

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

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3rd Sunday in Lent

8th March 2020

Gospel Reflection for the Third Sunday of Lent

Breaking Down Barriers.

"Are you hiding anything?" It's an uncomfortable question that probably invites a heated denial from most of us; yet most of us are probably hiding something. We might be trying to shrug off a nagging guilt or an unforgiving sin. We might be trying to forget an episode in our lives where we behaved unwisely. We might be trying to cover up the agony of a failed relationship or putting a brave face on a lifetime of loneliness and rejection. How many of us are covering up weaknesses and flaws in our character? Most of us are trying to hide something, yet we would all acknowledge that burying something isn't the best way to find healing or improvement.

The woman at the well in today's gospel was struggling through life with a great deal of baggage. Firstly she was a woman with a lesser role in society, not only that, but a woman without a husband and to add insult to injury, a woman with a bad reputation. Secondly the woman was a Samaritan, a foreigner, and as such, regarded by most as a person to be avoided altogether. Jesus puzzles the woman. He is a man and he is a Jew, in other words, the very last person she would have expected to strike up a conversation. Life had taught the woman to expect something very different. Life had taught her to expect contempt and rejection. Is this why we keep our own failings under wraps? Do we, like the Samaritan woman expect our friends family and work mates to be unforgiving and uncompromising if they new the real us?

God's love is like a sprinkler system spreading Christ's unconditional life giving water without prejudice or judgement. Lent is the time to unravel all our hidden pain and set it before God. Lent is the time to take a leaf out of Jesus' book, to see the pain in the lives of others and break down the barriers society has built.

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

IF YOU WISH TO PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS :

4th Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1, 6-7

Ps 22

Eph5:8-14

Jn 9: 1-41

<i>St. Joseph & St. Benildus</i>	<i>14th/15th Mar 2020</i>	<i>21st/22nd Mar 2020</i>
6.30pm Saturday		Patrick (Bonnie)Nolan MM
10.00am Sunday:		Robin Dawson
12 noon Sunday	Bertie, Nan & Downes & Daughter Janet Walsh	Thea O'Shea
<i>St. Mary's, Ballygunner</i>		
7.00pm Sat:	Patricia Griffin	John Byrne
11.00a.m Sun :	Oliver Power Edward Collins Bernard Hayes	Mary & John Lyons Mary & Michael Fitzpatrick William Farrell

**Please pray Months Mind of**

Patrick (Bonnie) Nolan

& whose anniversaries occur

Delia Carroll, Christina Chestnutt, Peter Powell,

Nicholas & Annie Flynn, John Thompson,

Barbara Hearne

Live Streaming of Masses www.churchservices.tv/

stjosephswaterford

www.churchservices.tv/stmarysballygunner*Last Sunday's Collection***€2,907****Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference statement on liturgical considerations in the context of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

As bishops we present the following directions in the light of current public health authority advice in Ireland, north and south, aware that these might have to change at very short notice.

While acknowledging that the following directives will involve sacrifice for all, we encourage a positive engagement in order that the most vulnerable amongst us can be protected and so that the coronavirus can be contained.

Hand Hygiene

- It is important that hand sanitiser is provided at each entrance of the church.
- Holy water fonts should remain empty at this time.
- The Sign of Peace is not to be expressed by hand shaking.
- Having received Holy Communion, and before and after distributing, the priest and ministers should sanitise their hands.
- Collection baskets: priests are asked to provide an alternative to the practice of passing collection baskets through the congregation. The faithful are asked to continue their generous contributions to the upkeep of their parish.

Receiving Holy Communion in the hand

We ask that Holy Communion be received in the hand until the current crisis has passed.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is a happy and joyous occasion which brings people together from far and wide. We ask that people with underlying health conditions and who are considered vulnerable from a health perspective, should not attend the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick Concerning the pastoral care of the sick and the administration of the sacrament, the priest will use a cotton bud or surgical glove for the anointing with Holy Oil and dispose of them appropriately.

The Sacrament of Baptism

During this time the celebrant will sign the child with the Cross without touching. Where there is more than one child being baptised, a single jug of fresh water will be blessed and used. The anointing with the Holy Oils will be administered by the use of cotton buds.

Funerals

The community of faith will always seek to surround the funerals and burials of its deceased members with love and respect. However, even now it is clear that people with underlying conditions, and who are vulnerable, should not attend funerals. For the same reason, when sympathising, people should *not* shake hands.

The Church awaits official guidance from the public health authorities in the event of a deterioration in the situation. While abiding by all such advice, the Church will always stand with the bereaved and do its best to ensure a Christian burial for those who request it.

You may view Mass on our live streaming Monday to Saturday at 10.30am & on Sundays at 11am on our website - www.jbmparish.com or at www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford.