

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

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St Joseph & St Benildus Fr Liam
Power

First Sunday of Lent

21 February 2021

Gospel Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent

What is Lent all about?

Many of us would confess that we're not quite sure what Lent is all about. We know it's about doing difficult stuff, like giving up chocolate. We know that Lent is about growing closer to God, but can giving up chocolate really get us closer to God?

To understand Lent, we need to look to the wilderness story which we are told on the first Sunday of Lent every year. Every year on the first Sunday of Lent we are told how Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days to fast and to reflect on the job he was about to do here on Earth. We are told how he was confronted with temptation and how he overcame it. There are three elements to this story. Jesus withdrew from worldly distractions and fasted, he reflected on who and what he was about, and he overcame temptation. The problem is, we all seem to latch onto the first bit of the story about fasting and forget the two more important elements. Jesus reflected on the importance of the ministry he was about to undertake and he refused to be swayed from it. This is the important bit. This is how we need to understand and live our next forty days.

At this time of year we are asked to 'repent'. We are asked to turn away from things in our lives that are not working well or are wrong. That will be different for all of us, so we need to sit down in a quiet space and work out what we need to do. How we need to change should be something more important than those new-year resolutions we all make and break. Next we need to identify the barriers that stop us making those changes. Withdrawing from worldly comforts might be part of this barrier which is where fasting or giving up TV might come in. Lastly we need to resist the temptation to give up on plans to change ourselves and the world around us, and that's the hardest bit of all.

As children today's gospel is presented to us with an accompanying illustration of the devil complete with huge bat like wings a scaly tail and horns. How easy to resist temptation packaged so obviously as a 'bad choice'. The trouble with temptation is it rarely comes packaged as a 'bad choice'. Often temptation comes as a fairly harmless choice or even as an attractive or intelligent option. How harmless does it seem to sip half a glass of wine when you're supposed to be quitting. How harmless does it seem to 'borrow' a little cash from the office tea fund ... you can always pay it back later.

There's lot of talk about what is classed as a temptation and what isn't. In the context of the first Sunday of Lent, a temptation is anything that takes you further way from God. If having an extra cream cake takes you further way from God, then it's a temptation ... if having an extra cream cake has nothing to do with your relationship with God than it's totally unimportant.

When it comes to temptation, a simple rule of thumb is to ask yourself in each of your daily decisions, "Will this decision bring me nearer to God or take me further away?" Knowing who you are and what you are trying to achieve in life not only helps you to identify your temptations, but also gives you a reason and strength of character when it comes to resisting. Today is the day we start giving the devil a hard time. Tempted?

Online Service Times (Week of 22 - 28 Feb)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 7:00 pm

Sunday Mass: 12:00 noon

Weekday Masses: 10:30am.

**Stations of the Cross - Fridays
in Lent immediately after Mass**

Evening Prayer: Weds. 4:45pm

All Masses will take place in
Ss. Joseph and Benildus and
can be viewed via livestream:
www.churchservices.tv/
stjosephswaterford

Church Access for Private Prayer

St. Mary's: 10:00am - 4:00 pm.

St. Joseph & Benildus :

1.00pm - 4.00pm.



If you wish to
donate, all pay-
ments to the
Parish can be made via the
donate button on our website
Thank you.

Combined Masses

7:00 pm. Vigil

12 noon Sunday

20/21 Feb

Jack Deegan (MM)

Carmel Clarke (MM)

Agnes Quinn, Larry Quinn Jr.

Dr. Brendan O'Farrell (Birth. Rem)

Mary O'Beirne

Mary Smith (MM)

William Smith

27/28 Feb

Anna Maher

Aiden McAvinue

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious
Virgin Mary, that never
was it known that anyone
who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thine intercession
was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my mother;
to thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy clemency
hear and answer me.
Amen.

“Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the
Good News from God” (Mk 1: 12)

Is He asking you to follow Him by proclaiming the
Good News to the people in your Diocese as a
priest, a deacon or in the consecrated life?

