

# FAITH @Home

13 DECEMBER 2020 | VOL.7

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GAUDETE SUNDAY

## Sunday Mass Readings

### First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

### Responsorial Psalm:

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

### Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

### Gospel:

John 1:6-6, 19-28

*"He came as a  
witness, as a witness  
to speak for the light"*



## Hear

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

## Pray

On the Third Sunday of Advent, we light the pink candle of JOY. Are we sharing JOY with those around us – all people – family, friends, strangers?

Prepare a manger bed for baby Jesus. Every day this week, write the name of a person you love and want to pray for on a small strip of paper and place it in the manger. Keep adding names to the manger bed until Christmas Day. On Christmas Day place baby Jesus on the bed of love you have prepared for Him.

## Talk

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare your heart and home this Advent:

- Is there someone in your life whose witness of faith has inspired you in your own journey of faith? What was it about them that struck you?
- What are some of the ways that you could give witness to your faith to those around you?
- What are some of the things that prevent you from witnessing and speaking about your faith to others?

## Family Challenge!

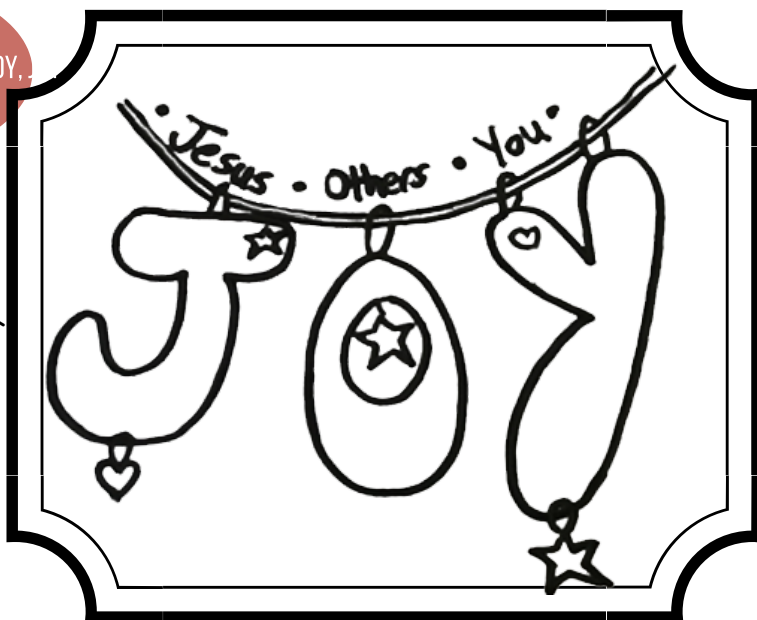
Pray the [Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary](#) this week as a family. Consider saying one decade each night before bed.

LEARN A NEW SONG!  
I'VE GOT THE JOY, JOY, JOY.  
CLICK HERE!



## Kids' Corner

Let's practice being joyful this week - put Jesus first, then others, then you!



## REJOICE! HE IS COMING!

John the Baptist was approached by priests and Levites. "Who are you?", "What are you?", "Are you the Prophet?", they asked. John's answer was clear and straight, "I am not the Christ." John knew he was sent to "make straight the way of the Lord." But sometimes, questions explain a lot more than their answers!

Jewish people were waiting for the coming of Christ. They were hopefully anticipating the arrival of the Redeemer, the one who would liberate them from severe persecution and slavery. Though tired of long waiting they were not ready to lose hope because they had faith in the prophesies. John had no formal education to his merit that could help his language and wisdom, but the spirit of the Lord God was upon him. He assumed no man-made titles, but he had the divine mandate to proclaim liberty to the captives, and he rejoiced heartily in the Lord.

People believed John because he had God's wisdom in his speech. People wanted to get baptised because they were hoping to see the glory of God and inherit the right to be called His children.

Advent is about expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation, and joyful preparation. Like John, we rejoice in the Lord for He is coming! We light the pink candle which symbolises our joy... Christmas is so close! We rejoice by looking back to the memory of fulfilling the hopeful anticipation of the Jewish people, a long waiting of over one thousand years since the passing of King David and his son Solomon. We also joyfully look forward to the Lord's glorious second coming! Come Lord Jesus, Come!

By Rev. Deacon Lazarus Gidolf

## CHECK IT OUT: HIS CROWN OF THORNS

His Crown of Thorns is a small but passionate company specializing in Catholic merchandise, aiming to create ways for Heroic Catholics to share their faith in a subtle manner on a daily basis. 10% of all proceeds from the store go to Mary's Meals and Youth 2000 Ireland. His Crown of Thorns also promotes a "Devotion to His Holy Wounds", available on their website as a pdf.



## EVENTS



**Campa Mhuire Mháthair:**

**Christmas Special: Sun 20th Dec @ 4pm**

Free online Camp for children aged 5 - 12. Faith-filled fun: Nativity story, Christmas carols, Arts & Crafts and Sweet Treats to make for all the family. Available to watch and rewatch throughout the Christmas season on the [Campa Mhuire Mháthair YouTube Channel](#).

## Family Prayer

*As we draw near to you, Lord God, keep us aware of your presence in all we do. Come with power to enlighten us by your grace, that we may live in praise and peace all our days. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Carlo's Corner



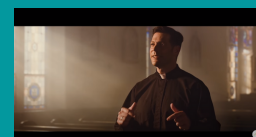
Blessed Carlo Acutis  
- Pray for us!

**CONFESSION IS A  
PLACE OF VICTORY**

*"Our soul is like a hot air balloon. If by chance there is a mortal sin, the soul falls to the ground. Confession is like the fire underneath the balloon, enabling the soul to rise again...*

*It is important to go to confession often."*

With Christmas approaching, let's make sure to try to get to Confession if it is available locally. Don't put it off - our sins and regrets can pull us down, but Confession can set our souls and hearts on fire again, and free us to be who God created us to be! Check out Fr Mike Schmitz' video explaining Confession!



Fr Mike Schmitz: Confession is a Place of Victory

