

# FAITH

## @Home

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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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5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH: THE MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

Year B

### Sunday Mass Readings

#### First Reading:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

#### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 5-(51):3-4,12-15

#### Second Reading:

Hebrews 5:7-9

#### Gospel:

John 12:20-23

*"When I am lifted up  
from the earth, I shall  
draw all men to myself"*



Jacopo Tintoretto, 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](#).

To see a children's video with a brief reflection on the meaning of the Gospel and readings, [click here](#).

### Pray

*Lectio Divina* is a way of praying. It is a Latin phrase that means "Divine Reading" in English. It is an enjoyable style of prayer because it helps readers of all ages to place themselves in the biblical story and to apply it to their lives today. With *Lectio Divina*, we can use our imagination and our memories to bring the Bible to life. Use the *Lectio Divina* Guide on page 4 to pray with this week's Gospel as a family.

### Talk

This week's Gospel places an emphasis on service. Jesus says: *"If anyone serves me, my father will honour him"*. Discuss the following questions as a family:

- What does it mean to serve Jesus?
- What are some of the ways that I serve Jesus in my life? E.g serving others
- Is it easy or difficult to be a follower Jesus today? Share your experiences

### Family Challenge!

Purchase some flower seeds the next time you go grocery shopping. Find a place in your garden to plant them. If you do not have space to plant them outside plant them in a small flower pot. Watch them grow over the coming months. Don't forget to water them!

**MISSION!** Jesus prayed, "Father, glorify Your name!" What ways can you glorify God's name this week? When we speak to God in prayer, when we listen for His voice, when we treat others with love, when we offer to help out at home – these are all ways to glorify God's name!

LEARN THE ACTION  
SONG: LORD I LIFT YOUR  
NAME ON HIGH!



Please email us at [faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto: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](mailto:youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie)

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## GOD WANTS US

As we continue our Lenten journey, the Gospel story this week marks a decisive turning point in the life and mission of Jesus. *The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.* This line anticipates the impending death of Jesus. Just as a planted seed must die and decay before it sprouts new life, so Jesus must die before conquering and defeating death in order to give us eternal life with God in Heaven. His death and Resurrection are what we could call the "Grand Finale" in the story of salvation history.

From the beginning of the world, God has been working to bring human beings into relationship with Him. We are created to know God and to love Him. God seeks a relationship with all of us and with each one of us personally. God wants to be a Father to us and for us to be his children. God brings his people into relationship with him through a series of covenants in the Old Testament using people like Moses, Abraham and David. Each of the Old Testament covenants anticipates the new and eternal covenant that Jesus would establish by his death and Resurrection.

But what is so *new* about the new covenant? In short, it is for everyone! The forthcoming suffering of Jesus will secure blessing not only for the people of Israel (as had been the case in the Old Testament) but for the whole world. The fact that "some Greeks" in today's Gospel were inquiring about Jesus and wished to see him is evidence of this. Their desire to meet with Jesus anticipates his prophesy that *"I shall draw all men to myself"*. At this point, it is helpful to recall the famous line of John 3:16 that we read last week: *"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that those who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life."* God wants us to be part of his family and he gives each of us the freedom to accept or reject the offer to friendship with him.

## EVENTS

### Quo Vadis

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

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

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



### Stations of the Cross

Based on "Mary's Way of the Cross". Dramatised by Holy Family Mission, filmed by the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother: available on [Diocese of Waterford & Lismore YouTube channel](#).

Free resource pack for post-primary teachers / youth groups available from [youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie)

Please note that this film was produced with senior cycle post-primary students in mind, so parent / guardian discretion while viewing is advised.

## Family Prayer

Create in me a pure heart,  
O God, and renew a steadfast spirit  
within me. Do not cast me from  
your presence or take your Holy  
Spirit from me. Restore to me the  
joy of your salvation and grant me a  
willing spirit, to sustain me.

Amen  
(Psalm 50(51))



## Carlo's Corner

"I TELL YOU MOST SOLEMNLY"  
"When we pray, we speak to  
God; but when we read God  
speaks to us." St Jerome



At different points throughout scripture, Jesus prefaces a point with his disciples with: "I tell you most solemnly..." When you see that you can be pretty sure what comes next is important! In this week's Gospel Jesus is talking about His death and Resurrection – you don't get a more important message than that. His disciples didn't know that at the time, but we have 2000 years of scripture and wisdom of the Church to guide us to understand that, not to mind the Holy Spirit working in our hearts too.

The Word of God matters: it teaches us how to live, how to love, how to die to our selfish selves when we need to, how to get to Heaven.

The Bible is a love letter from God, to each of us individually; the Bible tells the whole story of what we call salvation history, and this is our story. So how do we read the Bible? Try simple steps first. Take a few lines from one of the Gospels and use the Lectio Divina method Fr Josh explains below. Let God speak to you, to bring healing, encouragement and peace into your life. Use the attached handout to guide your Lectio. **Check out:**

▶ Fr Josh Johnson: What is Lectio Divina

▶ Word of God Speak (MercyMe)

No Bible? Use [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

## CHECK IT OUT: DISCERNING HEARTS



Catholic Podcasts dedicated to those on the spiritual journey. It is dedicated to evangelisation and spiritual formation through new media, creating engaging podcasts with top Catholic speakers, faithful to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and its rich, authentic spiritual tradition. Its mission responds to the Church's call to use the media for evangelisation, catechesis, and spiritual renewal. It also features 9 Days with a saint Contemplative Audio Retreats/Novenas.









# LECTIO DIVINA / DIVINE READING GUIDE

PICK A PASSAGE FROM ONE OF THE GOSPELS



## LECTIO = READING

What does the scripture passage say in and of itself, that everyone should understand?

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## MEDITATIO = MEDITATION

Find something, a line or a word, that sticks out to you and begin it meditate on it. What does the text say to me, today, and to my life? What is it speaking into my heart?

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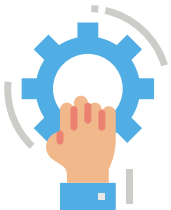
## ORATIO = PRAYER

We speak to God about what we read and meditated on. We can intercede for others. We can pray in thanksgiving. We can ask for forgiveness. We can ask God for His grace (help) to live out what we feel called to do.



## CONTEMPLATIO = CONTEMPLATION

What conversion of the mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me? This step is a gift from God - we can't make it happen! We spend time looking at him and letting Him look at us. If He leads you into deep prayer, go with it. If not, just chill with the Lord.



## ACTIO = ACTION

What concrete action can I do based on my time of reading, meditating, praying and maybe contemplating with the Lord.

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