


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

 Ascend Youth Ministry



25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

 youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie



Jesus and the Little Child, James Tissot, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 53(54):3-6, 8

Second Reading:

James 3:16-4:3

Gospel:

Mark 9:30-37

"Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me"

Game Changers

The Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar is crammed full of inspirational saints, or as we like to call them, Game Changers!

Some weeks we'll focus in more detail on a particular saint who is an incredible role model for youth, but for now, check out the following feast-days!

If you missed our features on Fr Emil Kapaun and St Maximilian Kolbe you can find them on our [webpage](#)!

20 September [Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong & Companions](#)

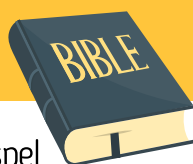
21 September [St Matthew \(Evangelist\)](#)

23 September [St Pius of Pietrelcina \(Padre Pio\)](#)

25 September [St Finbarr](#)



Hear



Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have a Bible? No worries, click the bible image above!



1. Why do you think Jesus wanted time alone with His disciples to instruct them?
2. The disciples did not understand what He meant when He said, "the Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put Him to death, and three days after ... He will rise again." Explain in your own words what He meant.
3. Why did the disciples not want to tell Jesus what they had been arguing about?
4. What do you think He meant by "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all."?
5. What characteristics of a little child should all Christians try to have? (Remember, there's a difference between being childlike and childish!)



"If anyone wants to be first he must make himself last of all and servant of all."
Mk 9:35

ARE YOU AN INFLUENCER?

Imagine the scene - Jesus trying to teach his disciples that He, as God, will perform the greatest act of humility the world has ever seen, being crucified before rising again, and just a short time later he



overhears them squabbling about which of them is the greatest. That was surely a cringe-worthy memory for them as they sought to go make disciples of all nations!

Yet, it's easy for us today as well to misunderstand what real leadership and real influence means. It's incredible to think that we can play a role in helping someone else become the best version of themselves, to become a saint! But how seriously do we take that responsibility? Do we ever even think much about it?

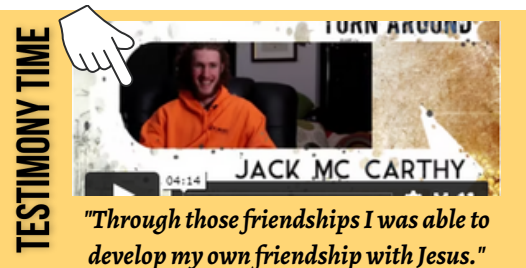
Jesus makes it pretty clear in today's Gospel - we're called to humility and service. Fr Mike's video challenges us to ask ourselves if someone modelled their lives on ours, would they become a great saint? I don't know about you, but I've a lot of reflecting to do on that one myself this week!

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

This week, let's make a conscious effort to consider how our actions, words and life can influence those around us - and try to help others become the best versions of themselves!

 Influencing the World (Fr Mike Schmitz)
 Use our attached handout to guide you!

TUNE OF THE WEEK The Litany of Humility Thomas Muglia



TEACHER'S CORNER

Eucharistic Adoration Retreat

Sunday 3rd October 2 - 5pm, St Mary's Parish Church, Clonmel. Donation / Offering €10
All are welcome!

Lectio Divina: the praying with the Scriptures, led by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, beginning Thurs, September 30th. 2 options: Thurs @ 2pm in St. John's Pastoral Centre / Thurs @ 7:30pm at Sacred Heart Parish Centre. Please register at waterford@ascjusus.org or call 087-4042745

Ministry of Catechist: The Diocese of Waterford & Lismore is now inviting applications for the Ministry of Catechist. More info on www.waterfordlismore.ie

Young Person's Prayer



Jesus, help me to be a good Influencer in my world today, with the people I know and love. May I strive for sainthood, and by my life show others how to become the best versions of themselves too.

*Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine!
Amen*

Gospel Reflection: AT HOME WITH JESUS

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee...If you live near our convent in Waterford City, chances are good that you've seen me out for a walk or a run. Maybe it's that I think better when I'm moving, find myself less distracted and more focused. If the disciples were anything like me, a good walk in the hills of Galilee might have helped them listen attentively to Jesus as he taught them. But no amount of exercise could help me wrap my head around Jesus saying he would be handed over, killed and then rise from the dead. It's no wonder the disciples were confused and afraid!

They came to Capernaum, and...he was in the house... I enjoy preparing our house for guests... fancy china, decorative serviettes, something sweet and homemade. Some scholars think that when Jesus arrived in Capernaum, he went to Peter's house. Thanks to my #bingeJesus obsession with The Chosen series, I have a fantastic mental picture of Peter's wife preparing her home to welcome Jesus and the Twelve. We can imagine Jesus feeling quite comfortable and relaxed in this familiar space. He wasn't afraid to ask the disciples hard questions.

He then took a little child... When Jesus offers a little child in the middle of Peter's living room, he's inviting us to a new way of thinking: Kingdom-thinking; the last-shall-be-first-thinking; servant-leadership thinking. And if this thinking was countercultural in Capernaum in Jesus' day, it's just as edgy and controversial today. In last week's Gospel, Jesus invited us to take up our cross and follow him. He said that if we lose our life for his sake, we'll find it! Now we're supposed to be "last of all and servant of all." Jesus proclaims what he teaches by his life. He shows us that sin and death no longer have the final word when he rises on Easter Sunday. He offers his body and blood for us in the sacrifice of the Mass. He reverences the dignity of each and every person he meets. He leads by example. When Jesus proclaims hard and challenging teaching, how does he also present you with a new way of thinking about and understanding the world around you?

