

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 (unless on a Sat)

6:30 vigil , 7.30am & 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

**There will be no
7.30am Mass from Mon
27th until after the
feast of the Epiphany**

Gospel Reflection for the Holy Family A Lesson in Parenting

Sun 26th Dec 2021



When we hear stories about the Holy Family we are struck by the normality of Jesus' upbringing. Mary and Joseph behave like any parents of today. Secondly we are struck by the love and tenderness that surrounds Jesus in his early years. The fact that he was born in a stable and grew up with no great wealth doesn't seem to matter. What matters is that Jesus grew up knowing that Mary and Joseph loved and cared for him.

Jesus would have been brought up in a Jewish tradition, and he would not have been expected to challenge this tradition. What is interesting for us to learn is, that by the tender age of twelve Jesus was devel-

oping a sense of who he really was. When Jesus causes his parents much distress by becoming separated from them to stay in the temple listening to the teachers, he tells Mary and Joseph, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" Mary and Joseph don't quite understand what he means, but we are told, "Mary stored all these things in her heart." She had faith in her son, and she allowed him to become the individual she always knew he was.

Sounds easy doesn't it, yet thousands of parents today must be shaking their heads. It's not easy to let go and allow your child to be his or her own person, especially if you see them making all sorts of mistakes. Today's gospel is a lesson in parenting. Surround your children with love and caring. Pass down all the good Christian traditions you yourself have learned, then have faith and allow your child to be the person they need to be.

**We wish all our parishioners a safe, happy,
healthy and holy Christmas.**



Nollaig shona

Upcoming Masses 25th/26th Dec 2021

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6:30 pm Vigil

10:00 am

Paddy O'Sullivan

12 noon

Niall Larkin

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00 pm:

11.00am:

Thomas Broderick
Bertie Downes

A Message of Gratitude

At this time of year, the priests of the parish, Fr. P.J Breen, Fr. Liddane and myself 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 and supportive as possible. I begin with Anne, Michelle and Maria in the **Parish Office** who are responsible for administration. We bid a fond farewell to Anne and send her every good wish in her retirement. *Gach rath ort agus go raibh maith agat as gach rud .*

I include Karen and Shay who are responsible for **Church Maintenance** and our Fás workers who do a marvellous job in maintaining the **Graveyard**.

A very special thanks to Tom O'Brien who acts as **Financial Administrator** in a totally voluntary capacity and without whose expertise the Parish would struggle to remain financially viable, given the extent of the current Parish debt. Tom also chairs the **Parish Finance Council**.

We thank our **Sacristans**, Betty Flynn, Martha Flood, Vincent Walsh and Sheelagh Fitzgerald. Thanks to Chris O'Sullivan for the **Christmas Crib and the Easter Tomb**.

In relation to Ministry, we must begin with our **Parish Pastoral Council**, under the Chair of James Brennan. Next we thank the members of the **SLT** (Support leadership Team) for their ongoing commitment.

We appreciate all involved in Liturgical Ministry : the **Parish Liturgy Group**, Chaired by Mary Lawrence and the **Parish Choirs** with Directors Br. Ben, Sr. Una, Dr. Joe O'Beirne and Sean Hennessy. Thanks to Declan Foley, organist in St. Mary's, along with Dylan Brown and our **Cantors/**

Instrumentalists Vanessa Whelan, Valerie Leahy, Stephanie Foley, Eleanor Carleton, Laura Nolan, Vanessa and Caroline Sadlier, Helen Dunphy, Mary Frisby Maher, Catherine O'Grady, Kate O'Beirne, Kate O'Neill, Lucy & Sophie Kirby.

We are grateful for the commitment of the **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Ministers of the Word, Counters, Envelope Distributors, Welcoming Committee, Altar Society, Flower Arrangers, Blessed Sacrament Adoration Group** and the **Parish Prayer Groups**.

We thank all who are involved in **Adult Faith Formation** in our Parish; this includes the **Baptism Preparation Team** and the Co-ordinators of the **Alpha Programme** which was chaired by Denise Hughes. A special word of thanks to our **Parish Catechist** Olive Ruane. We also appreciate the tremendous commitment shown by the **Outreach Ministries : St.Vincent de Paul Society**, and Curly Sheridan who organises the **Friendship Lunches**, and the organisers of the **Wednesday Coffee Mornings**. Thanks also to the members of the **Ishiara Parish Partnership Committee** who have done a lot to develop the partnership with the Good Shepherd parish in Kenya.

Last but not least, we thank our **Communications Ministry** which is responsible for our **Newsletter** and **Website** which are produced and updated each week by Angeline with the support of Deirdre. With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year,

Rath Dé oraibh go léir

Fr. Liam

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

Please contact jbmnews@gmail.com by lunchtime on the Tuesday before printing, if you wish to have items included in the following week's Newsletter.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). If you or someone you know needs support this Christmas, please call our National Support and Referral Line on 0818 222 024 from 8am – 8pm, seven days a week. ALONE operates 365 days a year so we will be there to take your call when you need us most

" Our **Parish Partnership With Ishiara Committee** are organising a Sea Swim in Dunmore East on St. Stephen's Day, as a much needed fundraiser for our partner projects in Ishiara, Kenya. The venue is Dunmore Strand and the time of gathering is 12 midday. Please try to raise as much sponsorship as you can, even if only one member of your family is swimming/ dunking. Sponsorship cards are available from the Parish Office. You can also donate on the Parish website. We hope that this event will be a good social occasion for our parish."