

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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33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MONTH DEDICATED TO THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Daniel 12:1-3

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 15(16): 5,8-11

Second Reading:

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Gospel:

Mark 13:24-32

*"Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will never pass
away."*



By Cadetgray - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=13331316>

Hear

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

Check out [this video](#) of the Gospel for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we are presented with some stark images that could shake us from our comfort zones.

Take some time to reflect on the key message of this week's Gospel. Think about the following:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do Jesus' words resonate with you personally?
- When I hear about the Second Coming of Christ, what emotions do I feel? Am I afraid to meet Jesus? If so, of what? Am I excited to meet Jesus? The emotions you feel may give you a good indication of your relationship with Jesus at the moment.
- "My word will not pass away..." Is Scripture an important part of your life? Have you a relationship with God and His Word? Is Jesus calling you to spend more time allowing His Word to be a solid foundation in your life, no matter what each day holds?

Talk

The images in this Gospel are maybe a little frightening - it sounds a bit like a disaster movie! Jesus doesn't ever want to frighten us, but He does want us to keep focused on what is important, and make sure we are living our lives close to Him, his teachings and lives filled with love.

Discuss the following as a family:

- Look at some family photos over the years - what kind of things have changed in your family? What kind of things have not changed?
- God's Word will never pass away. His love will never change. What kind of promises has God made to us? What can we be absolutely certain of with God and His love?
- If Jesus was to call to our house today, without warning, how would we feel? Would we be excited? Would we wish we were doing things differently, as a family, as individuals?
- What might Jesus say to us as a family if He called to us today?

Family Challenge!

Set aside a time in the week where you can read God's word as a family, even just for five or ten minutes. Pray, read, take some time in silence, and then share what you think He is saying to you.

Mission: We get ready in different ways for different things: going to school, to play a match... We need to be ready for Jesus too, for whenever we will meet Him. Are we living like He wants us to live? Are we kind, patient and loving? Are we praying to Him every day? Ask Jesus for help this week to live like Him!

Song of the Week!
HOW GREAT THOU ART

Please email us at 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](#)

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

This Sunday is the second to last Sunday of our liturgical year. As we approach the end of the Church year, our Gospel invites us to consider Jesus' predictions and teaching about the end of the world. In the context of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' words about this are spoken to his disciples as he prepares them for his passion and death.

Before we consider Jesus' words, it is important to note the political backdrop against which many think Mark's Gospel was written. Most scholars concur that Mark wrote his Gospel for Christians living in or near Rome about 30 to 40 years after the death of Jesus. This was a time of political turmoil in Rome. Some Christians experienced persecution by the Romans during the reign of the emperor Nero (about 64 A.D.). Jewish revolutionaries rebelled against the Romans, which led the Romans to destroy the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. In this time of political turmoil and persecution, many in Mark's community might have wondered if the end times predicted by Jesus were in fact quite near.

If we had been reading Mark's Gospel continuously, we would have heard Jesus predict the destruction of the Temple, his teaching about the costs of discipleship, and the woes that will accompany the end times. Finally, we would have heard Jesus instruct his disciples about the need for watchfulness so that they will not be caught unprepared for this final day of judgment.

In today's Gospel, Jesus continues this teaching by offering his disciples signs to look for that will indicate that the coming of the Son of Man is near. His words and images draw upon Old Testament imagery, especially images found in the Book of Daniel. Next, Jesus offers the lesson of the fig tree, a parable that teaches that if one knows how to read the signs, one can be prepared for the end times. Jesus also teaches, however, that no one knows when the end time will come, except the Father. In the verses that follow this reading in Mark's Gospel, Jesus continues to warn his disciples to be on watch for this end time.

