

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

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St Joseph & St Benildus Fr Liam
Power

Service Times

St. Joseph & Benildus

Weekday Masses:

7:30 am & 10:30 am

Saturdays 10:30 am only

Holy Days

6:30 vigil & 10:30 am

Evening Prayer of the Church

Wednesdays 4:45 pm

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6:30 pm

Sunday Mass:

10:00 am & 12:00 noon

St. Mary's

Weekday Masses:

First Fridays 9:30 am (Sep-Jun)

Holy Days

11:00 am

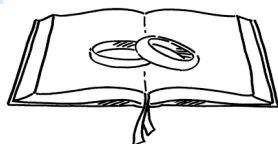
Saturday Vigil Mass: 7:00 pm

Sunday Mass:

11:00 am

Gospel Reflection for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3rd Oct 2021



Today the Pharisees ask Jesus in their usual barbed fashion, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus' answer is a resounding 'no!' "What God has joined together, let no one separate." At a time when divorce was rife, this must have been a difficult thing for Jesus' audience to digest. It isn't

much easier for our twenty first century ears.

What should we take from this gospel? One thing is for sure. Any interpretation of this gospel should err on the side of compassion rather than condemnation. Another thing is for sure, we have to look at why Jesus spoke these words in the first place and the spirit in which they were spoken. At the time Jesus spoke these words marriage was very one sided. It was the man's prerogative to choose divorce and he could choose this option for little or no good reason. At a time when women were financially dependent on their husbands, divorce could leave them pretty much destitute. Marriage was something easily entered into and easily broken. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees in today's gospel he was doing something ground breaking. He was elevating the importance of marriage and raising the status of women.

So were Jesus' words relevant then but not now? Well no! Marriage is still something that many don't take seriously. Many go into marriage without really considering their vows. There are far too many who are ready to give up on marriage at the first hint of hard times. It is to these people that Jesus is speaking in today's gospel.

On the other hand, if Jesus was here today could he really condemn people to stay put in marriages where physical or mental abuse threatens the wellbeing of a spouse or a child? Would Jesus insist on people soldiering on in loveless or deeply unhappy marriages? Some people choose divorce as an easy option, but for the majority it is nearly always painful for all involved. Could Jesus really condemn these people?

"What God has joined together, let no one separate." It has the ring of law, yet as with all laws, it is the spirit of the law that is all important. We find the clue to Jesus' words in his declaration that Moses permitted divorce "...because of the hardness in man's heart." The answer to the debate is held in our own heart. If we make decisions based on our own self gratification or self interest we become hard hearted and are in real danger of making poor decisions. If we make decisions grounded in love and compassion, God will surely be there to help us through.

Upcoming Masses

2nd/3rd Oct 2021

9th/10th Oct 2021

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6:30 pm Vigil

Carmel Clarke

Gay Murphy

Bid Power

10:00 am

James & Mary Quinlan

Madeline, Kenneth
& Gerald Dickenson

12 noon

Brenda Dwyer

John B. O'Sullivan

Noel Schorman

Michael Boland

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00 pm:

Paddy Walsh

Stuart Walsh (M.M)

Phyllis O'Sullivan

Darren O'Sullivan

11.00am:

Ned Donegan

Pat Mc Carthy



Pray for:

Those who recently died **Marguerite Mellett, Gerry Coade**

Those whose Month's Mind occurs this week: **Stuart Walsh**

Those whose Birthday or Anniversary occurs this week: **Joan Murphy, Joe Finnerty**

This weekend *St. Vincent de Paul* will take up its monthly collections at all Masses in both churches.



We appreciate all donations.

All Masses can be viewed via livestream:

[St. Joseph & Benildus](#) or [St. Mary's Ballygunner](#)



If you wish to donate, all payments to the Parish can be made via the donate button on our website **Thank you.**

Parish Leadership Summit

A meeting of all leaders of Parish ministries was held last Wednesday. Thank you to all who participated. There was a good sharing of ideas and we'll follow up with training programmes for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers.

We'll also follow up with support for leaders and ministry groups.

Thanks to all those who responded to the questionnaire which provided valuable information to help improve our service and give support to the different ministries that is needed.

Leadership summits will be held twice per year.

Readings for next weekend 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 7:7-11. Ps 89:12-17. Heb 4:12-13. Mk 10:17-30

AUTUMN DUES COLLECTION

The Autumn Dues Collection for the support of the Priests of the diocese will be taken up during the weekend of Sat/Sun 2nd /3rd October.

We appreciate your generosity.

Thanks to all distributors for your help

Items for inclusion in the Newsletter must be received by Tuesday 11 am of the week prior to printing:
jbmnews@gmail.com

WANTED FOR HAITIAN ORPHANAGE PROJECT

ESPWA (HOPE) info@4haiti.ie
CHILDRENS' TOYS :Scooters, Bicycles, Tricycles, Prams, Balls, Lego, Toy Cars, etc etc.

NO STUFFED / SOFT TOYS PLEASE AS

ITEMS MUST BE SANITISED.

ALSO NEEDED: Childrens' Zimmer Frames, Crutches, Wheelchairs.

For further Information, call 086 7367129 (10am -

6pm)SHIPMENT LEAVING IRELAND NOVEMBER 2021.

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER CHY19799



Save the date: FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

Next Monday, October 11th -

The Cove Bar at 12:30pm

Cost: €9.50 per person for Lunch & coffee/tea

Please ring Parish Office or just turn up

DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE

Applications are invited for a training course for parish catechists. The 3 year **Ministry of Catechist** programme is sponsored by the Diocese. *The primary role of a Catechist is to create opportunities for people to have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and to help them explore their Catholicism in ways that are relevant and meaningful* For Information and Application forms, email emma.sisk@waterfordlismore.ie or call 085 862 3705

Prayer & Praise

The weekly Prayer & Praise group has resumed in the parish. They meet in the Parish Centre on Thursday after the 10.30am Mass.

Night Prayer of the Church

Night Prayer of the Church will commence on Monday 11th October via Zoom.

It will be held Mon to Fri from 8-8.30pm.

If anyone needs help with Zoom, please contact the parish office (051 878977)

GAELSCOIL ENROLMENTS

Gaelscoil Phortláirge will accept enrolment applications for September 2022 from the 4th to the 25th of October.

Forms are available to download from the web-site, www.gaelscoilphortlaierge.ie or from the office at (051) 879736. *Fáilte romhaibh.*

Thank You to Veronica, Maria and Deirdre for the preparation of the altar cloths and floral arrangements for the First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies.

Meeting of Liturgy Group : Monday 4th at 7pm

There will be a meeting of the Liturgy Group on Monday 4th Oct at 7pm. We will be planning the annual **Remembrance Mass** which we will be able to celebrate this year. It is an annual Mass for parishioners who died in the previous year. Invitations will be sent to bereaved families. We hope it will take place on November 6th at 6.30pm.

We will also explore the possibility of holding a **Graveyard Mass** after Oct 22nd, when restrictions are due to be lifted.