# 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, 7.30 am & 10:30 am

Night Prayer 8 pm - 8.30 pm

(via Zoom only)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6:30 pm

Sunday Mass:

10:00 am & 12:00 noon

## St. Mary's

Saturday Vigil Mass: 7:00 pm

Sunday Mass:

11:00 am **Holy Days** 11:00 am

Readings:8thSunday in Ordinary Time (27/02) Eccles 27:4-7. Ps 91:2-3, 13-16. I Cor 15:54-58. Lk 6:39-45 GOSPEL REFLECTION 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 20/02/22 In today's gospel, Jesus compels us to fight evil through the power of good. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Our society tends to view evil as strong and goodness as weak. Hollywood films depict the strong woman or man as the one who refuses to forgive and who violently seeks revenge on all who harmed them. However, nothing could be further from the truth. It is easy to hold a grudge. Even children are capable of doing that. On the contrary, it is difficult to forgive. It is hard to love those who want to harm us. Only a strong person has the power to forgive, to turn the other cheek, and to choose love over hate. Forgiveness and love are powerful forces for change in society. Sometimes change can happen through violence. People will sometimes behave differently because they are afraid. However, that type of change is short-lived. Eventually people become resentful of having to live in fear and find ways of striking back. In the end, violence only leads to more violence. The history of the world is rife with many examples of just how futile violence can be.

In contrast, love can bring healing, justice, and peace to our world. Just ask the countless Christian witnesses who have chosen the path of love — Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Saint Pope John Paul II. When we choose to forgive, it unleashes the hope of reconciliation. Our enemies come to understand that we are not a threat to them. We begin to see each other not as competitors but as brothers and sisters.

Many of us carry bitterness in our hearts toward someone who has hurt us. It is natural for us to want those who have hurt us to feel for themselves the pain they have inflicted on us. But revenge never gives us satisfaction. It only strengthens the hate and resentment within us. Our inability to forgive only gives those who hurt us more power over us. When we choose to forgive, we set ourselves free from the power of those who have hurt us. For that reason, forgiveness is really the ultimate revenge. It is up to us, the baptized followers of Jesus, to change the world through the power of forgiveness and love. Jesus himself gives us his example of merciful love that turns an act of unspeakable violence — the cross — into the moment of the world's salvation. That is what we celebrate today — a merciful God who saves us through love. That is the commitment we made at our baptism — to follow Jesus' example until the whole world knows the merciful love of God. To make that happen, we are even willing to love our enemies. Douglas Sousa

*Upcoming Masses* 19/20 Feb 2022 26/27 Feb 2022

St. Joseph & St. Benildus

6:30 pm Vigil Maeve Twomey Rosemary & John Goff

10:00 am Rodger Reynolds (1st Ann) Anna Maher

12 noon Mary O'Beirne Aidan McAvinue

St. Mary's, Ballygunner

7.00 pm: Michael Mullan

11.00am: George Harvey Dickran Bogossian



# Pray for those whose Birthday or Anniversary occurs around this time

Molly Harney, Anastasia Lahert, Nancy Morrison, Tommy Cassin, Brian Moloney, James Carroll, Margret Murphy, Jack Barriscale

# For those recently deceased

Catherine O'Connell, Kathleen Condon, Caroline (Carrie) Barry (née Power), Andrew Scofield (U.K)



#### Message from Fr Liam Power

Heartiest congratulations to the Ballygunner team on their historic victory. I watched the match in San Francisco with some friends. It was one of the most exciting moments ever when Harry Ruddle scored that 'last second' goal. A proud moment for all Ballygunner supporters and indeed for the city and county. The victory of our local team has no doubt lifted all our spirits and brought great joy in a time of struggle and challenge. Great credit is due to the players for their commitment and dedication, wonderful role models for teenagers today. On behalf of the parish, I would like to express our appreciation to the management team and the officers of the club who provide such a brilliant facility for children and youth in Ballygunner. The All Ireland Title is the crowning achievement of all the hard work and time and sacrifice devoted to provide such opportunities for local kids.



#### **Bridge Club**

The Bridge Club will recommence on Tuesday March 1st in The Parish Centre from 7.30 -10.30 pm. Contact Catherine O'Keeffe 083 843 8114 for further details.

#### **Legion of Mary: Patrician Meeting**

Discussion Subject: Our Lady of Kibeho Wednesday 23rd February 6.30pm in Jim Grant Room, St. John's Church, Waterford. All welcome. (Light refreshments served) Spiritual Director: Rev. Patrick O'Donoghuie www.legionofmary.com

#### 64th Waterford & Lismore Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2022

5 Nights Full Board: 8th - 13th June 2022

- Fly from Cork to Lourdes
- Optional return Coach to Cork Airport
- Single Supp €33/€38 per night
- Walking Tour of Lourdes
- Daily programme
- Daily Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

From €729pps fully inclusive.

Enquiries: Joe Walsh Tours 01 2410800

Email info@joewalshtour

In the interest of Health & Safety, it has been decided that this year no Assisted Pilgrims will be taken to the Acceuil. Hopefully 2023 will see a return to normal. All Staff and Pilgrims must be happy and capable of staying in hotels. There will be a full daily programme for the  $5\ \mathrm{days}.$ Booking is open and can be made by contacting JWT (details above). There will Not be a Lourdes Office in Waterford this year.

## **BALLYGUNNER AIB ALL IRELAND** CLUB SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2022

Massive congratulations to the Ballygunner Senior Hurling Team, Manager, Coaches and backroom staff on winning the AIB All Ireland Club Senior Hurling Championships in Croke Park last weekend against Ballyhale Shamrocks

with a score of 2-17 to I-19. Thank you Harry for a thrilling

ending!

**☎** DONATE

Here is a picture of two excited rishioners with the Tommy Moore Cup! **UP THE GUNNERS!** 



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**

Contact :jbmnews@gmail.com OR the Parish Office by lunchtime on Tuesday before printing, if you wish to have items included in the following weekend's Newsletter.