

# 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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17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MONTH OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

Year B

## Sunday Mass Readings

**First Reading:**

2 Kings 4:42-44

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 144 (145):10-11, 15-18

**Second Reading:**

Ephesians 4:1-6

**Gospel:**

John 6:1-15

*"So they picked them up and filled  
12 hampers with scraps left over  
from the meal of five barley loaves"*



## Hear

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

Watch [this video](#) for a proclamation of the Gospel for adults

Children will enjoy this [animated video](#) based on this week's Gospel

## Pray

Read this week's Gospel slowly. Take a moment to let it speak to you. Then read it through a second time. This time look for a word or phrase that stands out to you. Prayerfully meditate and reflect on this word or phrase. What do you think the Holy Spirit trying to speak to you? How can it be applied to whatever is going on in your life today? Is there a situation or an intention that feels impossible?

Bring this to the Lord in prayer and ask Him in faith to intervene and help you, trusting that He will hear and answer your prayer in His time and in His own way. Sometimes the Lord answers our prayers in very extraordinary ways but more often God performs miracles everyday in subtle ways.

## Talk

In the Gospel, Jesus saw a large crowd coming to be near him and wanted to feed them. With 5 loaves of barley and 2 fish He fed the crowd of 5,000. Discuss the following as a family:

- How would you respond to Jesus if you were in the crowd that day?
- Recall a time when you felt like you didn't have enough or you weren't going to be able to get through a situation and you needed God to provide for you. How did God provide for you?
- What seemingly impossible obstacles are standing in front of you right now? What is your first reaction when you experience fear, pain, stress, or trouble? Do you find it easy or hard to turn to God in the midst of these situations?

## Family Challenge!

Make a list of impossible things in your life that you want to surrender to Jesus. Make a commitment to pray daily over your list. Keep it somewhere safe and don't forget to check back on it in a few months to see how God is at work!

**Mission:** Five loaves and two fish was a lot of food for one little boy, but not for 5000 hungry people! The little boy was willing to share what He had with Jesus, and Jesus worked a great miracle! Ask Jesus to help you to share with others this week!

Song of the Week!

JESUS FEEDS 5000

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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## UNBOXING GOD

We return to the Gospel of John this week to one of the most famous stories about Jesus – the feeding of the 5,000 otherwise known as the miracle of the loaves and fish. This is the only miracle story that appears in all four of the Gospels. However, it is John who gives us the longest version of the event and the most detail.

Jesus performs miracles, not only in the past but also in the present day, for a few reasons. First and most importantly, He performs miracles to prove He was who He claimed to be – God. His miracles prove His divinity. Jesus' miracles were so frequent, the witnesses so numerous, and the evidence so stark, that not even Jesus' enemies disputed them. Instead, they denied the source of his power. Miracles never occur for one's own sake but rather to show that God is real, to deepen our faith and to help us to understand how real God's love for us is. We may have allowed fear, doubt and disappointment in life to affect our understanding of who God is. We may have stopped believing that God can do the impossible. This week's Gospel reminds us that nothing is impossible for God. What we consider to be a "miracle", Jesus considers to be "business as usual"! What comes supernaturally to us comes naturally to Him.

Perhaps in the drama and wonder of this miraculous event we might overlook one seemingly insignificant character. Only John 6 tells us where the five loaves and two fish actually came from. John writes: "There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish". This little lad, whose name we do not even know, teaches us something very important. He shows us what can happen when we give what we have to God, however insignificant we might think our offering is.

So often we can put God in a box and limit His access to our lives. We want him to work in *this* area but not *that* area of our life. We believe God can do *this* but not *that*. We focus more on what we can do rather than what He can do. We forget that God is infinitely powerful. He can do anything He wants in an instant. God doesn't want to be put in a box. He wants to be invited into every area and situation to do what only God can do.

## EVENTS

**Campa Mhuire Mháthair:** Free Online Catholic Camp for Children aged 5 - 12, July 27 - 30th. Bible Stories, Arts & Crafts, Music & Action Songs, Drama, Games, live-streamed Daily Mass and more! For more info, [click here](#)



## Family Prayer

Lord, too often we multiply our problems and forget that You are the solution, that You provide over and above what we need every day. Remind us this week to trust in You. Amen

**Carlo's Corner** *Acutis*  
**GOD ALWAYS PROVIDES**  
 The funny thing about the boy who gave away his loaves & fish is that he, too, ended the day with a full stomach. - Mark Hart -

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Let's just stop right there for a minute and think about what we pray in the opening lines of the Apostles' Creed, a statement of our faith: We believe in God as **Father**, as **Almighty**, as **Creator**.

