

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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CHRISTMAS DAY



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Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 52:7-10

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 97(98): 1-6

Second Reading:

Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel:

John 1:1-18

*"In the beginning was the
Word and the Word was with
God and the Word was God"*



Hear

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

Families with small children might enjoy [this explanation](#) of the Incarnation from the figures in the crib (["Joy Story"](#)).

Pray

Pray the Angelus prayer together as a family throughout the week. Traditionally the Angelus is prayed 6am, 12pm and 6pm. Watch [this video](#) to learn how to pray it.

Family Challenge!


Sing Happy Birthday to Baby Jesus as you place him in the crib in your home on Christmas morning.

Talk

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (457-460) outlines four reasons for the Incarnation which you can find online [here](#). Read the section. Then take turns explaining to one another in your own words why the Word became flesh:

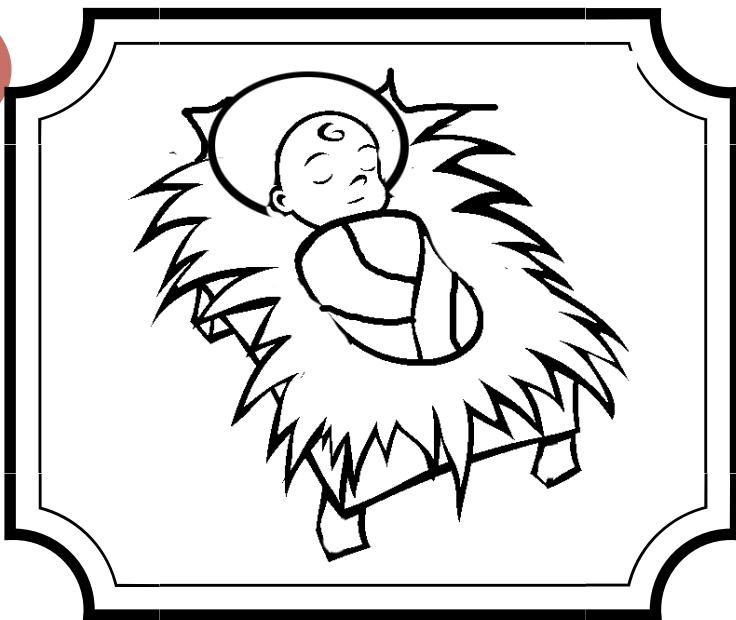
1. In order to save us by reconciling us with God
2. So that we might know God's love
3. The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness
4. The Word became flesh to make us "partakers of the divine nature".

St Athanasius summed it up like this: "God became man so that man might become God". Share what this means for you personally with one another.

LET'S LEARN A NEW
SONG: "JUMP FOR JOY!"
[CLICK HERE](#) 

Kids' Corner

[Click here](#) to learn how to draw
Baby Jesus - and then think about
what gifts you can give him and
draw them around the crib!



EITHER JESUS IS GOD OR A BAD MAN

My faith has been challenged and tested since mid-March 2020. Maybe yours has been too? People have been asking: "When will God intervene?" or "Why does God not intervene in this pandemic?" These are good questions. The fact is that God has intervened and is intervening.

In the opening lines of his Gospel St. John answers those questions with a powerful phrase which rings throughout all time: "the Word was made flesh and lived among us" and we add "and lives among us." God the Son is born of Mary in Bethlehem. Do we really believe this? Our faith is being tested now and has been throughout these past nine months in particular. Either St. John is right or he is wrong.

If he is wrong then you and I can go on our merry way and forget about Christianity as a sham and a waste of time. If St. John is right then everything we do changes and takes on a profound meaning. *Aut Deus aut malus homo* the classic scholars would say: *Either Jesus is God or a bad man.* Jesus continually claimed to be God. Either Jesus is God and was born, lived, suffered and died and then rose from the dead or he is a first-rate conman. Or he is simply mad. What he cannot be is a bit of all three. Do I truly believe those words written by St. John? Do you believe that God is born in Bethlehem? Because he is human he identifies with our human condition and because he is God he can do things which no human being can do, like rise from the dead and remain with us for all time. This Christmas let us pray for a greater faith to believe more deeply that Jesus is with us now in the middle of this challenging time.

By Bishop Cullinan

EVENTS: CATCH UP!



["Will there be Christmas this year" message](#)



["The Light of Hope" Carol Service from Glencomeragh](#)



[Campa Mhuire Mháthair Christmas Special](#)



Family Prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank you for
the gift of the Incarnation,
of your presence with us.
Emmanuel, be present in
our homes, this day and
every day. Teach us to love
as you love, to serve as you
serve, to forgive as you
forgive. Amen

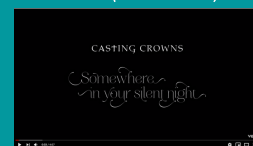
Carlo's Corner



Blessed Carlo Acutis
- Pray for us!

**GOD IS NOT AFRAID
OUR OUR MESS**

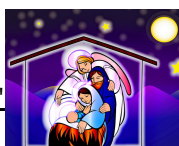
"Sometimes, when God doesn't immediately answer our prayers - or doesn't answer them in the manner or fashion we'd like - we make the mistake of thinking God doesn't care or that we are "unlovable". Nothing could be further from the truth. God is love. God sees. He hears. He knows the pain and doubt and anxieties running through your mind and heart. He's not shaken by your fears. He's not overwhelmed by your mess. We have a God who was born in a cave and laid in a feed box. He's not afraid of a mess. In fact, He excels within it. Bring your issues to God, today, and invite the Lord to, once again, dwell in the mess." (Mark Hart)



[Weekly Tune: Somewhere in your Silent Night](#)

CHECK IT OUT: ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS TUNES TO LISTEN AND PRAY WITH

- [Casting Crowns: "Make Room"](#)
- [Chris Tomlin: "Adore"](#)
- [Lauren Daigle & Chris Tomlin: "Noel"](#)
- [Mercy Me: "Joseph's Lullaby"](#)



- [Casting Crowns: "Somewhere in your silent night"](#)
- [Christmas with "The Chosen"](#)
- [Lauren Daigle: "Light of the World"](#)
- [Mark Schultz: "When Love Was Born"](#)

