

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

Night Prayer 8-8.30pm (via Zoom
only)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6:30 pm

Sunday Mass:

10:00 am & 12:00 noon

St. Mary's

Holy Days

11:00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass: 7:00 pm

Sunday Mass:

11:00 am

Gospel Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent 5th December 2021 A Change of Heart



Much of television transmission over Christmas will be taken up by soaps. As sophisticated audiences we have become familiar with how soaps work. We understand that soaps have certain character types and that those characters rarely change their spots. We have become accustomed to watching characters making the same old mistakes over and over again. They may show remorse for their failings, they may even promise their loved ones that they can be different, but we know deep down that they cannot change. We know that sooner or later they will go slipping on those same old banana skins. Change isn't easy.

In today's gospel we are being taught an important lesson. We are taught that repentance is more than just being sorry. We can be sorry yet re-offend. We can be sorry that we have told a lie yet lie again. We can be sorry that we have succumbed to crime or self-indulgence, yet go down that path again. The true meaning of repentance means to change direction to choose a different path altogether.

Choosing a new path sounds easy. It obviously isn't or the world would already be a perfect place. We all know what changes we would like to make in our own lives, and we know equally well the excuses we use that bar our path to God.

In Luke's gospel, John tells us, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth..."

We are being told that Advent is a time of preparation and of change. In the same way that Dickens' immortal Scrooge secured his salvation by changing his ways, so too must we choose a new path through life and smooth our way along it by clearing the obstacles. Rebuilding our lives might not be something we can do overnight, but we can all begin with the will to be different, the will to change direction a change of heart.

Upcoming Masses

4th/5th Dec 2021

11th/12 Dec 2021

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6:30 pm Vigil

Micheál White
Freddy Hennessy & the little
angels
May Power

Stephen Rogers
John Hearne

10:00 am

Nancy O'Gorman
Agnes Lea

Jack & Ellen Hatton

12 noon

Mary Smith

Ben Wadding
Elizabeth Kirimlidis
Patrick & Marie White

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00 pm:

Peter Grant
Rosie & Paddy Morrissey

William & Mary Sharpe

11.00am:

Richard & Kathleen Power
Kevin Doyle

Chacko Antony



Pray for those whose Birthday or Anniversary occurs around this time

Tess Browne & her son Tom, Seán & Mary Hogan, Elizabeth Moynihan,
 Denis, Sarah & Séamus Murphy, Joan & Joe Costello, Edmund Fitzgerald,
 Peg & Paddy Hanley, Bob, May Maeve & Robert Quinn, Margaret & Helen Power, Jo White,
 Michael Troy, Paddy & Marie White, Paul Dunne, Katherine Hourigan

Please pray for those who died recently : Sean Gavin Duffy, Elizabeth Hale, Hauke Wulff

Important Announcement re Christmas Mass Schedule

Having consulted our Parish Pastoral Council, we have decided, in the interests of health and safety, to limit the number of people attending Masses at Christmas time. To accommodate this, we have scheduled two extra Masses for both St Joseph and St Benildus Church and St Mary's.

On **Christmas Eve** we will have a **family Mass at 5.00pm** and a **Vigil Mass at 7.00pm** in **St Joseph and St Benildus** in addition to the regular **Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 9.00pm**. On **Christmas morning**, **Masses will be at 10.00am and 12noon**.

We will also have two additional Masses in **St Mary's, Ballygunner**. On **Christmas Eve** we have scheduled **Mass for 7.00pm**. This is in addition to the traditional **Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 9.00pm**. On **Christmas morning**, we will have **Mass at 9.30am** as well as **Mass at 11.00am**.

We are limiting the number of people at all Masses in St Joseph and St Benildus to 150 and in St Mary's, Ballygunner to 80. This is to ensure a safe environment in our churches for parishioners. Unfortunately, this means we will have to take bookings for all Christmas Masses. To facilitate the booking system, volunteers will be present at all Masses next weekend (in both churches), that is the weekend of December 11th/12th. You can give your name to a volunteer and indicate which Mass you would like to attend. People can also phone the office (051 878 977) on weekdays beginning December 13th.

APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE WITH STEWARDING

Due to the increase in Covid numbers we are asking for your support for our Christmas Masses.

As priests, we are happy to celebrate two extra Masses, but this can only happen if we have stewards.

Your gift of stewarding will help others to celebrate Christmas Mass in Church.

Please contact the office if you are available. (051 878 977)

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**.

NEWS ITEMS

Items of interest to the parish community are welcome. Please contact jbmnews@gmail.com by the Tuesday before printing, if you wish to have items included in the following week's Newsletter.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal



A special collection in aid of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be taken up after all Masses this weekend. This is the most important collection of the year for the Society as it helps to support the response of the Society to the poor in our community at Christmas time.

We can reflect on a year of COVID coverage - where the sound-bites were all about dining indoors or outside, and how many people to have at your garden party. Sadly, for the clients of SVP these topics are not big issues. They strive for the basics of a respectable lifestyle and to have basic needs met.

Sisters Mary Morning Star

We would like to invite you to support our craft sale, on the 11th / 12th of December, which takes place in the Friary, Lady Lane. You will find Christmas cards, candles, rosaries, chutneys, lemon curd, etc.

Our monastic craft helps to supply for our daily needs. If you wish to have your intentions included in our prayers or wish to support us in our crafts, you are most welcome to visit us. Be sure that we pray for you. Thank you for your support and generosity.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR, CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

- 1st Prize : Ladies or Gents Bicycle
- 2nd Prize : 43" Smart T. V.
- 3rd Prize : Christmas Hamper
- 4th Prize: Wine Hamper
- 5th Prize : Ryanair Voucher
- 6th Prize : Home Made Christmas Cake
- 7th Prize : Prestige Slow Cooker
- 8th Prize : Tassimo (Coffee Machine).

Draw : 19th December @ 12.30pm

IF YOU ARE NOT IN, YOU CAN'T WIN !

Tickets available now in the office and after the weekend Masses on Sunday 12th December. Tickets €2 each or a book of 6 for €10
PLEASE SUPPORT THE ELDERLY



Readings for next weekend 3rd Sunday of Advent . Is 48:17-19. Ps 1:1-4, 6. Jn 8:12. Mt 11:16-19

LECTIO DIVINA: (St. Joseph & Benildus and St. Mary's Parish) Come and See, Thursday nights, 8.00 - 8.30pm, We invite you to join us via Zoom for reflection and prayer on the Sunday Gospels of Advent.
 Link for Zoom meeting 9435884859