

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

PARISH CONTACTS

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7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

23rd Feb 2020

Background on the Gospel:

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. Jesus asks his followers to resist retaliation. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

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 :

1st Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7.

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17.

Rm 5:12-19.

Mt 4:1-11.

<i>St. Joseph & St. Benildus</i>	<i>22nd/23rd Feb 2020</i>	<i>29th Feb/1st Mar 2020</i>
6.30pm Saturday	William Smith Jim Carroll	
10.00am Sunday:	Anna Maher	
12 noon Sunday	Molly & John Harney	Aidan McAvinue, Margaret Cleere
<i>St. Mary's, Ballygunner</i>		
7.00pm Sat:	Anastasia & Phillip Lahert , Paddy Morrissey, Bridget Keane, Nancy & William Sharpe	Helen O'Connor
11.00a.m Sun :		Alva Fitzgerald, M.M John O'Connor, M.M Elena Jarofosok



**Please pray for those
whose anniversaries occur**
Delia & Eddie Grant, Maeve Twomey,
Jack Barriscale, Agnes Devins

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on 26th February.
In the Church of St. Joseph & St. Benildus, Mass will be
celebrated at 7.30 and 10.30am. A service of Evening
Prayer will take place at 6.30pm on Ash Wednesday.
Blessed Ashes will be distributed at each ceremony.
In St. Mary's, Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am on the 26th.

**LOURDES : 62nd annual Diocesan Pilgrimage
of Waterford & Lismore.**

Weds 3rd June to Monday 8th
June 2020.

Pilgrimage Bookings: Lourdes
Office, St. John's Pastoral Centre,
John's Hill, Waterford: 051
878900

Information for sick people:
Waterford Area:
Mary Power: 086 0685213

Book to work as a helper: Adults (18+).
No experience required. Doctors, Nurses &
Healthcare Professionals also required.
Cost: € 785pps, inclusive of tax, insurance, airport transfers.
Full board basis.

ALPHA IN OUR PARISH March 2020



Alpha begins again in our parish on
Thursday March 5th ...7 pm -9pm.
Each evening features a meal, a video,
and an opportunity to ask questions
on topics such as:
Is there more to life than this?
Who is Jesus ?
Who is the Holy Spirit?
What about the Church?

Everyone is encouraged to experience Alpha - it is a wonder-
ful way to get to know others, discuss matters of life and faith
and to build community. We invite parishioners and non pa-
rishioners, and especially those who have difficulty with the
Christian faith. There is no cost and no commitment but of
course any contribution is accepted!
Do contact us if interested in coming - we need to know our
numbers for catering and especially if you have special dietary
needs.

This is our 4th season of Alpha and many who have
completed Alpha are now meeting in our first Connect group
- an opportunity to continue growing and sharing. At a later
date we will give you an update on same. Do pray that many
will be inspired to come and experience Alpha - if not for
you at the moment perhaps you know someone who might
like to attend?

Alpha Team

*Last Sunday's
Collection
€2,270*



*Thank you for
your generosity*

Live Streaming of Masses

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

NEWSLETTER NEWS

In an attempt to make the Newsletter
more inclusive, parishioners are
invited to submit items of local
interest (of a non-commercial
nature) for inclusion in the
Newsletter. Please note that the
deadline is 11am on the Tuesday
before printing.

Accord Marriage and Relationship Counselling Service

Are you experiencing difficulties in your Marriage or
Relationship? If you can't talk to one another, why not
talk to us? Accord Clonmel offers a confidential Couple,
or One to One, low cost Counselling Service, with
highly trained and experienced Counsellors.
Phone Ita at 052 612414

St. John's Church, Parnell Street, Waterford.

Lenten Prayer Service Around the Cross, will be celebrated
on Wednesday 26th Feb at 7.00pm. Blessed Ashes will
be distributed.

Trócaire Boxes are available at the back door of each
church. Please continue to support this cause.
*This year, there is a connection with Ishiara, our Parish
Partner in Kenya. Madris is a farmer and mother of 6, who
receives support from Trócaire's local partner, Ishiara Parish.
She has received chickens, has been taught new methods of
eco-friendly farming, how to harvest rainwater and how to
prevent livestock diseases. She has been supported to join a
savings and loans group, which enables her to receive
additional income during dry months. This support makes all
the difference to her being able to feed her family, to pay
school fees and to plan for the future. To learn more, see
trocaire.org/resources/parishes.*

Mass of Thanksgiving: Fri 3rd April, 7.30pm, St. Joseph & St. Benildus Church.

There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for all those involved in
Ministry in our Parish, on Friday 3rd April, at 7.30p.m. This
will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. *On this
occasion we will also mark Tom O'Brien's many years of dedicated
service in our Parish.*

For those wishing to attend, it is essential to RSVP to the
Parish Office before Friday 6th March 2020.

ATTENTION SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS:

**UPPER ROOM: A TIME OF MUSIC AND
FUN !!**

Bring your own favourite instruments & music. St
Joseph & Benildus Parish Centre, every Weds
from 7-8.45pm.
By Netministries Ireland.

