

TO THE Heights

27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Genesis 2: 18-24

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 127(128)

Second Reading:

Hebrews 2:9-11

Gospel:

Mark 10:2-16

"They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide."



Christ among the Pharisees, JACOB JORDAENS, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Game Changers

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

You can find our St Faustina resource pack online, or check out the other feastdays below!

If you missed our features on Fr Emil Kapaun, St Maximilian Kolbe or Sr Clare Crockett you can find them on our [webpage](#)!

4 October	St Francis of Assisi
5 October	St Faustina Kowalska
6 October	St Bruno
7 October	Our Lady of the Rosary
9 October	St Denis, Bishop and Martyr



Hear

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



1. Why do you think the Pharisees wanted to test Jesus with their question?
2. Whose teaching on marriage and divorce were they following up to this point?
3. Why did Jesus say Moses allowed divorce?
4. Why do you think the disciples turned away the people bringing their children to Jesus?
5. Why was Jesus indignant when He saw them do this?
6. What do you think it means to have a child-like faith and trust in God (remember, childish is not the same as child-like)?
7. Who else is like the little children in this Gospel do you think? Who else are the vulnerable and innocent in society?



Focus on the things that last, and attend to the feelings that don't, and enjoy the life God has laid before you. Fr Mike Schmitz

WHAT LOVE REALLY MEANS

Families are so dear to Jesus' heart. Today He speaks about how we need to care for the little ones, the children and the vulnerable ones in society. He also provides some tough teaching on the seriousness of Marriage and its indissolubility. Marriage break-up can, without a

cause deep wounds and sadness for the couple and their families, and some have even had to leave their marriage for their own safety. Today is an opportunity to pray for those who are suffering, and for marriages that are in difficulty.

We cannot get away either from the words of Jesus in this Gospel, as He speaks about marriage as more than just a contract, but rather as a "covenant". Contracts are for goods and services, and are conditional. Did you know, however, that marriage is meant to be an image of God's faithfulness. His covenants are unconditional. They cannot be broken; and that is why the vows of marriage are supposed to be unbreakable too, "till death do us part". For this reason, the Catholic Church views the Sacrament of marriage as a very solemn thing, a beautiful thing, not to be entered into lightly.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

This week, think about the music / tv programmes you hear / watch and how they present love and marriage? Use our handout to guide your understanding of the Christian meaning of love.

▶ Why Love is More than Feelings (Fr Mike)

📎 Use our attached handout to guide you!

TUNE OF THE WEEK

What Love Really Means JJ Heller



Hank and Helene, married for 62 years give some good (and funny!) marriage tips!

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

Introduction to Theology of the Body

Beginning on Mon Oct 4th: Foyer of Charity, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford. Registration is essential. Please contact Helen at 086 1678027 or email hellywilliams@gmail.com

Young Person's Prayer



God our Father, You created me to know, love and serve You and to find my greatest happiness in following Your will for my life. If I am called to the sacrament of marriage, please bless my future spouse today. Grant that we may both grow in knowledge and love of You, and so become the best versions of ourselves. Amen

Gospel Reflection: THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILIES

In today's Gospel the Pharisees question Jesus about the lawfulness of divorce. Under specific conditions, divorce was an accepted practice among the Jewish people during the time of Jesus. It was regulated by the Law of Moses, (Deut 24:1-5). This law only permits that a husband may divorce his wife if he finds her to be indecent. This is the justification that the Pharisees reference when Jesus inquires about the commandment of Moses. In reply, Jesus quotes from the Book of Genesis and counters that God's original intention was that men and women would become one flesh in marriage. Jesus describes the teaching of Moses as a concession made to God's original intention because of human stubbornness.

In private, Jesus' disciples question him further about this teaching on divorce. It is to his disciples that Jesus lays out the implications of his teaching by explaining that remarriage after divorce is adultery. Jesus' teaching was more restrictive than the teaching of the Pharisees, which permitted remarriage. Jesus further distinguished his teaching from the cultural norms of his time by applying his words equally to men and women. Jewish culture permitted only that a husband may divorce his wife. Wives were not permitted to divorce their husband for any reason, including adultery.

