

# FAITH



## @Home

[www.waterfordlismore.ie](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie)

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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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11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Year B

### Sunday Mass Readings

#### First Reading:

Ezekiel 17:22-24

#### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 91 (92): 2-3.13-16

#### Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

#### Gospel:

Mark 4:26-34

*"What can we say the  
Kingdom of God is like?...It  
is like a mustard seed."*



### 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 watch a video of the Gospel for adults, click [here](#). Younger children will enjoy this [video presentation](#) of this week's readings.

### Pray

In the Gospel we hear about the smallest seed producing the most fruit and growing into *the biggest shrub of them all*. For your prayer time this week, we invite you to make a visit to your local parish church or adoration chapel and keep Jesus company for a few minutes. As you spend time with Jesus in prayer, think back over the past year of your life. Think of some of the highs and lows you have experienced. What have you learned about yourself this year? Look for areas in your personal, academic, professional and/or family life where you have grown. In your own words, give thanks to God for all of it. Remember that growth happens through all experiences of your life and God uses the good and the bad to help us grow.

### Talk

The Gospel reminds us that God is at work in us though our prayer and patience and this is what will help build up the Kingdom of God on earth. With those in your home or with a friend, choose a question from below and share with one another:

- Who are some of the people in your life that bring out the best in you? How do they do this and why is it important that we bring out the best in each other?
- When it comes to your faith life, who has inspired you?
- Identify some opportunities from this past week that challenged you to grow as a person. Did you find hard it or easy?
- What is one thing you can implement this week to help you to grow spiritually?

### Family Challenge!

No complaining! The challenge this week is to avoid complaining - especially when things don't go according to *our* plans. Remember God is in control of everything. Don't let little grievances steal your joy! Meditate on Jeremiah 29:11.

**Mission:** The mustard seed is a TINY seed! Smaller than a grain of rice! And yet Jesus says that great things can come of it. This week try to do lots of little random acts of kindness for your family - small acts can show big love and help your faith grow!

Song of the Week!

GROW, GROW, GROW

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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## TRUSTING IN GOD'S TIMING!

Our Gospel reading contains two parables that farmers would certainly understand. The first is the parable of the seed. The farmer plants the seed and goes about his routine day after day. Eventually the seed grows, not because the farmer does something special, but because nature takes its course. To the ancient people every field of wheat, every flower, was a miracle of God's hand. The second parable is that of the mustard seed which seems insignificant, but with the growth that God gives it, it becomes a plant, probably 8 to 10 feet high, large enough to shelter the birds of the sky. These two parables of the Kingdom of God tell us that we have to trust God to give growth to the Kingdom. Furthermore, the growth He gives will be greater than we could ever imagine. The Kingdom that we trust God to give growth to could be the Kingdom of our Church in the world, the Kingdom of our parishes, or particularly, the Kingdom of our homes and families.

There are many times that we expect too much of ourselves and others. Sometimes we are impatient with how we or others are progressing in life. We may be upset with our home situations, our marriages, our families, our jobs, or what we have. What we have to understand is that none of us are self-made people. If we trust in God, He will give growth. This growth might be very subtle but after a while it suddenly occurs to us: God has brought us a long way. If we trust in God, the growth that He gives us will be more than we could imagine. We are all small seeds, but God can make us like the greatest trees. However, if we think that we can do everything ourselves, and if we don't trust in God, we won't get anywhere. None of us can make ourselves or others grow without God and prayer!

Something that we all want is peace in our families and communities. We have to pray to God and trust Him to bring his peace. To think we can cause peace to happen in our homes or anywhere without God is unachievable. All of us have entrusted God with our lives. We must trust Him to form us into people more beautiful than we could have ever imagined. After all, He does a pretty good job with nature!

By Fr Michael Toomey

## EVENTS

**"Eucharistic Amazement":** Zoom Series for adults who would like to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist and the Mass. Wednesdays 8 - 9.15pm from June 30 for four weeks.

Contact [events@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:events@waterfordlismore.ie)

**Quo Vadis: Catholic Zoom Series for Young Adults** aged 18 - 35. Sundays 7-8pm, June 20th - July 11th *"Rooted: Lectio Divina for Beginners!"* A four-part series on praying with Scripture. Join us for one session or for all!