Speak to your local priest or email the National Vocations
Office on info@vocations.ie

This Week in the Parish and the Diocese:

- * **Friday, 19 Feb - Sun 21 Feb - Divine Mercy Conference.** The three-day event will be broadcast, free of charge, through the Divine Mercy website. The theme of this year's conference is “*For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and The Glory*”. www.divinemercyconference.com
- * **Sundays in Lent - Quo Vadis?** Contact 085 862 3704 or youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie
- * **Wednesday Morning Coffee Hour** 11:00 am on Zoom – Join us for a virtual cuppa!
Meeting ID: 750 6591 3461
Passcode: 0qGsFd
- * **Wednesday - Evening Prayer** at 4:45pm.
- * **Thursday - Prayer and Praise** at 9:00 am
Zoom Meeting ID: 899 4117 8783
Passcode: 079339
- * **Thursday - Alpha Online** at 8:00 pm
- * **Fridays in Lent - Stations of the Cross** -
Immediately following morning 10:30am Mass



Pray for those who died recently:

Eileen Power

Those whose Month's Mind Occurs this week:

Jack Deegan, Carmel Clarke, Mary Smith

And those whose Birthday or Anniversary occur:

Brian Moloney, Noel Cooke, Philip & Anastasia & Lahart,
Jack Barriscale, Thomas & Anastasia Watkins, Eddie Toman

FORMS OF FRIDAY PENANCE

The following are suggested as ways of fulfilling Friday penance:

- ◆ Abstaining from meat or some other food;
- ◆ Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking;
- ◆ Making a special effort at involvement in family prayer;
- ◆ Making a special effort to participate in Mass on Fridays;
- ◆ Visiting the Blessed Sacrament
- ◆ Making the Stations of the Cross;
- ◆ Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy;
- ◆ Helping the poor, sick, old or lonely.

From the statement on Friday Penance issued by
the Bishop's Conference, 2011

MASS READINGS Mon 22 February — Sun 28 February 1st Week of Lent

Mon 22 Feb	The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle 1 Pet 5:1-4. Ps 22, R/v1. Mt 16:13-19.
Tues 23 Feb	St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr Is 55:10-11. Ps 33:4-7, 16-19, R/ v18. Mt 6:7-15
Wed 24 Feb	Jon 3:1-10. Ps 50:3-4, 12-13, 18-19, R/ v19. Lk 11:29-32
Thurs 25 Feb	Est 4:17. Ps 137:1-3, 7-8 R/ v3. Mt 7:7-12
Fri 26 Feb	Ez 18:21-28. Ps 129 R/ v3. Mt 5:20-26
Sat 27 Feb	Deut 26:16-19. Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 7-8, R/ v1. Mt 5:43-48
Sun 28 Feb	Second Sunday of Lent Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18. Ps 115:10, 15-19, R/ Ps 114:9. Rm 8:31-34. Mk 9:2-10

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for February: — Universal Intention— Violence against women- We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