Both of these passages present a strong picture of Jesus' emphasis on the importance of family. God intended for women and men to be joined together in marriage. Among the purposes of marriage is the raising of children. By welcoming children and fostering their relationship with God, parents and families bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

At the end of today's Gospel, the people were bringing their children to Jesus, and again Jesus' disciples show that they just don't get it. Recall that in the Gospel for each of the past two Sundays, Jesus has taught his disciples the value and importance of these "little ones" in the Kingdom of God. Yet in today's Gospel, the disciples try to prevent people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus reprimands his disciples and welcomes these children. Again Jesus offers these children as an example of the kind of complete trust and dependence upon God that ought to be the attitude of all believers.

adapted from Loyola Press

CHECK IT OUT: HALLOW APP

Hallow is a Catholic prayer app that offers audio guided meditation sessions to help us grow in our faith & spiritual lives and find peace in God. Explore over 500 different sessions on contemplative prayer, meditation, Catholic Bible readings, music, and more .e.g Daily prayers, Christian Meditation, Bible Sleep Stories, Rosary, Ignatian Examen, Lectio Divina, Taizé & Gregorian Chant, Community, Homilies & Guests, Praylists, Challenges, Litanies & Novenas and Minute Meditations. There really is something there for everyone!

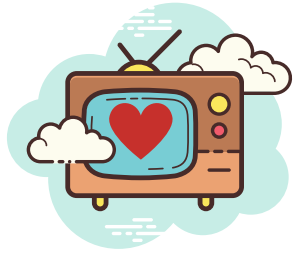




Love is more than a Feeling

FOCUS ON THE THINGS THAT LAST, AND ATTEND TO THE FEELINGS THAT DON'T, AND ENJOY THE LIFE GOD HAS LAID BEFORE YOU.

CAN YOU THINK OF THREE SONGS THAT DEAL WITH THE THEME OF LOVE? PICK ONE: WHAT IDEA OF LOVE DOES IT PRESENT?



WHAT IDEA OF HAPPINESS IN RELATIONSHIPS DO TV PROGRAMMES LIKE "LOVE ISLAND" PRESENT? WHAT DO THEY NEGLECT TO EMPHASISE?

THE ANCIENT GREEKS CLASSIFIED LOVE IN FOUR WAYS

- ♥ EROS: DESIRE
- ♥ STORGE: AFFECTION
- ♥ PHILIA: FRIENDSHIP
- ♥ AGAPE: SELF-GIVING LOVE



Choose one of the following questions to discuss

- Which of the four types above do you think is the most important in a romantic relationship?
- Should you rely on feelings only to guide you in a relationship e.g. Eros (desire)?
- How do you know when you're in love?

WATCH FR MIKE SCHMITZ' VIDEO: "WHY LOVE IS MORE THAN A FEELING" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

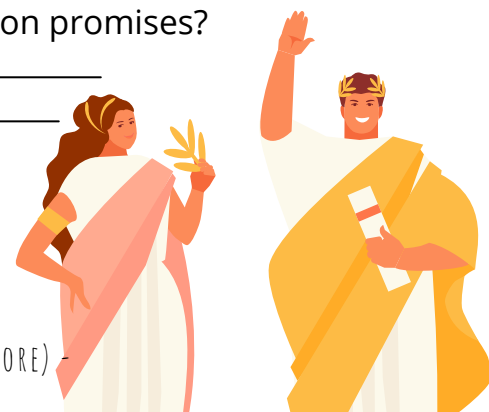


What was the most common reason given by the men competing in "The Bachelorette" TV Show for persuading the woman to marry them?

What kind of reasons did they not give for persuading her their love was real?

What do people often use to justify their reasons for going back on promises?

How did the Ancient Greeks see Eros in comparison to the other types of love?



LOVE IS MORE THAN A FEELING

MARK 10:2-11

Fr Mike speaks about "deal-breaker" areas when it comes to relationships. If a couple has serious disagreements in one of these areas, their relationship could be on a dangerous road.



Choose two of the areas above and suggest how a couple could face disagreement that could lead to major relationship problems?



Now Read Mark 10:2-11



In this Gospel Passage, Jesus speaks about marriage and divorce. Marriage break-up can, without a doubt, cause deep wounds and sadness for the couple and their families, and some have even had to leave their marriage for their own safety. Today is an opportunity to pray for those who are suffering, and for marriages that are in difficulty.

We cannot get away either from the words of Jesus in this Gospel, as He speaks about marriage as more than just a contract, but rather as a "covenant". Contracts are for goods and services, and are conditional. Did you know however, that marriage is meant to be an image of God's faithfulness. His covenants are unconditional. They cannot be broken; and that is why the vows of marriage are supposed to be unbreakable too, "till death do us part". For this reason, the Catholic Church views the Sacrament of marriage as a very solemn thing, a beautiful thing, not to be entered into lightly. As a sacrament, marriage is a visible sign of God's love for the Church. The grace proper to this sacrament is "intended to perfect the couple's love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity." (CCC 1641)



MISSION!