Contact [events@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:events@waterfordlismore.ie) or [click here](#)

## Family Prayer

O SACRED  
HEART OF  
JESUS,  
I PLACE ALL MY  
TRUST IN YOU!



## Carlo's Corner

### MUSTARD SEED

"...the smallest of all the seeds on earth...grows into the biggest shrub of them all..."

Mark 4: 26-34

Sometimes we might feel like we are not able to make change in the world. Sometimes we might feel our voice can never be heard, or that we don't have anything worth contributing. Sometimes we might feel we lack the skills and the courage to really make a difference for others and for ourselves.

Today's Gospel reminds us that our apparent smallness, our weakness is not a stumbling block. At our Baptism, a seed of faith was planted in our hearts. That's a seed that needs to be nurtured and watered. Even though the mustard seed is so tiny, it grows into a substantial bush and the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.

If we trust in God, if we try to do His Will in our lives, if we nurture our faith through prayer, and the sacraments, through "pruning" in confession, through choosing to serve God in the little ways each day, our lives can and will make a difference. We might not see the fruits of that ourselves, but that doesn't matter. We're called, as Christians, to build up the Kingdom of God. There's only one way we can do that, and that's to blossom where we are planted, in our own situations, with the people in our lives, with the choices we make each day.

How are you going to nurture the seed of your faith this week?

- How to Keep Your Faith Alive and Growing (Fr Mike)
- Build Your Kingdom Here (Rend Collective)
- Handout: A Future Not Our Own

## CHECK IT OUT: ASCENSION PRESS



Ascension Press' mission is to present the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith as the path to a fulfilled life and authentic happiness. They share valuable resources, create powerful media, and build communities to answer the longings of the human heart with the transformative power of the Gospel.

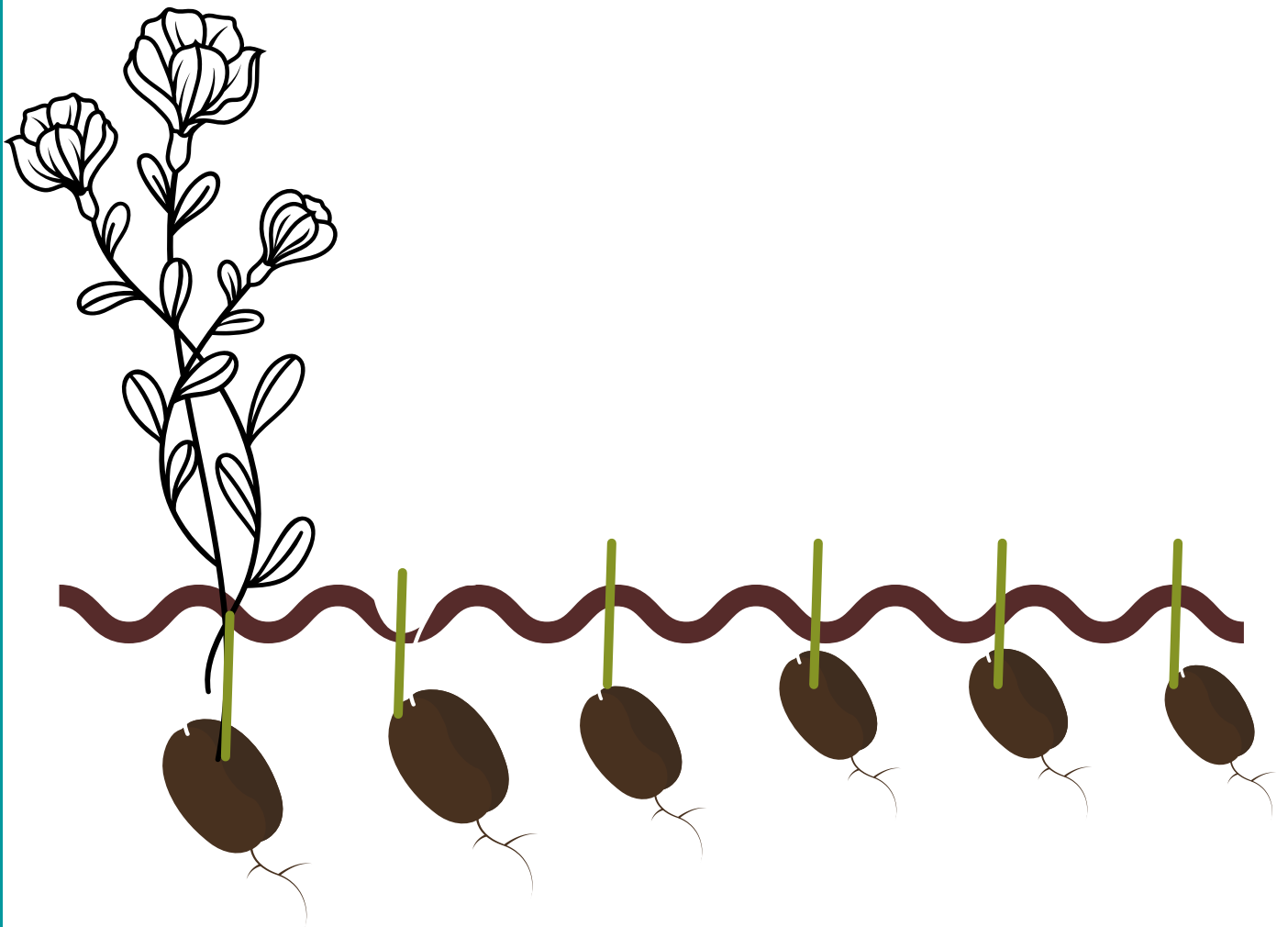
Ascension Press produce Catholic Faith Formation study programs, YouTube videos and resources for individuals, families and parishes.