Jesus' words are not spoken to frighten his disciples, nor should they frighten us. Rather, they are offered to prepare us for the changes we will experience during our lifetimes and at the end times. Our consolation and hope is found in the lasting nature of Jesus' words and God's never-ending love for us.

adapted from Loyola Press: Sunday Connections

EVENTS

Pilgrimage through Revelation: Wed 7.30 - 9pm: Oct 20 - Dec 15. Prayer, Teaching / Study, Tea / Coffee at the 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

Ignatian Retreat for Men (aged 18-35), Knockadoon, Co. Cork with the Servant Priests of the Home of the Mother, 11 - 14 Nov. Please email servoswaterford@gmail.com for more info

Family Prayer

Loving Father,
thank you for caring for our family
and all our needs. Show us how to
trust in You more, to base our lives
on the certainty You offer, and to
always have our hearts ready for
You. Amen

*I'm happy to die because I've lived
my life without wasting even a
minute of it doing things that
wouldn't have pleased God.
Carlo Acutis*



THE END IS NIGH?!

The sun darkening, stars falling from the sky, Jesus coming on the clouds in power and glory, heaven and earth passing away. Sounds like an apocalyptic movie! ("Heaven and earth" here means the material universe, not those who live within it. Think of the phrases, "the heavens opened": we mean heavy rain, not Heaven itself!) Jesus never wants us to be frightened though; however, he doesn't shy away from presenting the truth, and doing and saying what it takes to make our path to Heaven clearer. Sometimes we need a little shaking up, and every year, as we approach the end of the liturgical year, we get that shake up!

Ever since Jesus ascended into Heaven, the Church has taught that Jesus will come again, even if we don't know when it will happen. Whether or not we witness that event in our lifetime, we know that we will also meet Jesus at our death. We should be prepared. Not frightened, but prepared and even excited! A day is coming that is so filled with hope - when war, and violence, pain and suffering will be over; when God will make all things new! He is the Light already present in our world that is pretty dark and bleak at times. He is the one certainty we can cling too. His Word will never pass away. Even if everything else changes in our lives, His love for us will never change.

This week, reflect on how ready you are to meet Jesus, and what that even means to you. Are we living our lives with Him, trying to be the best version of ourselves? Or are we putting off change, and settling for mediocrity?

- [The Greatest Surprise \(Fr Mike Schmitz\)](#)
- TUNE: [Hosanna \(Hillsong\)](#)
- RESOURCE: Do you like surprises?



CHECK IT OUT: SACREDSPACE.IE

Sacred Space is a ministry of the Irish Jesuits. They invite you to make a 'Sacred Space' in your day, praying here and now, as you visit their website, with the help of scripture chosen every day and on-screen guidance. Our daily routine constantly bombards us with new tools and technologies but God doesn't have to get lost in the shuffle. We can find God anywhere, even on our smartphones. Continue to seek and find God in the busy, modern world.



"but as for that day or hour, nobody knows it..."



Mark 13:24-32



MARK 13:24-32

CHECK OUT THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS ABOUT THE SECOND COMING CCC 668-679

Do you like Surprises?

SENIOR RE-NON-EXAM: A1 / A3 / E1 / E3 / G2 / G3 / H3

JCRE: LO 1.5 / 1.6 / 1.8 / 2.2 / 2.7 / 2.8 / 2.9 / 3.1 / 3.2

"Jesus will come at the end of time to judge all the nations, but he (also) comes to us every day, in so many ways, and asks us to welcome him."
Pope Francis

ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO LIKES SURPRISES? DO YOU LIKE BEING SURPRISED? DO YOU LIKE SURPRISING OTHERS?



Examples:

- Do you like to know what gifts you are getting?
- Do you like Haunted House experiences?
- Do you prefer more control over experiences?

Watch the Granny and Grandad water bottle prank!



CAN YOU THINK OF ANY PRANKS YOU SAW ON YOUTUBE / TIKTOK THAT WERE FUNNY (BUT HARMLESS!)? WHAT MADE THEM WORK / BE SO FUNNY?

WATCH FR MIKE SCHMITZ EXPLAIN JESUS' SECOND COMING IN HIS VIDEO: "THE GREATEST SURPRISE" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:



St Paul uses an unusual image to describe Jesus: He will come again like a _____ in the night. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11) What does that suggest?

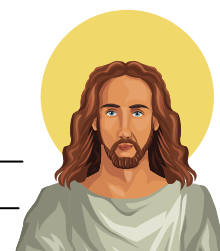
Fr Mike talks about the difference between a surprise being a GOOD surprise and a BAD surprise. He suggests that for Christians, two things will make the difference in Jesus' Coming being a good or a bad surprise for people?