THINK ABOUT THE TV PROGRAMMES OR MOVIES YOU WATCH, OR THE MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO, AND HOW THEY PRESENT THE IDEA OF LOVE. BE HONEST - ARE THEY PRESENTING A HEALTHY DEPICTION OF SELF-GIVING, SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE, OR ARE THEY JUST PROMOTING THE IDEA THAT FEELINGS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT GUIDING FACTOR IN A RELATIONSHIP? MAYBE YOU'LL NEED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES IN YOUR VIEWING OR LISTENING SCHEDULE?



PRAYER TIME!

God our Father, You created me to know, love and serve You and to find my greatest happiness in following Your will for my life. If I am called to the sacrament of marriage, please bless my future spouse today. Grant that we may both grow in knowledge and love of You, and so become the best versions of ourselves. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON THE MEANING OF LOVE



- [What Love Really Means](#) (JJ Heller)
- [Your Love never Fails](#) (News Boys)
- [Faithful to the End](#) (Bethel Music)
- [How He Loves](#) (David Crowder Band)
- [Unfailing Love](#) (Chris Tomlin)
- [We are Yours](#) (I am They)
- [Love Never Fails](#) (Brandon Heath)
- [One Thing Remains](#) (Jesus Culture)

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



3:58 MINS

Fr Mike Schmitz: Love is an Ability



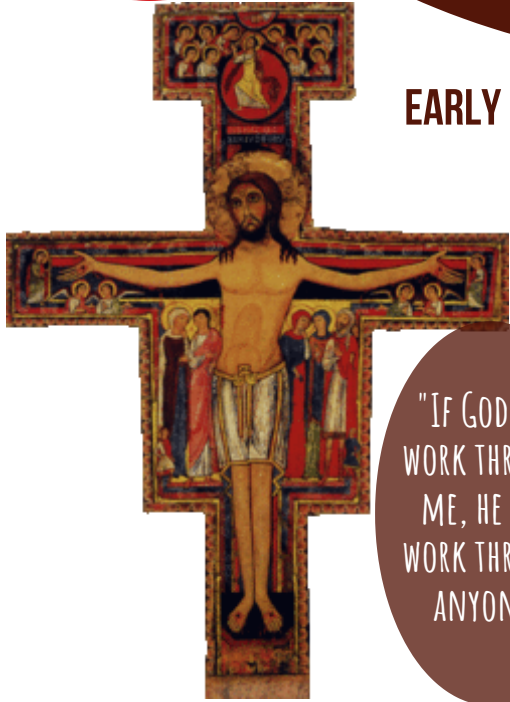
8:09 MINS

Hank and Helene, married for 62 years give some good (and funny!) marriage tips!



St Francis of Assisi

"START BY DOING WHAT'S NECESSARY; THEN DO WHAT'S POSSIBLE; AND SUDDENLY YOU ARE DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE."



EARLY LIFE

St Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1181, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. Francis grew up in a lifestyle of nobility, wanting for nothing, at least materially. He longed for glory in battle, but was met with capture and disgrace instead.

CONVERSION

A profound encounter with a leper, whose very appearance repulsed him but he felt drawn to embracing, opened his heart to serving the poorest of the poor. Hearing the voice of God speak to him saying "Go rebuild my church, which is falling in ruins", in a dilapidated church from the Cross of San Damiano, Francis initially felt his mission was to physically restore this broken down building. Selling his father's cloth to do so angered his father greatly, but led to Francis renouncing his wealth and inheritance to pursue what he felt God was calling him to do.

"IF GOD CAN WORK THROUGH ME, HE CAN WORK THROUGH ANYONE"

HIS MISSION

He later realised his mission was to rebuild the Catholic church which had weakened in faith and been divided by corruption, and he founded the Franciscan Order, still in existence today. Francis received the Stigmata, the wounds of Christ. His fervant love for the poor, for nature and above all for Christ Jesus filled the deepest longings of his heart in a way his material wealth never had.

DEATH AND LEGACY

He died on October 3, 1226 and his feastday is October 4th. His radical life has inspired countless hearts ever since. St Francis is patron saint of animals, ecology, merchants and those suffering from eye disease.

WATCH SAINTS SERIES: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (up to 5:15 mins)



- What is your initial response to the life of St Francis?

- If you could ask him one question, what would it be?

Did you know?
St Francis is also credited with creating the first crib, arranging a live nativity scene in a cave!

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

- Do you ever wonder if there's more out there, or feel like there's a void in your heart that just doesn't seem to be filled by material things?
- What do you think the Lord wants you to do with your life? Have you ever asked Him, like St Francis did? You might not hear a voice speaking from a Cross, as Francis heard, but if you sincerely seek God's will in your life, you will find it!
- Do you ever struggle to do what is right out of fear of what others might say about you? Why do you think that is / is not the case?



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

LOOK UP MATTHEW 10:9 - HOW DOES THIS QUOTE RELATE TO THE LIFE OF FRANCIS?



