

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

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5th Sunday in Lent

29nd March 2020

Gospel Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Life Changing



The most unsettling parts of the Bible are the bits where Jesus doesn't do exactly what we expect. Today Jesus' good friends Mary and Martha send him a message to come quickly because their brother Lazarus is dying. We would expect Jesus to drop everything and go quickly to their house. Instead, he hangs around for a couple of days and does nothing. What can he be thinking of? In truth, the delay is an essential part of the story. If Jesus had simply raised Lazarus from feeling unwell the story would have lacked poignancy, and no one would have had their faith significantly deepened that day. That Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead has a dramatic and profound impact on all not least Lazarus himself. We might have expected Lazarus to have more to say on the matter. We might wish that he had shared a couple of life after death experiences with us, but it seems that Lazarus and his experiences are not really the point of the story. The main point of the story is Jesus' ability to transform the meaning of life and death for those who trust in him. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." In bringing Lazarus back to life, Jesus shows the crowds that death need hold no fear for those who place their trust in him. It is truly life changing to know that we are invited to place this much faith in God. It is life changing to know that God can handle any situation in which we find ourselves, and that he knows how to lead us through it. All we have to do is focus our faith on God rather than our own imagined solutions. Expect surprises. Expect delays. Expect a God who can guide us through life with all its challenges.

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 :
Palm Sunday

Is: 50: 4-7
Ps 12: 8-9 17-20
Phil 2:6-11
Mt 26: 14-26

<i>St. Joseph & St. Benildus</i>	<i>28/29th March 2020</i>	<i>4th/5th April 2020</i>
6.30pm Saturday		Harry Geraghty
10.00am Sunday:	CormacMacNamara	John Corcoran
12 noon Sunday	Martin Doheny	
<i>St. Mary's, Ballygunner</i>		
7.00pm Sat:	Tommy Hearn	Michael Whelan
11.00a.m Sun :	Tony Power	Paddy & Marueen Moloney
	T 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
John Goff

Live Streaming of Masses

[www.churchservices.tv/
stjosephswaterford](http://www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford)

Mass Live Streaming

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. If you have a problem accessing the Streaming please ring the Parish Helpline on 083 8195001 or the Parish Office on 051 878977 and we will be happy to help.

If you do not have the internet and would like to avail of mass, daily mass is broadcast on RTE News Now at 10.30am each morning. RTE News Now is available on: Saorview Channel 21, Virgin Media Channel 200 Sky Channel 521, Eir Channel 517..

Parish Helpline—083 8195001

A Parish helpline has been set up if you should wish to avail of it. If you would like shopping or a prescription collected or just a chat or someone to say a prayer with you please contact us on the number above. This service will operate from 9am to 9pm each day. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the team who are manning the line.

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

“Let us 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 three 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.