This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.  
Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows,  
though he does not know how.

Mark 4: 26-27

Draw some flowers growing from the seeds in  
the soil and colour in the whole picture!

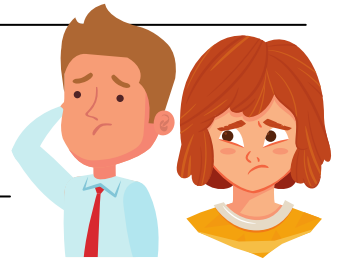




## "A Future Not Our Own"

WHAT GIFTS OR TALENTS DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO USE FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS?

WHAT HOLDS YOU BACK FROM USING THEM?



READ THE FOLLOWING REFLECTION: "A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN"

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.  
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.  
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

*Nothing we do is complete,  
which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.  
No statement says all that could be said.*

*No prayer fully expresses our faith.*

*No confession brings perfection.*

*No pastoral visit brings wholeness.*

*No programme accomplishes the Church's mission.*

*No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*That is what we are about.*

*We plant a seed that will one day grow.*

*We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.*

*We lay foundations that will need further development.*

*We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.*

*We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.*

*This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.*

*It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results, but that is the difference  
between the master builder and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.*

*We are prophets of a future not our own.*

*This is often attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero, but composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw*







## *"A Future Not Our Own"*

RESPOND IN A PERSONAL WAY TO THIS REFLECTION: DOES THIS ENCOURAGE YOU? CHALLENGE YOU? INSPIRE YOU? CONFUSE YOU? MOTIVATE YOU? WHAT PART STANDS OUT? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER

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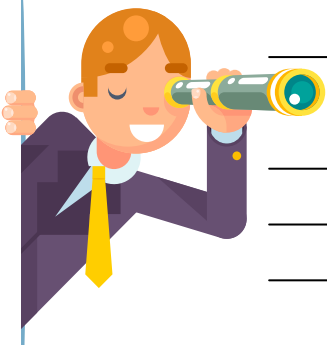
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LOOKING AT THE WEEK AHEAD, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD? WHAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN THAT?



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TAKE SOME QUIET TIME, TO REFLECT AND PRAY: YOU MIGHT LIKE TO RE-READ THE REFLECTION, OR PRAY IN YOUR OWN WORDS FOR HELP AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR WEEK AHEAD.



A Future Not My Own (Matt Maher)

Build Your Kingdom Here (Rend Collective)

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly (Pat Barrett)

- ASCEND YOUTH MINISTRY (DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE) -