INTERNET TREASURE HUNT! SEE WHO CAN ANSWER THE FASTEST!

1. Why did Francis receive that name from his father, Bernadone?
2. Which city held St. Francis of Assisi a prisoner of war for more than a year?
3. Was St Francis an ordained priest?
4. What was the name of the song that Francis wrote in 1224 to honor God's image in creation?
5. Where did St Francis rebuild a little church after he heard the voice of God?
6. There is another famous Saint from Assisi who was an early follower of St Francis - name her!
7. What Muslim Sultan did Francis go to meet at the height of the Crusades in 1219?
8. Name the town where St Francis is said to have tamed a vicious wolf which was killing people and sheep.
9. Which Pope had a dream about St Francis and his order saving the church from falling into ruin?
10. What do the three knots on a Franciscan rope belt (cincture) symbolise?



*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.*

DOODLE PRAYER

Allow yourself some space to sit and reflect on this prayer of St Francis. You might prefer to play some music in the background, or just sit in silence. Read through the prayer below, silently. Allow ideas, thoughts and images that come to you as you pray to form part of your doodle prayer. Where in your life can you live out these ideals? What situations need light, pardon, joy? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and your thoughts. This is a particular space you are creating for God in your life today. Speak, and listen.

YOU CAN BE A GAME CHANGER LIKE ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI!

- Live simply! Have you collected too much clutter? Give something away this week that you don't need!
- Ask God what His plan for you is - and be open to hearing it!
- How can you bring the Gospel message to others this week?
- St Francis was known to be always joyful, even when suffering. Don't forget to wear a smile!
- Be respectful of the environment: appreciate God's gift of nature and our call to be good stewards.
- Check out the [YouTube Channel](#) of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Did you know that these friars are based in Moyross, Limerick and in Derry City? (And there are Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal in Drogheda too!)



Game-Changer Playlist!

Listen to the following songs, all based on the words and prayers of St Francis himself!

- [Lord make me an instrument of your peace \(Sarah McLachlan\)](#)
- [All Creatures of our God and King \(David Crowder Band\)](#)
- [Doxology \(Anthem Lights\)](#)
- [The Humility of God \(Fr Stan Fortuna CFR\)](#)





LIFE TEEN GUIDE TO
PRAYING THE ROSARY!



HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY



Praying the Rosary

Sr Clare Crockett loved to pray the rosary and teach others to do the same. Do you know how to pray the Rosary? Maybe you could start praying one decade every day? A decade only takes about two minutes!



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!
CHECK OUT THE FREE LAUDATE APP



Make the Sign of the Cross

The Apostle's Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Pray for the Pope's Intentions

Recite one Our Father, three Hail Mary's and a Glory Be.

For each decade:

Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be.

After each decade: Pray the Fatima Prayer.

Decide which mysteries you will be meditating on.

Announce the mystery before each decade

e.g. "The first Joyful Mystery, The Annunciation"

The Rosary Prayers

Our Father,

Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

Hail Mary,

full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

Glory be

to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

[Fatima Prayer]

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy

After five decades:

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the Blessed Fruit of your womb Jesus. O, clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us Oh Most Holy Mother of God - that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray, O God whose only begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant we beseech You, that meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise through the same Christ our Lord.

May the Divine Assistance remain always with us - and may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

"THERE IS NO PROBLEM, I TELL YOU, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT IT IS, THAT WE CANNOT SOLVE BY THE PRAYER OF THE HOLY ROSARY." - SR LUCIA OF FATIMA -

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Birth of Jesus
The Presentation of Jesus in the temple
The Finding of the Child Jesus in the temple

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

The Baptism in the River Jordan
The Wedding Feast at Cana
The Proclamation of the kingdom of God and the call to conversion
The Transfiguration
The Institution of the Holy Eucharist

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

The Agony in the Garden
The Scourging at the Pillar
The Crowning with Thorns
The Carrying of the Cross
The Crucifixion & Death of our Lord

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

The Resurrection
The Ascension
The Descent of the Holy Spirit
The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven
The Coronation of Our Lady

MEDITATING ON THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY HAS BEEN DESCRIBED LIKE FLICKING BACK THROUGH A PHOTO ALBUM OF JESUS AND MARY'S LIFE WITH OUR LADY, AND BEING ABLE TO PUT YOURSELF INTO THOSE SCENES TOO! WATCH FR PATRICK CAHILL EXPLAIN THIS ANALOGY IN THIS ASCEND YM CLIP ON YOUTUBE



CLICK THE LINKS
ABOVE TO PRAY WITH
THE YOUNG PEOPLE AT
HOLY FAMILY MISSION!