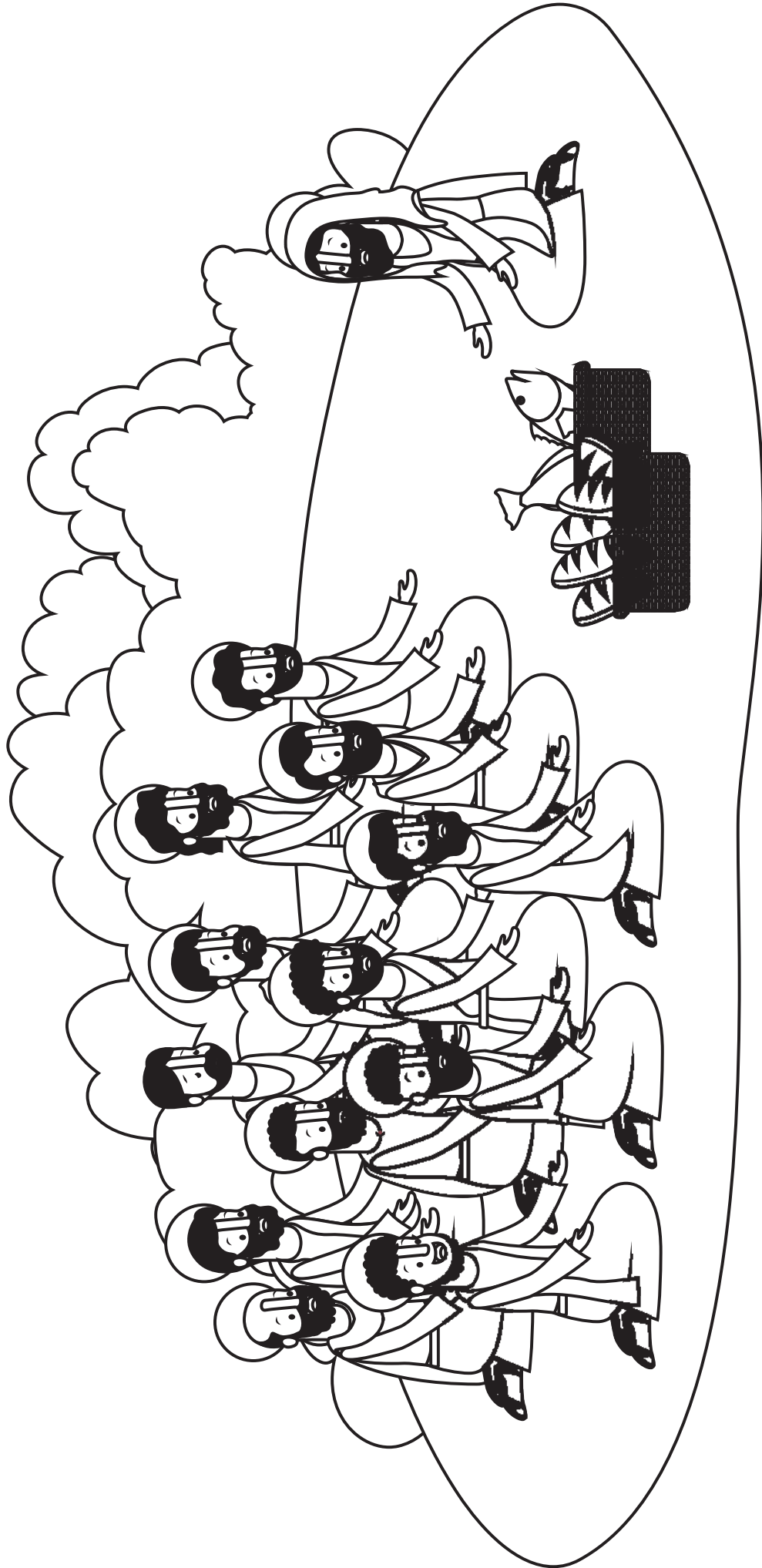
Through Him all things come into being, through Him all life is sustained.

He created the cosmos, the universe, everything from the depths of the ocean to the stars in the sky, right down to the tiniest microscopic strand of DNA – and he decided to create you too! "How cool is it that the same God, Who created mountains, & oceans, & galaxies, looked at you and thought the world needed one of you too?"

