

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

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St Joseph & St Benildus Fr Liam Power

Second Sunday of Christmas

3rd January 2021

**Gospel Reflection for the Second Sunday after Christmas**

## Great Beginnings.

All the best books have great beginnings, and St. John's gospel is no exception. The gospel begins with an eighteen-verse introduction, which we call 'The Prologue'. The prologue contains intriguing themes such as creation, life, and truth. Through it all, John refers to Jesus as the 'Word'. If John had been writing today, would he have used different language? To us the word 'Word' is simply a means of expression. In John's day the word 'Word' had greater implication. To understand today's gospel, we need to know that in Hebrew Scriptures the 'Word' had a power of its own. The 'Word' was not just a sound or an expression, but something with its own life. The 'Word' was an agent of creation. We can see this for ourselves in Genesis. 'God said, "Let there be light," and light appeared.' God's 'Word' has the power to create. To call Jesus the 'Word' was to attribute to him the ability to make things happen.

We can bring our own understanding of the 'Word' to help us understand this gospel. Our own understanding of words is of language, understanding and communication. Perhaps to describe Jesus as the 'Word' is to imply that he was sent as a communication between God and us. How would we have recorded the beginning of Jesus' public ministry? We may have been tempted to record his great deeds as any well-trained newspaper reporter may have done. We may have been tempted to place him in a political or historical context worthy of any great public figure. John however, begins his gospel by placing Jesus fairly and squarely at the centre of creation itself. The story starts with the bold statement that Jesus is the meaning behind creation, life and truth. It's a great beginning. Can we put down John's gospel; tell ourselves this has no relevance in our lives ..... or do we keep turning the pages.

## Online Mass Times

(Week of 3 - 9 Jan)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 7:00 pm

Sunday Mass: 12 pm - \*

Weekday Masses: 10:30am.

**Vigil Mass 6:30pm**

**Ss Joseph & Benildus**

**Feast of the Epiphany 10:30 am**

**Ss Joseph & Benildus**

All Masses will take place in Ss. Joseph and Benildus and can be viewed via livestream:

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

Church Access for Private Prayer

**St. Mary's**

Daily from 10:00am - 4:00 pm.

**St. Joseph & Benildus**

Daily from 1.00pm - 4.00pm.

The Parish Office is closed to the public until further notice but may be contacted by phone or email.

## St. Joseph & St. Benildus

2/3 Jan

9/10 Jan

6.30pm. Saturday

Michael Lane

John Hearne (MM)  
Paul Rogers (1st Ann)

10.00am Sunday:

Elizabeth & Diarmuid O'Hegarty

Paddy Troy

12 noon Sunday

Noel O'Shea

Deceased member of  
O'Connell & Rose Family

## St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00pm Saturday:

11.00a.m Sunday:

Della Upton

Peter Grant (MM)



**Pray for those who died recently:**

Pat Hayes

**And those whose Birthday or Anniversary occur:**

David Murphy, Michael Lane, Joseph V. Augustine

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for January: — Human Fraternity. May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.**

## "The Word was the true light that enlightens all people"

Do you feel called to reflect that true light into the lives of others through a ministry of service as a priest or deacon or that of consecrated life? If so, speak to your local priest or email the National Vocations Office on [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie)

### *A Message of Gratitude*

At this time of year, we the priests of the parish, Fr. Ray and I wish to thank most sincerely all those who serve our Parish Community and help to build it up through their various ministries, enabling it to be as faith-filled, welcoming, inclusive and supportive as possible.

I begin with members of the **Parish staff**, Anne, Betty, Michelle and Winnie in the **Parish Office**; **Karen** who is responsible for maintaining the church and the Parish Centre and who also does an excellent job in the graveyard; and also to Shay who keeps both churches clean and polished for us; and our Community employment workers who do a marvelous job in maintaining the **Graveyard**.

A very special thanks to Tom O'Brien who acts as **Financial Administrator** in a totally voluntary capacity. Tom also chairs the **Parish Finance Council**.

We thank our **Sacristans**, Betty Flynn, Martha Flood, Vincent Walsh, and those who assist them. We thank the **Stewards**, as well as Sheelagh and Frances, who spent countless hours ensuring that the return to church was organized safely and efficiently.

Thanks to Chris O'Sullivan for the **Christmas Crib** in St. Joseph and St. Benildus and Frank English and Frank Dempsey for erecting the crib in St. Mary's.