- Living like we _____ it.
- Living _____



What do you think Fr Mike means by this question?

Do I live everyday as if He is already with me?



SCRIPTURE TIP: WHEN YOU SEE "THEREFORE" IN A PASSAGE, ASK YOURSELF: _____

We have three options in our dealings with others:

T _____ **I** _____ **B** _____

WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSE TO THIS VIDEO?

DO YOU LIKE SURPRISES?

MARK 13:24-32



Now Read Mark 13:24 - 32



The sun darkening, stars falling from the sky, Jesus coming on the clouds in power and glory, heaven and earth passing away. Sounds like an apocalyptic movie! ("Heaven and earth" here means the material universe, not those who live within it. Think of the phrases, "the heavens opened": we mean heavy rain, not Heaven itself!) Jesus never wants us to be frightened though; however, he doesn't shy away from presenting the truth, and doing and saying what it takes to make our path to Heaven clearer. Sometimes we need a little shaking up, and every year, as we approach the end of the liturgical year, we get that shake up! Ever since Jesus ascended into Heaven, the Church has taught that Jesus will come again, even if we don't know when it will happen. Whether or not we witness that event in our lifetime, we know that we will also meet Jesus at our death. We should be prepared. Not frightened, but prepared and even excited! A day is coming that is so filled with hope - when war, and violence, pain and suffering will be over; when God will make all things new! He is the Light already present in our world that is pretty dark and bleak at times. He is the one certainty we can cling too. His Word will never pass away. Even if everything else changes in our lives, His love for us will never change. It might be a good time to reflect on how ready we are to meet Jesus. Are we living our lives with Him, trying to be the best version of ourselves? Or are we putting off change, and settling for mediocrity?



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES ABOUT "THE FOUR LAST THINGS". CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THEY ARE?

eatdh

aevhne

lelh

utnjegmd

CAN YOU FINISH THESE MASS RESPONSES?

- When we eat this Bread, and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death O Lord, until You _____.
- We proclaim Your death O Lord, and profess Your Resurrection, until You _____.

MISSION!

LOOK AT THREE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK. THEY MIGHT BE FAMILY, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, TEACHERS, COACHES... ARE YOU TEARING THEM DOWN, LEAVING THEM ALONE OR BUILDING THEM UP BY YOUR ACTIONS. WHAT CONCRETE ACTIONS CAN YOU TAKE TO BUILD THEM UP? MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO STOP DOING RATHER THAN START... BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF!



PRAYER TIME!

Take some time in silence, on your own, and allow yourself to reflect on the following. Imagine you are sitting at home in your bedroom, on a normal day, when you hear a gentle knock at your bedroom door. When you open it, you find yourself looking into the loving and tender smiling face of Jesus. What is your immediate reaction? Are you excited, happy? Do you hug Him, welcome Him to your home? Or are you worried, frightened for some reason? Do you hesitate to welcome Him in? Do you feel distant from Him, and unsure how to react? Talk to Him honestly in this moment about what His presence means for you. When you have finished talking, imagine His eyes looking into yours. What do you think He would say to you in this moment? How would He tell you that He loves you, that He gave His life, for you? How do you respond to His love? Do you need Him to help you accept it? Allow yourself, as much as you can, to feel His love for you.

Lord Jesus, I know that You see me as I am, that You know my heart, and You love me completely. You are the one constant in this life. Help me to trust You totally, and to build my life on Your Word and Your Love. You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON MEETING JESUS FACE TO FACE



- [Hosanna \(Hillsong\)](#)
- [All Creatures of Our God & King \(Sovereign Grace\)](#)
- [When the stars burn down \(Philips Craig & Dean\)](#)
- [How great thou art \(Lauren Daigle version\)](#)
- [Even so come \(Chris Tomlin\)](#)
- [The Great Day \(M W Smith\)](#)
- [All My Hope \(Hillsong\)](#)
- [Hope for Everyone \(Matt Maher\)](#)

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



The Lesser Known Last Judgment (Fr Mike)
Ascension Presents



Leah Darrow, former model speaks about her conversion moment
Jason Evert