

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

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Fourth Sunday of Easter

3rd May 2020

## Gospel Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

### How to be a Person of Discernment

It is not good to hear ourselves described as sheep. Sheep are silly animals that follow each other blindly and do not act or think for themselves. This however is not the imagery intended when Jesus invites us to be 'his flock', rather his is asking us to think of him as our 'good shepherd'.

The voice of Jesus the good shepherd is the one that offers us spiritual sustenance, guidance, love and protection. Jesus wants us to recognise his voice as the one who addresses what we are and what we stand for. Key to a healthy spiritual life is an overriding commitment to hearing the word of God and applying it to one's own life, but in a world of competing values can we always recognise the voice of Jesus?

The trick is to know that Jesus' voice is everywhere that encourages us to impact our world as Christians. Jesus' voice is the voice at work that encourages us to do our best. Jesus is the voice that encourages us to respond to family members and the wider community who are in need. Jesus' voice is the voice that tells us how to vote and how to campaign for those who do not have a voice of their own. The voice of the impostor on the other hand is everywhere that encourages us to act out of self-interest and greed.

Sadly, this has to be an oversimplification. What seems to be the right answer for one person might be completely different for someone else. How is it that armies can fight each other, each believing that God is on their side? How is it that so many different denominations can interpret Jesus' words differently, each believing that they have got it right? How, throughout centuries of history, could heads of states have made such bitter and cruel decisions in God's name?

Clearly, recognising the voice of our shepherd isn't an easy task. Recognising the voice of our shepherd takes discernment, practice and continual self-evaluation. Have we all been doing the same things in the same way year in and year out? Is there anything we could be doing better? Recognising the voice of our shepherd relies on what we already know from scripture, and not what we fondly imagine Jesus might be telling us. Most importantly, recognising Jesus must always be rooted securely in the love for each other and in love for our enemies. If we adhere to this important commandment, then surely Jesus will find us, whoever we are. Being part of Jesus' flock is certainly not for the 'sheep'; it's for those with discerning ears.

## MASS TIMES

**ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS**

**MONDAY TO SATURDAY**  
**10.30AM**

**Sunday: 12 noon -**

**CONFESSIONS :**

**Penitential Service**

Tuesday 7th April 2020

Streamed:

www.churchservices.tv/

stjosephswaterford

**St. Mary's,**

**Ballygunner**

**No Mass due to**

**Coronavirus regulations**

**IF YOU WISH TO  
PREPARE NEXT SUN-  
DAY'S**

**READINGS :**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Acts 6: 1-7*

*Ps232 1-2, 4-5*

*1 Pt 2:4-9*

*Jn14 1-12*

**St. Joseph & St. Benildus**

**2nd/3rd May 2020**

**9th & 10th May 2020**

6.30pm

Declan Keohan

Dan & Nora Holdan

10.00am Sunday:

Nora McCarthy

12 noon Sunday

Paddy & Eileen Foley

Rita McAvenue

**St. Mary's, Ballygunner**

7.00pm Sat:

William O'Brien

John Barry

Johnny Flynn

Agnes Kelly

11.00a.m Sunday:

Colm Hartley

Christy O'Sullivan

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

**Please pray for**  
Lily Marshall, Ester Powell,  
Fr. Frank McCabe, Mary Sadlier  
**whose anniversaries occur at this**  
**time.**



## Easter Dues



**DONATE**

**Many thanks to all those who have paid their Easter Dues on line on our website [www.jbmparish.com](http://www.jbmparish.com) button. You may also make your weekly contribution in this way.**

**Donations may also be dropped into the letter box at the Parish Office.**

## **Schedule for May, Month of Our Lady** **On our live-streaming service is as follows:**

### **Monday**

Stations of the Cross  
(After 10.30am Mass)

### **Wednesday**

Guided Rosary on Caring for Creation after 10.30am Mass  
Evening Prayer of the Church  
With quiet prayer and reflection 7.30pm

### **Friday**

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary with reflection  
(after 10.30am Mass)

### **Saturday**

Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help  
(during 10.30 Mass)

### **Tuesday & Thursday**

10.30am Mass

### **Sunday**

12 noon Mass

**Parish Helpline—083 8195001**

### **Prayer Request Page:**

A Prayer Request page has been set up on our website [www.jbmparish.com](http://www.jbmparish.com). Your intentions will be remembered every morning at 10.30am mass.

### **Mass on RTE Television**

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..

***Please note that RTE News Now are now broadcasting an extra Mass at 2pm on Sundays from the Holy Family Mission in Glencomeragh, Co. Waterford.***

## **Call to Chat**

**And stay connected**

### **For older people**

*....feel like a chat with someone?*

Feeling lonely?  
Gardening, activities for the cocooned,  
Keeping fit, discuss a TV programme or book you're reading.

*In fact anything other than getting messages -  
Groceries, non-medical etc.  
Other support groups are doing that*

**Call 1800 250 185  
Ask for CALL to CHAT**



**An initiative of  
Waterford Libraries  
and Waterford Older  
People's Council**



## **Accord's new & confidential 'Relationships Support Phone Line' Over 100 callers report relationship problems on Accord's support phone lines**

Accord's new and confidential 'Relationships Support Phone Line' is a free counselling service for people experiencing pressure in their marriage and relationships due to social restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date over one hundred callers have made contact using the three Accord numbers which serve the island of Ireland:

- Accord CLG – 01 531 3331
- Accord Dublin – 01 905 9555
- Accord NI – 028 9568 0151 or 00353 1 531 3331

Calls to Accord counsellors typically last 45 to 60 minutes in duration and are charged at a local rate.

Main problems exacerbated by the COVID-19 restrictions: effects on children, family tensions, domestic finances, mental health, difficulty living in a confined space, inability to grieve properly when a loved one dies, pressure on work and study at home.

### **Irish Chaplaincy offers contact service for anyone in Ireland with concerns about vulnerable older family or friends isolated in London**

This is a free service and contact can be made to the Chaplaincy from Ireland by post: PO BOX 75693 London NW1W 7ZT; by email [seniors@irishchaplaincy.org.uk](mailto:seniors@irishchaplaincy.org.uk) and by phone 0044 (0) 20 7482 3274. Please leave a message and a representative will contact you.