

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

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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th July 2020

Gospel Reflection for the Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Wheat and Weeds



Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field in which the master has sown good seed. In the night, an enemy comes and plants weeds, so when the crop grows it is a mixture of wheat and weed. The servants' instinct is to pull the weeds out, but the master demands that the bad grow alongside the good ... he himself will sort the wheat from the weeds at the final harvest.

It's a typical Palestinian problem, the darnel weed, which looks just like wheat in its early stages is a menace to the harvest. The roots of the darnel weed intertwine with the roots of the wheat. To pull the darnel out can jeopardise the harvest. Similarly, just as it's hard to tell the difference between wheat and darnel, so it's not always easy for us to tell the difference between good and evil. A bad person can change and become good, and a seemingly good person might not be as virtuous as we imagine. It's best if we refrain from judging; this job is best left to God.

In films and novels, the good guys always win and the bad guys always get their come-uppance. Happy endings satisfy our human sense of justice, but in reality justice seems strangely elusive. We come up against evil time and time again. Sometimes we get so angry that we want to take justice into our own hands. Sometimes we are incensed that God can allow evil to grow alongside good, but before we get too irate, maybe we need to stop and take a good long look in the mirror. What makes us so sure that we're not weeds too? Where did we get that assurance that we are represented in the parable as the wheat?

Rarely is reality black and white. We all have good and bad inside us. We all need to change, and we all deserve the opportunity to make those changes. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus advises us to leave the evil to grow alongside the good. As Martin Luther King Jnr. once said, "God's purpose is not wrathful judgement. God's purpose is redemption, and the road to redemption is by way of reconciliation."

MASS TIMES

ST. JOSEPH & ST. BENILDUS

MONDAY TO SATURDAY (EXCEPT HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION)

7.30A.M AND 10.30AM

Sun: Vigil 6.30pm

Sun: 10am and 12 pm

Holy Days: 6.30pm Vigil and 11am.

No 7.30am Mass Bank Hols

CONFESSIONS

Confessions immediately after 10.30 Mass Saturdays and by request via the parish office.

Mass Times,

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

Sun: Vigil 7pm

Sun: 11am.

Holy Days: 7pm Vigil & 11am.

NEXT

SUNDAY'S READINGS :

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kg 3:5, 7-12.

Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130.

Rm 8:28-30.

Mt 13:44-52.

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

18th/19th July 2020

25th/26th July 2020

6.30pm. Sat

Mary McGeary
Joe Smyth

10.00am Sunday:

Eileen Dowling

(M.M) Kevin Kenneally

12 noon Sunday

John Walsh

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Sat:

Rita & Michael Quinton

11.00a.m Sunday:

Ann Marshall

Michael Troy

**Please pray for those whose Birthday
or Anniversary occurs:**



Mary O'Shea
Alice Barnable
Margaret & Edward McFeely
Those who died recently
Adrian Hastings

*Last Sunday's
Collection
€1,470*

*Thank you for
your generosity*



**Thanks to all who
have returned
Trócaire boxes.
Any remaining
boxes can be
returned to the
church after Mass.**

Collection Clarification:

Last week's Newsletter stated that the collection from the previous Sunday was €3,885. This was in fact the total sum collected in the parish since the first week in March.

Evening Prayer: 7.30pm Wednesday.
www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford

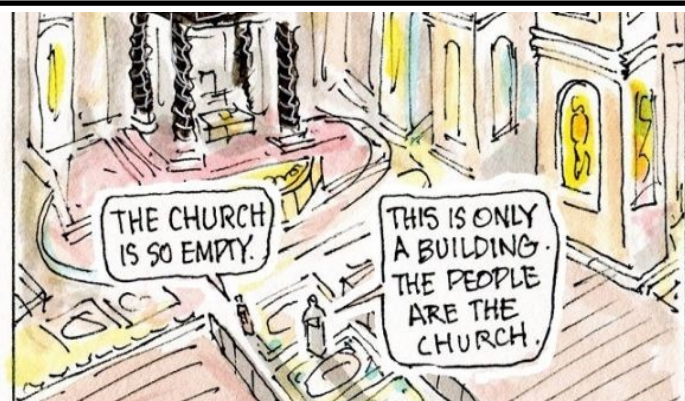
CHURCH CLEANING AFTER MASS

Please be aware that St. Joseph & St. Benildus church is closed for cleaning after daily Mass. It reopens for private prayer from 1.00 to 4.00pm.

Livestreaming of Masses www.churchservices.tv/stjosephswaterford
www.churchservices.tv/stmarysballygunner

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

ALONE SUPPORT LINE: 0818 222 024
IRISH HOSPICE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT LINE:
1800 80 70 77



**Reopening of churches : Weekend Masses
Parish of St Joseph, St Benildus and St Mary
FÁILTE AR AIS**

Following the continuation of Government restrictions, we are still confined to 50 people in our churches.

We have already reached our limit for reserved seating in both churches. However, there is limited availability in the church hall, where there is livestreaming of Mass and where Ministers of the Eucharist are present.

We have done everything possible to comply with Government safety regulations and protocols, and are pleased with how the reopening of churches has gone so far. We would ask parishioners to be patient until health regulations allow increased numbers.

Thank you for your co-operation and consideration, and we hope that Masses will continue to run smoothly.

FEAST OF ST. DECLAN:

St. Declan is one of the patron saints of the diocese. He is considered to be one of the pre-Patrician saints... (before the arrival of St. Patrick). He was of noble blood. Colman, a local priest, baptised him. Later he went to Europe to continue his studies, where he was ordained priest and possibly bishop. He settled in Ardmore and evangelised the Decies country. His feast day is the 24th of July.



Removal of leylandii trees in the graveyard

A professional contractor has been engaged to remove the leylandii trees on the northern boundary of the graveyard. Because of the proximity of the overhead power lines and the risk of damage to headstones, we were very careful in our selection of contractor to carry out the proposed work. The contract was awarded to Christy Phelan who specialises in the removal of trees in the vicinity of power lines and in graveyards. The work is due to commence next week.

We are obliged to remove the trees in order to comply with planning regulations pertaining to the new road in the graveyard. To compensate for the removal of the hedgerow on the new road, planning authorities stipulated that a new hedgerow must be planted on the northern boundary. When the trees are removed, a qualified landscaping specialist with experience in native hedgerows will be engaged to carry out this work. It is envisaged that the planting of the hedgerow will commence in early autumn to allow for bedding in of native planting and trees.