



TO THE Heights

31ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

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James Tissot, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 17(18):2-4, 47, 51

Second Reading:

Hebrews 7:23-28

Gospel:

Mark 12:28-34

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength."

Game Changers

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



If you missed our features on other Gamechangers you can find them on our [webpage](#)!

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|------------|--|
| 1 November | All Saints / (short video) |
| 2 November | All Souls |
| 3 November | St Malachy |
| 4 November | St Charles Borromeo |
| 5 November | St Martin de Porres |
| 6 November | All Saints of Ireland |



Hear

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



1. Usually Jesus is questioned by Scribes and Pharisees who want to trick him. What is the difference with this Scribe's questioning?
2. How many of the Ten Commandments can you name? (Click to check your answer!)
3. What does Jesus say the first of all the commandments is?
4. What does Jesus say the second of all the commandments is?
5. What link do you see between these and the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses?
6. Why do you think these are more important to God than people offering up sacrifices?
7. Where do you see these commandments fitting into your own life?



Gospel Reflection: THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT



As we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, our Lectionary skips a chapter that helps set the context for today's reading. If we were to read the sections skipped (chapter 11 and part of chapter 12), we would hear about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his cleansing of the Temple, and the questioning of Jesus' authority by the chief priests, scribes, and elders. The context, therefore, for this Gospel is Jesus' growing exposure before the Jewish authorities. Jesus is being questioned and tested by the Jewish authorities, yet the scribe who addresses Jesus in today's Gospel seems to be an admirer; he is not testing Jesus.

The question posed in today's Gospel requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional commandments, numbering into the hundreds. For a devout Jew, adherence to the Mosaic Law is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of these commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law.

Jesus was not the only Jewish religious teacher to connect these two commandments, love of God and love of neighbour. Both of these commandments were central elements of the religious tradition that Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed, these commandments continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbour. Many believe, however, that this connection was heard in a new and fresh way when spoken by Jesus.

The scribe who questions Jesus in today's Gospel engages in a positive dialogue with Jesus. He agrees with Jesus' teaching that the commandments to love God and love neighbour stand above the commandment to offer worship and sacrifice in the Temple. With this dialogue, Jesus appears to close the debate with the Jewish authorities. Mark reports that no one dared to question Jesus further.

adapted from Loyola Press



"The saints did not all begin well, but they ended well."
St Jean Vianney

HEAVENLY FRIENDS

On November 1st each year the Church celebrates the feast of All Saints - and it's a pretty big deal! On this day we celebrate all those who are in heaven, the recognised saints who are included on the church calendar, and all the holy men and women (and children) of God who lived good and virtuous lives and are now enjoying their eternal rewards.

We believe in the communion of saints (we profess it in our Creed). This means the whole community of God - those on earth, in heaven and in purgatory.

Those in heaven are continually rooting for us, and cheering us on as we continue to run the race here on earth. Their earthly race is finished, but they continue to support us, pray for us, intercede for us and offer inspiration through the way they lived their lives.

What better time of year to reconnect with the saints: all of us are called to sainthood, but we all know it's not easy either.

TEACHER'S CORNER

Lectio Divina: led by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 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

Pilgrimage through Revelation

Wednesdays 7.30 - 9pm: Oct 20 | Nov 3, 10, 17 | Dec 1, 8, 15

Prayer, Teaching/Study, Tea/Coffee

Venue: Foyer of Charity, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, X91 FC65 www.foyerofcharity.ie

Please book as limited places

Helen : 086 167802 hellywilliams@gmail.com

Remembrance: Praying for our Loved Ones who have died. Holy Family Mission, every Fri in Nov, 7.30 - 8.30pm. www.holyfamilymission.ie

SAINT STORY



St Martin de Porres

Young Person's Prayer



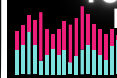
Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints. I desire to join in their company, worshipping you forever in Heaven. Please help me follow their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ. Please help me to conform myself to Your image, seeking Your will in all things, as the Saints did. Please help me to devote myself, and all that I do, to Your glory, and to the service of my neighbours. Amen.

Read more at: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/prayer-saints-day>

TUNE OF THE WEEK

Litany of the Saints

Matt Maher



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:



Take some time this week to think about what we can learn from and receive from our heavenly family and friends. Use the attached resources to help ground you in a solid and real friendship with them, and even find a Saint Protector for this year!

USE THIS WEEK'S RESOURCE TO HELP YOU!

WATCH: [All Saint Day Pep Talk: Fr Mike Schmitz](#)



CHECK IT OUT: THE FOYER OF CHARITY, DUNMORE EAST



The Foyer of Charity welcomes those who find a need for peace and truth, and who seek these in the living God and in his love. Through week-long silent retreats the Foyer seeks to give men and women today an opportunity similar to that of those who first heard the Gospel in Galilee: to get away for a time, to focus on Jesus and His word, and to return to the concerns of life enlightened and enriched by Him.