By Sr Kathryn Press, ASCJ Waterford City

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Are you an Influencer?

"If anyone wants to be first he must make himself last of all and servant of all."

WHO DO YOU THINK HAS INFLUENCE ON YOUR LIFE? (EITHER IN YOUR FAMILY, COMMUNITY OR A CELEBRITY? WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO THEY INFLUENCE YOU TO BECOME?



WHAT CHARACTERISTICS DO YOU THINK A GREAT LEADER SHOULD HAVE?

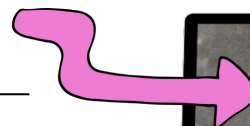
WATCH FR MIKE SCHMITZ' VIDEO: "INFLUENCING THE WORLD" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:



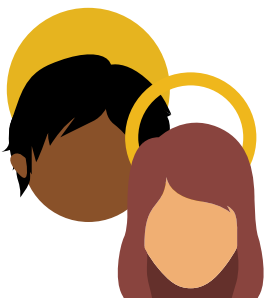
Fr Mike explains that all of us have influence over someone and because of that we should ask ourselves two questions:

1. How are you _____ them?
2. Where are you _____ them?

What kind of man was John Paul II's father?



Describe how he influenced his son to be a Man of God?



If we want those we have influence over to become great saints (and the best version of themselves), what do we need to ask ourselves and reflect on first?

HOW DOES A QUESTION LIKE THAT MAKE YOU FEEL? IS IT AN UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTION? IF YES, WHY DO YOU THINK THAT COULD BE?



ARE YOU AN INFLUENCER?

MARK 9:30--37

Who is the Prototype for Christians - the model for how to live? (with a capital P!)

“What did St Paul advise the Corinthians to do in his letter to them? Check 1 Corinthians 11:1”



If we don't think we're living in a way that will help others to become saints if they model their lives on us, what should we do about it, according to Fr Mike?

Remember, today for the people you influence, you're the p_____!



Now Read Mark 9:30-37



In this Gospel Passage, Jesus is trying to teach His disciples that He must suffer and be put to death before rising again. Yet again, His disciples fail to grasp what He is talking about. Instead they squabble amongst themselves about which of them is the greatest, ironically completely missing Jesus' example of the greatest act of love and humility Jesus' death on the Cross will be.

Jesus is very clear with them, that the greatest must be the least, the most humble, the most serving. Jesus uses the example of welcoming a little child to explain His point. In that culture, children had no status or power. Serving others rather than seeking power is the way of life Jesus models for us. It has been said that Christians like to talk about being servants until they are treated like one! Jesus calls us to humility, service and love however.



MISSION!

THIS WEEK, REFLECT ON THE INFLUENCE YOU HAVE ON OTHERS IN THEIR LIVES. IS THERE ONE ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE YOU CAN CHOOSE TO FOCUS ON, TO ELEVATE, SO THAT IF SOMEONE WAS TO MODEL THEIR LIFE ON YOURS, IT WOULD HELP THEM BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES, TO BECOME A GREAT SAINT? EACH EVENING REFLECT BACK ON HOW THE DAY WENT AND ASK THE LORD TO HELP YOU IN THE DAYS AHEAD.



PRAYER TIME!

THE LITANY OF HUMILITY:

Try praying the Litany of Humility, attributed to Cardinal Merry Del Val. It's definitely not easy or comfortable, but it can really help us to see where our priorities and desires lie, and how to live out service and humility in all aspects of our lives! (You can also use the two song versions below to help you!)



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON INFLUENCE THIS WEEK



- [The Litany of Humility \(Thomas Muglia\)](#)
- [The Litany of Humility \(Danielle Rose\)](#)
- [When it's all been said and done \(Robin Mark\)](#)
- [Set the World on Fire \(Britt Nicole\)](#)
- [I Shall Not Want \(Audrey Assad\)](#)
- [Humble \(Audrey Assad\)](#)
- [This is our God \(Tomlin\)](#)
- [You have shown us \(Baloche\)](#)

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



Check out the **Paving the Way Home Talk by Fr Patrick Cahill: "You are an Influencer"**



Jack McCarthy shares his testimony about how good friends turned his life around!



Litany of Humility

THE LITANY OF HUMILITY IS ATTRIBUTED TO CARDINAL MERRY DEL VAL WHO WAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO POPE SAINT PIUS X (1903-1914)

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart,
From the desire of being esteemed,
From the desire of being loved,
From the desire of being extolled,
From the desire of being honoured,
From the desire of being praised,
From the desire of being preferred to others,
From the desire of being consulted,
From the desire of being approved,
From the fear of being humiliated,
From the fear of being despised,
From the fear of suffering rebukes,
From the fear of being calumniated,
From the fear of being forgotten,
From the fear of being ridiculed,
From the fear of being wronged,
From the fear of being suspected,

hear me.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

deliver me O Jesus.

That others may be loved more than I,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That, in the opinion of the world,

others may increase and I may decrease,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be chosen and I set aside,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be praised and I go unnoticed,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be preferred to me in everything,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may become holier than I,

provided that I may become as holy as I should,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

