

FAITH

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love
in the heart of the family!



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3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH: THE MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Exodus 20:1-17

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 18(19): 8-11

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel:

John 2:13-25

*"Stop turning my Father's
house into a market"*



Christ Cleansing the Temple by El Greco, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings [here](#).

Children will especially enjoy [this video](#) which illustrates this week's Gospel story.

Pray

Imagine yourself in this Gospel scene. Are you one of the Temple sellers? Do you see yourself as a buyer or bystander or one of Jesus' disciples? How does it make you feel to see Jesus so upset and angry? The reason that Jesus cleansed the Temple was because the activity there was focused not on worship, but instead on worldly things. Talk to Jesus about some of the worldly things you are attached to and ask him to help you to let go of them.

Talk

In the Gospel we see Jesus become angry because the people were not respecting the House of God.

Reflect on a time when you became very angry because you saw or heard about an injustice. Maybe you saw something on the news or read an article that troubled you. How did it make you feel and how did you react? How do you think God is asking you to respond when you are in those situations? Share the incident, the emotions you felt and your response to the situation with your family.

Family Challenge!

Memorise The 10 Commandments this week. Adults and teens can memorise them from the First Reading. Smaller children can learn the song in our Kids' Corner.

MISSION! Remember, the first 3 commandments teach us how to love God, the next 7 show us how to love others. Colour the poster on page 3 and hang it up in your room to remind you how God wants you to live and to love Him and others!

LEARN THE
"TEN COMMANDMENTS"
SONG

Please email us at faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie [or click the [subscribe](#) button] if you would like to receive Faith@Home direct to your inbox each week!

"To the Heights" Post-Primary / Youth Version also available: click [SUBSCRIBE](#) / email youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie

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LENT: A TIME OF CLEANSING

The great 16th century artist, El Greco, painted at least five versions of today's Gospel in which Jesus drives the money lenders and market traders from the Temple. The painting in the National Gallery Washington (and on the front of this issue!) is titled *Christ Cleansing the Temple* and is most suitable to this Gospel story in the middle of Lent, so that we can give thought to our need of cleansing before we celebrate Easter.

Each Mass begins with the celebration of the Penitential Rite which allows the congregation to acknowledge their sins along with God's mercy and compassionate forgiveness. What is true throughout the year is given further emphasis in Lent - the Opening Prayer of this Sunday, in which the priest prays "that we, who are bowed down by our conscience" is a recognition that our sin has followed us into the temple of the Lord and is in need of his cleansing in mercy.

The First Reading outlines the code, the Ten Commandments, by which we judge our conscience and provides us with a Lenten guide to living a good life. Trying to live such a guide to holiness makes us dwellers in the new temple that is the Resurrected Christ. Our participation in the Word and at the altar cleanses us, and brings us towards holiness because of contrite hearts which cast out thoughts, words and deeds that are far from holy.

Just as Christ cleansed the Temple, the Risen Lord is constantly cleansing our hearts through his love. We must be open to Christ's cleansing zeal within us by living his Commandments in word and deed, so that, we will build a temple within us, with Christ as the cornerstone.

By Fr John Harris

EVENTS

Quo Vadis

Lenten Series for young adults aged 18 - 35 who are seeking purpose and meaning in their lives. Every Sunday from 7 - 8pm until 28th March. [Click here to register](#) or email youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie



"The Message of the Good News - God's Unconditional Love"

Sr Antoinette Dilworth leads a short Lenten Reflection: Thursdays on the Diocesan Facebook Live at 7pm

Adoration and Prayer with Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan

Live on Bishop Phonsie's Facebook page each night at 9.15pm

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Amen.



Carlo's Corner

WHAT ARE MY PRIORITIES?

"The only thing we have to ask God for, in prayer, is the desire to be holy." Bl. Carlo

Who are the people who are important to us? What are the activities that matter to us? Do our schedules reflect that? Are these the people and things we spend time (or maybe money) on each week? Or do we struggle to find a balance and feel like we're not doing enough, or maybe like we're doing too much?

What about God? Where does He feature in our week? Do we give Him time everyday? A bit of time on Sunday? No time at all?

God wants us so much to know His love, and to know that we can trust and rely on Him. He wants a relationship with us. A good relationship takes time and effort. Are we willing to take just a few minutes each day to speak to Him, to ask Him to bring us closer to Him and closer to the person He created us to be, to be holy (and holy means happy!)?

If we make God our priority, He will help us find balance, peace and fulfilment in our lives. Maybe we need to declutter / detox some areas to make space for him. It'll be worth it!

Check out:

Fr Mike: Is God the Centre of My Life?

Lifeteen: The Detox I never thought I needed

Jesus at the Centre of it all (Darlene Zschech)



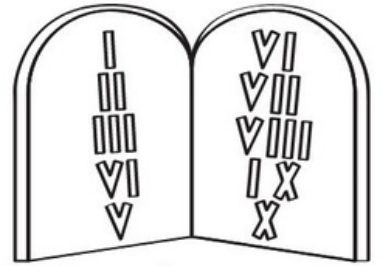
CHECK IT OUT: EWTN IRELAND



Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) is the largest religious media network in the world, transmitting programming 24/7 to 148 million homes in 144 countries. EWTN's main website also offers extensive Catholic resources including one of the largest Catholic document libraries online, a full interactive website for children, a forum for asking questions of experts, and speciality pages on a variety of topics. Available on SKY EPG 588 / www.ewtn-ireland.ie / Satellite Radio on SKY EPG 0147.

GOD'S TOP TEN!

1. Put God first



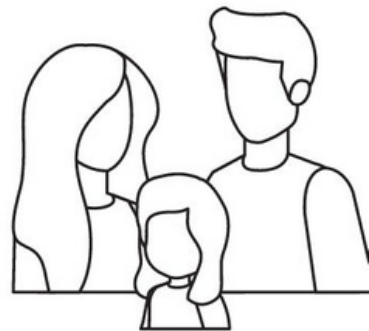
2. Worship God alone

3. RESPECT GOD'S NAME



4. Work 6 Rest 1

5. Obey your parents



6. Harm no one

7. Don't cheat



8. IF IT'S NOT YOURS, DON'T TAKE IT



9. Tell the truth



10. Don't be jealous of other people's stuff