

# TO THE Heights

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and Supporting the Catholic faith in our post-primary schools and amongst our young people.



ascendwaterfordlismore.ym

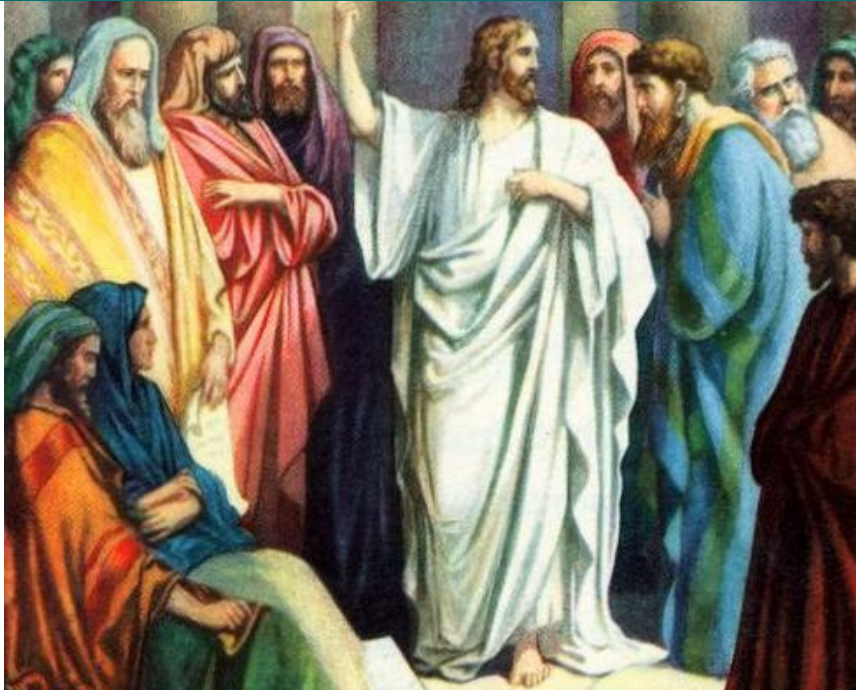


AscendWaterfordLismoreYM



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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O. A. Stemler and Bess Bruce Cleaveland, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Year B

## Sunday Mass Readings

### First Reading:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 94(95):1-2, 6-9

### Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

### Gospel:

Mark 1:21-28

"He taught them with authority."

## Getting to know Pier Giorgio

### His sense of humour

Frassati was a prankster. He loved pulling (harmless) practical jokes on his friends and family and was always the life of the party.



His natural charisma was a joyful one, and people were naturally drawn to him because of his sense of humour and desire to include everyone in the fun.

Are you surprised that a saint could love practical jokes and having a good time with his friends? Following God doesn't mean losing your sense of fun!

<https://catholicexchange.com/11-reasons-why-we-love-bl-pier-giorgio-frassati>

## Hear



Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one?

No worries, you can find the text here.

Or watch a short video version by clicking here.



## Reflect

- Who or what are the sources you trust?
- Why do you trust these people or these sources?
- Do people have to prove themselves to you to earn your trust and respect?
- Why / how did Jesus impress people in today's gospel?
- If you were sitting in the synagogue that day, what would you have thought?
- Why do you think Jesus was able to preach the word of God with a sense of authority they had never heard before?
- How is this similar to the finding of Jesus in the temple?
- Do you believe in Jesus' authority? Explain.





Blessed Carlo Acutis  
Pray for us!

## Carlo's Corner

### WHO YOU SAY I AM

"If Jesus is who He says He is,  
then you are who He says you are."  
Fr Mike Schmitz



In today's Gospel, deeply impresses those around Him, not just by his miraculous actions, but by the authority with which he spoke. If Jesus speaks with authority, that means what He says about you is worth listening to, and worth believing in, much more so than what others think about you. The following are based on words from Scripture, God's words He wants you to repeat and believe about yourself:

"I am a Child of God." "I am precious in His eyes." "Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus." "I am God's treasured possession." "I am created in God's own image." "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

### WEEKLY CHALLENGE:



Take one of these statements, write it out and pin it somewhere you'll see it everyday, like your bedroom mirror, and ask the Lord to help you believe it on His authority, not yours!

### TUNE OF THE WEEK



Listen to "Who you Say I am"

(Hillsong)



HOLY FAMILY  
MISSION CHANNEL



## TEACHER'S CORNER

### Alpha

Watch this short  
Alpha promo!



Covid 19 has raised a lot of questions for people about life and faith. The Diocese of Waterford & Lismore invites parish groups and individuals to participate in an online Alpha series beginning on 10th February 2021 for 11 weeks.

Email [events@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:events@waterfordlismore.ie) or call 085 8623705 for more information. Why not experience Alpha yourself, and consider running Alpha Youth in your school / parish with the support of the Diocese? Maybe even invite some colleagues?



## Young Person's Prayer

Dear God,

Help me to see myself as You see me.  
Help me to see myself as your beloved child. Teach me to know that my value and my worth does not depend on what others think of me. It doesn't even depend on what I think of me, because sometimes I'm my own harshest critic. Show me how to be the best version of myself - the ME you created me to be!

## Gospel Reflection: Prophets of Our Own Time

A prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of God. Many of the great prophets accepted their role with great reluctance because it often meant adopting an unpopular stance. They did so because they had encountered God and their encounter with him was not something they could ignore or forget.

Moses could tell us a bit about this. God intervened in his life in the form of a burning bush. Moses was not perfect. He got hot-headed and lost his temper and God still chose him to lead the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. Moses had an important part to play in God's plan of salvation which would be fully revealed hundreds of years later with the coming of Jesus. Jesus is the fulfilment of all the Old Testament prophesies and expectations.

When Jesus came there was something different about him. Unlike all the Old Testament prophets who spoke on behalf of God, Jesus IS God (even the unclean spirit in today's Gospel recognises this and confesses that Jesus is the "Holy One of God"). Back in the day, it would have taken very lengthy prayers to expel demons. Yet, Jesus simply commands the unclean spirit to leave and it instantly obeys him. His power and authority come from being one with the Father.

Each one of us is called by God to be a prophet. God reveals himself to us and speaks to us, not on the top of a mountain as he did with Moses, but in our ordinary everyday lives. We encounter God in the people we meet in our day-to-day work and routines. We enter into God's presence is a special way at Mass, when we visit our local Church and when we say our prayers. Our God is not a distant God. He wants us to know and love him and for us to make Him known and loved by others. He is always trying to communicate with us - and he never gives up on us!

## CHECK IT OUT: TWEETING WITH GOD

Do you have questions about faith? Fortunately there are answers to be found! Check out the #TwGOD book, app, website and social media. Tweeting with GOD aims to help you see how everything is connected to God's love for every human being, and to see the logic of the faith. It offers you answers, inspiration, encouragement and prayers.