Yet, we allow ourselves to worry about so much. Yes, we have to get through many difficulties and struggles... but we should never forget we have a loving Father in heaven who provides for all our needs, not because He **has** to because He created us, but because He loves us as His children and He **wants** to give us EVERYTHING we need. This week, let's try to trust even more that God will provide for all our needs.

- ▶ • [God's Providence and Nachos](#)
- ▶ • [Good to Me \(Audrey Assad\)](#)
- 📎 • Handout: God's Providence

John 6:1-15





THE FUNNY THING ABOUT  
THE BOY WHO GAVE AWAY  
HIS LOAVES & FISH IS THAT  
HE, TOO, ENDED THE DAY  
WITH A FULL STOMACH.  
- MARK HART -



# God's Providence



WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR BEST ATTRIBUTES FOR HELPING OTHERS TO BE?

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN YOU WERE ABLE TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE, BY USING THE SKILLS OR RESOURCES YOU HAD? HOW DID THAT SITUATION PLAY OUT?

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SOMETIMES WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME THINKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S TALENTS AND ABILITIES THAT WE DON'T CONSIDER HOW GOD HAS GIVEN US WHAT WE NEED, AND CAN WORK THROUGH US JUST AS WE ARE.

Now Read John 6:1-15



Imagine yourself as the little boy in this story.

- How would you feel when Jesus asks for your simple basket of food?
- Would you worry you'll go hungry?
- Would you be confused as to what Jesus could do with so little?

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How would you feel when you see the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish happening in front of your eyes? What would you think about your role in it?

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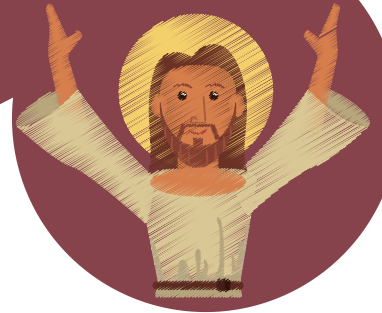
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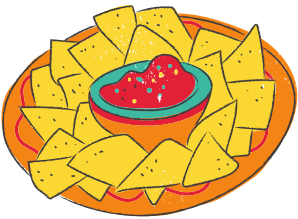
GOD, WHO CANNOT BE  
OUTDONE IN GENEROSITY,  
STILL USES YOU AND ME  
TO HELP OUR BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS.  
- POPE FRANCIS -



# God's Providence



WATCH FR MARK MARY'S VIDEO: "GOD'S PROVIDENCE AND NACHOS"



What do you think about Fr Mark Mary's faith in God's providence?

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Are you surprised that God would respond to such a small request?

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What can such a response teach us about the heart of God? Why do you think God would want us to ask for the small things as well as the big?

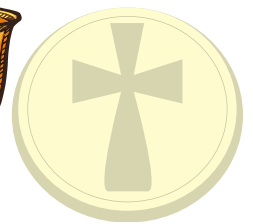
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THINK ABOUT IT: HOW DOES THIS MIRACLE RELATE TO THE EUCHARIST?

- What does Jesus show He has power to control in this Gospel miracle?
- The loaves and fish satisfied physical hunger; what kind of hunger does the Eucharist satisfy?
- What miracle happens during the celebration of Mass?



TIME TO REFLECT:

- Thousands of hungry people, a small basket of 5 loaves and two fish - it seemed impossible; but not to Jesus. Are there are problems or situations in your life where you can't see the solution yourself, where you feel overwhelmed, or unable to cope? Invite God into that situation now.
- Next, thank God for the gifts and resources that you have been given, and ask God to work through you and those gifts to serve and enrich the lives of others. Your offering and willingness to hand things over to God might seem small to you, but remember how much Jesus could do with the little boy's offering.
- Take some time as you listen to "[Good to Me](#)" and ask God to provide for all your needs today. He may not provide in the way you expect, but He will provide what you need.



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU LEAN INTO GOD'S PROVIDENCE THIS WEEK!



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • <a href="#">Good to Me</a> (Audrey Assad)   | • <a href="#">Waymaker</a> (Leeland)             |
| • <a href="#">Good Good Father</a> (C Tomlin) | • <a href="#">Reckless Love</a> (Cory Asbury)    |
| • <a href="#">God Provides</a> (Tamela Mann)  | • <a href="#">God is able</a> (Hillsong)         |
| • <a href="#">Our God</a> (Chris Tomlin)      | • <a href="#">Miracles Happen</a> (LIFE Worship) |

Click the  
links for the  
YouTube videos  
to listen to some  
suggestions!