In relation to ministry, we must begin with our **Parish Pastoral Council**, chaired by James Brennan. Next we thank all involved in Liturgical Ministry: The **Parish Liturgy Group**, chaired by Mary Lawrence; The Parish **Choirs**, with Directors Br. Ben, Sr. Úna, Dr. Joe O'Beirne, Ann Cody, and Bronagh Peelo who is Musical Director of the **Children's Choir**. Thanks to our organists in St. Mary's, Declan Foley and Dylan Brown.

We are grateful to **Cantors**, Eleanor Carleton, Helen Dunphy, Stephanie Foley, Valerie Leahy, Laura Nolan, Caroline Reid O'Brien, Caroline Sadlier, Vanessa Sadlier, and Vanessa Whelan.

We appreciate the great work done by the **Children's Liturgy Committee**. We are grateful for the commitment of the **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Ministers of the Word, Envelope Distributors, Basket Collectors, Counters, The Welcoming Committee**, those who care for the **Altar Linens, Floral Arrangements, The Parish Prayer Groups, The Blessed Sacrament Adoration Group** and **The Cemetery Committee**.

We want say a special word of thanks to **Gerry Kane** who has been so involved in our liturgies for the last 20 years in the parish. Gerry was a regular member of the choir with Br. Ben and served as cantor and accompanist on guitar in many of our liturgies particularly during Christmas, Easter and services of Reconciliation. He was most obliging and most generous with his time and we are very, very grateful for his contribution. Gerry and his wife Noreen are moving to Wexford to take up residence there. We will really miss him and we wish him the very best.

We are grateful to the **Adult Faith Formation Group** in our parish; this includes the **Baptism Preparation Team**, and the co-ordinators of the **Alpha Programme** under the Chair of Denise Hughes. We are grateful to our **Parish Catechist, Olive Ruane**. We also appreciate the tremendous commitment shown by the **Outreach Ministries: St. Vincent de Paul Society, Hospitality Group, Visitation Group**, and **Curly Sheridan** who organises the **Friendship Lunches**. Thanks also to the members of the **Ishiara Parish Partnership Committee**, and our **SLT Team (Senior Leadership Team)**

We also appreciate the contribution made by our schools throughout the year.

We thank our **Communications Ministry** responsible for our print and social media. Thanks to **Angeline** who produces the **Newsletter** each week. Thanks to **Deirdre** who single-handedly maintains and updates our **Facebook page, YouTube channel** and **Website**. We also wish to thank Frankie King whose technical support and training has enabled us to enhance our social media presence and delivery through YouTube live broadcasts.

We thank **You, our Parishioners**, for compliance with restrictions when we've been able to meet, and when we have been unable to congregate, for embracing our social media platforms and providing ongoing financial support throughout the year.

Last, **but not least**, we give praise and thanks to God by whose grace this has all been possible.

**With every good wish for the New Year:**

*Fr. Liam*

#### **This Week's Notices:**

- \* **No 7.30 am Mass** until further notice.
- \* **Evening Prayer** resumes on 13th January.
- \* **Prayer and Praise** resumes on Thursday, 14th Jan 2021 at 9:00 am (Please note the new time)
- \* If you wish to donate to the Parish you may do so on the Parish Website [www.jbmparish.com](http://www.jbmparish.com) via the Donate button. All payments to the Parish can be made in this way i.e. Dues, weekly payments, Stipends etc. Please contact Anne or Michelle in the Parish Office if you have any queries.
- \* Items for inclusion in the Newsletter must be received by Tuesday 11 am of the week prior to printing :  
**jbmnews@gmail.com**

#### **MASS READINGS Mon 4 January — Sun 10 January**

Mon	Before Epiphany
4 Jan	1 Jn 3:7-10. Ps 97:1, 7-9, R/v3. Jn 1:35-42.
Tues	Before Epiphany/
5 Jan	1 Jn 3:11-21. Ps 99, R/ v1. Jn 1:43-51
Wed	The Epiphany of the Lord
6 Jan	Is 60:1-6. Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R/v11. Eph 3:2-3, 5-6. Mt 2:1-12
Thurs	After Epiphany
7 Jan	1 Jn 3:22-4:6. Ps 2:7-8, 10-11, R/ v8. Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Fri	After Epiphany
8 Jan	1 Jn 4:7-10. Ps 71:1-4, 7-8, R/v.11. Mk 6:34-44
Sat	After Epiphany
9 Jan	1 Jn 4:11-18. Ps 71:1-2, 10-13, R/v11. Mk 6:45:52
Sun	The Baptism of the Lord
10 Jan	Is 55:1-11. Ps 12:2-6, R/v 6. 1 Jn5:1-9. Mk 1:7-11