone,

And the Month's Mind remembrance of

Michael Walsh
Tess Browne

*Last Sunday's
Collection
€2205*



*Thank you for
your generosity*

Live Streaming of Masses

www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford
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.



A Message of Gratitude

At this time of year, the priests of the parish, Fr. John, Fr. Ray and myself wish to thank most sincerely all those who serve our Parish Community and help to build it up through their various ministries, enabling it to be as faith-filled, welcoming, inclusive and supportive as possible.

I begin with members of the **Parish staff**, Anne and Betty and Winnie in the **Parish Office**; Shay who is responsible for **Church Maintenance**, and Karen for cleaning, and our Fás workers who do a marvellous job in maintaining the **Graveyard**. A very special thanks to Tom O'Brien who acts as **Financial Administrator** in a totally voluntary capacity. Tom also chairs the **Parish Finance Council**.

We thank our **Sacristans**, Betty Flynn, Martha Flood, Vincent Walsh, and those who assist them.

Thanks to Chris O'Sullivan for the **Christmas Crib** in St. Joseph and St. Benildus and Frank English, Frank Dempsey and Liam Frampton in St. Mary's.

In relation to ministry, we must begin with our **Parish Pastoral Council**, chaired by James Brennan. Next we thank all involved in Liturgical Ministry: The **Parish Liturgy Group**, chaired by Mary Lawrence; The **Parish Choirs**, with Directors Br. Ben, Sr. Úna, Dr. Joe O'Beirne, Ann Cody, and Bronagh Peelo who is Musical Director of the **Children's Choir**. Thanks to our organists in St. Mary's, Declan Foley and Dylan Brown. We are grateful to Cantors, Vanessa Whelan, Valerie Leahy, Stephanie Foley, Bronagh Sheridan, Eleanor Carleton and Laura Nolan. Thanks also to Gerry Kane for his contribution to the music ministry in both churches. We appreciate the great work done by the **Children's Liturgy Committees**. We are grateful for the commitment of the **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Ministers of the Word, Envelope Distributors, Basket Collectors, Counters, The Welcoming Committee, The Altar Servers, Those Who Care For The Altar Linens, Flower Arrangers, The Parish Prayer Groups, The Blessed Sacrament Adoration Group** and **The Cemetery Committee**.

We are grateful to the **Adult Faith Formation Group** in our parish; this includes the **Baptism Preparation Team**, and the co-ordinators of the **Alpha Programme** under the Chair of Denise Hughes. We are grateful to our **Parish Catechist, Olive Ruane**. We also appreciate the tremendous commitment shown by the **Outreach Ministries: St. Vincent de Paul Society, Hospitality Group, Visitation Group, the Home Visitation team and Curly Sheridan** who organises the **Friendship Lunches**. Thanks also to the members of the **Ishiara Parish Partnership Committee**, and also our **SLT Team (Support Leadership Team)**

We also appreciate the contribution made by our schools throughout the year.

Last, **but not least**, we thank our **Communications Ministry**, responsible for our **Newsletter** and **Website**, which are produced and updated each week by **Angeline** with the support of **Deirdre**.

With every good wish for the New Year:

Fr. Liam

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.

Masses for Feast of the Epiphany - Masses will be at 11am
in both Churches on Monday 6th January
There will be **No Vigil Mass** on Sunday 5th January in St. Joseph
& St. Benildus or St. Mary's.
The 7.30 daily Mass will resume on Tuesday 7th January

Blessed Sacrament Adoration will resume on Wednesday 15th January 2020