

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent 19th December 2021



It's easy for us to take promises with a pinch of salt. Whilst growing up, we've learned that promises are easily made and easily broken. We make promises of our own with varying degrees of commitment. In short, promises are not always made to be kept, and our faith in a promise is seriously undermined. No wonder the promises we read in the bible don't always make us jump for joy.

Does a promise made to us by God carry any more weight?

If we were truly convinced that God was making us a promise then it probably would. There's a saying that goes, "We question all our beliefs, except for the ones we really believe, and those we never think to question." It seems that belief is key in getting excited about a promise. Mary obviously had no doubts; this is illustrated in her promptness to act on God's commands. We might not confess to doubts, but if we really don't harbour any doubts, why then do we hedge our bets? Why do we squash God into a small corner of our busy lives and get on with other things?

Mary is a perfect role model for us all. She believed in God's promise. She acted on God's commands. She didn't push God into a small corner of her life God was her life. "Blessed is she," writes Luke in today's gospel, "who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Today's gospel is an invitation for us to take God's promises to heart, to make them real in our minds, and act on them.

Upcoming Masses

18th/19th Dec 2021

25th/26th Dec 2021

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6:30 pm Vigil

Jim Whelan

10:00 am

Margaret Power

Paddy O'Sullivan

12 noon

Joan & Tom Foskin
Frank McDonough

Niall Larkin

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00 pm:

Gary Murphy
John & Bridget Keane
Pierce Dower,
Fr. Joe Cullen
Fr. Pat Burrows

11.00am:

Charles Murray
Mary Cummins
John Byrne
Michael Power

Thomas Broderick
Bertie Downes



Pray for those whose Birthday or Anniversary occurs around this time

.Bridget Kennedy, Nicholas Boland, Frank Rushen,
Brian Fitzgerald, Anthony Coakley: Frank Hutchinson, Pat Dalton,
Patricia & Pascal Hartery, Bertie Downes, Rosemary Goff, Bobby O'Keeffe,
Stephanie O'Keeffe

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 extra Masses for both St Joseph and St Benildus Church and St Mary's.

St. Joseph & Benildus: : Christmas Eve: 5pm, 7pm, 9pm.

Christmas Day: 10.00am and 12noon.

St. Mary's Ballygunner: Christmas Eve: 7pm and 9pm.

Christmas Day: 9.30am and 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. All but two Masses were oversubscribed and we would like to thank the people who agreed to transfer to a different Mass time, we are very grateful for your cooperation. If you did not receive a phone call, please attend the Mass you selected.

Please note: as Christmas Day is on Saturday, the Vigil Masses (6.30pm & 7pm)will not be celebrated. The normal Sunday Masses will be celebrated on Sunday 26th in both churches.

Night Prayer of the Church Night Prayer of the Church is held via Zoom Mon to Fri from 8-8.30pm
Log-in I.D 943 588 4859...Prayer requests may be sent to the parish office (051 878977)



Confessions in St. Joseph & Benildus

Christmas Eve : Dec 24th : 11.00am - 12.30pm
and from 2.00 to 3.00pm.

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.

Calling all men - New Year Resolution?

Exodus 90 is a spiritual exercise for men, with over 50,000 who have completed it so far. It's a challenging 90-day period (Jan 17th to Easter Sunday 2022) of prayer and asceticism, supported by a weekly fraternal gathering. Today Exodus 90 is renewing the Church by transforming men. See www.exodus90.com to learn more. Zoom information event with testimonies on Thur Jan. 6th at 8pm. Meeting ID: 494 625 9738 passcode: 997298 with zoom link below.

Updating of Parish Contact Details

In relation to our ongoing updating of Parish contact details, you may receive a phone call from one of the parish team, asking for your email address. We simply want to update our records as there is quite a large number of new residents in the Parish.

Mary Tv is a lay apostolate which can be accessed via the internet and makes a welcome change from the tv. Once in, you can access the menu over at the top right hand side and click into Recorded Videos. Scroll down to Tea with Rosie or Fruit of Medjugorje and click on the arrow. Playlist will appear on the picture and when you click on this you will have access to the videos which range between 10 mins on Tea with Rosie and 1 hour in Fruit of Medjugorje. They are all uplifting and worth a viewing. Click on link below if you are reading this online. <https://marytv.tv/updates-from-denis/>

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."