

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

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4th Sunday in Lent

22nd March 2020

Gospel Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Insights



Today Jesus cures a man who has been blind from birth, but it is not the blindness of the man himself that is central to this story but the blindness of those around him. The Pharisees are pretty sure they know who Jesus is and they are fairly certain that he is not of God. Consequently they are completely non-plussed by Jesus' miracle. They question the cured man over and over as though seeking some other explanation. The Pharisees are unable to believe the evidence before their eyes. They are just as blind as the blind man once was. They are blind to the truth because they refuse to see it. Jesus chose to cure the blind man, not simply because he felt a sympathy for him but because he wanted to display how God can work through any one of us. Jesus could see that the blind man would make a persuasive evangelist, and he was right. The cured blind man, unlike his frightened parents, spoke out boldly and persistently first proclaiming Jesus as a prophet, and then as he gained more insight, that this man was the Son of God. Even so, the short-sighted Pharisees were not convinced. Their belief that only Moses could act as spokesperson for God, rendered them totally myopic when it came to Jesus. Perhaps there is a lesson here for all of us. Are we so blinkered in what we believe and how we worship, that we are unable to see the broader picture that would allow our faith to move forwards?

Jesus' miracle and choice of subject, teaches that God can work through any one of us. In the circumstances of our lives we can show others how God works. In our skills and

MASS TIMES

ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS

MONDAY TO SATURDAY
10.30AM

Sunday: 12 noon -
Streamed on
jbmparish.com

CONFESSIONS

BY REQUEST

St. Mary's, Ballygunner
No Mass due to
Coronavirus regulations

IF YOU WISH TO
PREPARE NEXT SUNDAY'S
READINGS :
5th Sunday of Lent

Ez: 37:12-14
Ps 129
Rm 8:8-11
Jn 11: 1-45

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

21st/22nd Mar 2020

28/29th March 2020

6.30pm Saturday

Patrick (Bonnie) Nolan MM

10.00am Sunday:

Robin Dawson

Cormac MacNamara

12 noon Sunday

Thea O'Shea

Martin Doheny

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Sat:

John Byrne

Tommy Hearn

11.00a.m Sun :

Mary & Michael Fitzpatrick

Tony Power

William Farrell

Thomas Glasheen

All of the above will be remembered and prayed for at the 12 noon Mass in St. Joseph & St. Benildus at the streamed Mass on Sunday at 12 noon

**Please pray Months Mind of**

Patrick (Bonnie) Nolan

& whose anniversaries occur

Bertie Down & Janet Walsh, Nan Downs,

Robin Dawson, John Goff

Live Streaming of Masseswww.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford

You may view Mass on our live streaming Monday to Saturday at 10.30am & on Sundays at 12 Noon on our website - www.jbmparish.com or at www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford.

Statement of encouragement and support by the Catholic Bishops of the Munster province

“Let us to turn to God with faith and prayer knowing that He is always with us ... everyone should do their part to contain the virus ... the Covid-19 crisis will pass”

Support, Encouragement and Guidance

In the face of massive disruption at so many levels because of the Covid-19 crisis, we want to offer words of support and indicate some directions. In its statement two weeks ago, the Irish Bishops' Conference reminded us that as people of faith we are called to face the fears of this moment with a courage not our own and with a generous heart. It is a special time for us to turn to God with faith and prayer knowing that He is always with us.

Generosity of Spirit.

We want to acknowledge the generous spirit of social responsibility shown by so many with all the sacrifice that it entails for individuals, families, business, parish communities and the wider society.

A Time for ongoing Prayer.

The past week has been extraordinary. Despite the difficult loss of Sunday and weekday public celebration of Mass, people have been able to find some comfort and support in spiritual communion with the Masses being celebrated by priests every day. It has been uplifting to see how many have accessed media outlets to follow Mass, take part in prayer moments, and seek out other prayer and religious resources online. It has been a time to discover the value of quiet time of prayer in the home and prayer as a family, “the Domestic Church”. We have heard from many who are very grateful that churches have remained open. Indeed, priests have told us of a constant presence of individuals calling into churches for moments of prayer and recollection. It has been a consolation to know that churches are still open, prayer is always possible, and that there is a vast community of prayer and support available to us even as we follow the recommendations around social distancing.

Generosity of Service.

We note the helpfulness of the HSE guidelines and encourage everyone to do all they can in social responsibility to follow the advice being given. On behalf of the people of our seven dioceses, we express our gratitude to those working in healthcare, the services relating to healthcare and public services dealing with the fall-out from the virus. We are grateful for the spirit of volunteering on the part of many in local communities and on social media.