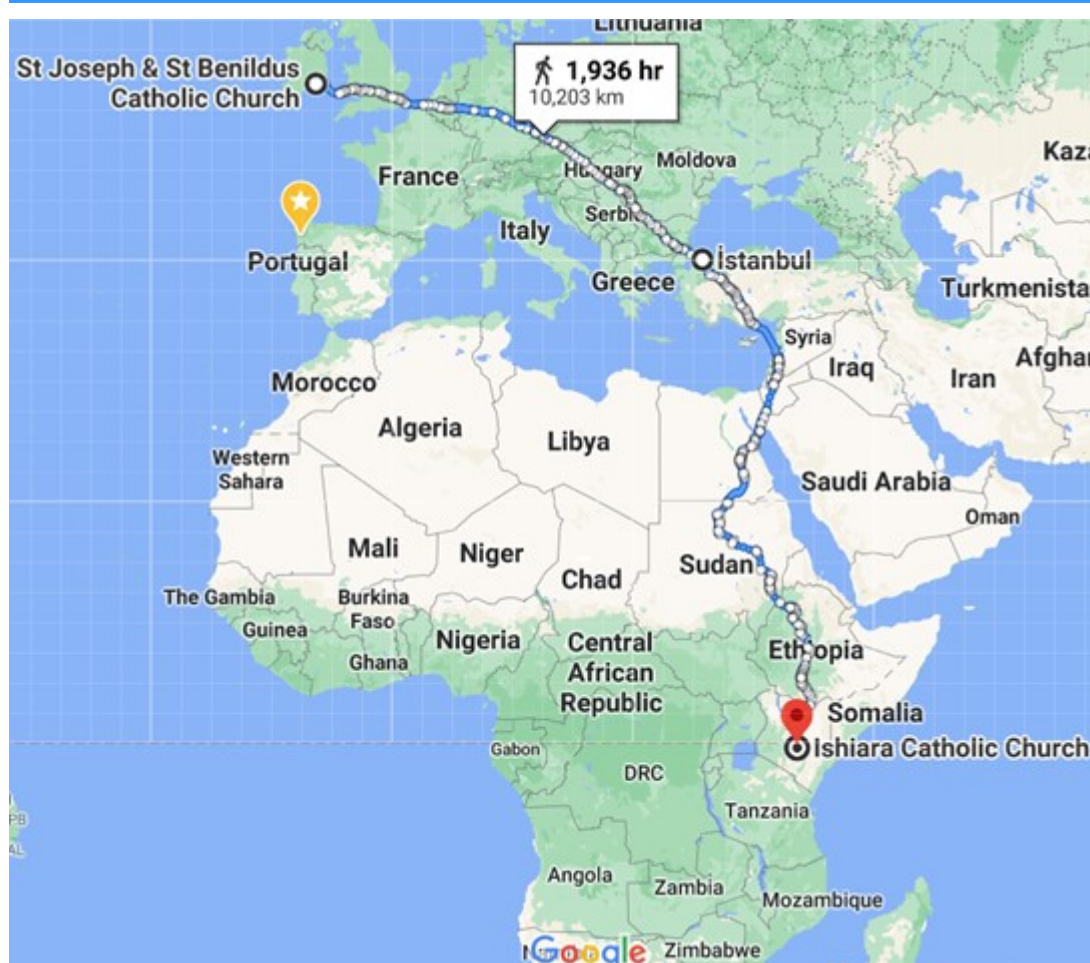
Virtual Camino from Waterford to Ishiara 2021

Fancy a month-long camino to Ishiara? 10,250 kms approx. Travel through the old medieval cities of Europe, see the splendour of Istanbul, the sights of Luxor & a trip up the Nile and see the majesty of Mt Kenya!

Our target is to reach Ishiara (~10,250kms) before Easter, so the more friends you get to join in, the sooner we get there!

Log the kilometres you walk, run or cycle, each day and submit them to us. We will keep track of the total, until we reach Ishiara, some 10,250kms from here.

Donate to our fundraising page (the link is on the Parish website under the tab 'Parish Partnership') and we will send you regular updates via email. 100% of the funds raised go directly towards improving water-supply and providing computers for schools in Ishiara.



What is the Virtual "Route".

We start from St Joseph & Benildus Church to St Mary's Church Ballygunner, at the opposite end of the parish, on-wards to Passage-East, across to County Wexford, from Rosslare to Fishguard and across Wales to Bath, then through England to Dover...

You can see the full route on our website and zoom right in to explore the local area.

The Virtual route is Approx. 10,250 kms going around the eastern end of the Mediterranean sea, through Istanbul, the Holy Land, Jerusalem, Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and into northern Kenya.

When does it start?

The official start is Sat 20th February, but participants may count their kilometres from Wed 17th February (Ash Wednesday). However new participants are free to join in at any time along the way.

The loop around St Joseph & Benildus Church and St Mary's, Ballygunner is about 9.5 kms. It will be great if as many participants as possible could do that loop over Sat 20th /Sun 21st February and take a selfie at one or two points along it and post them on the Parish Facebook page.