

FAITH @Home

20 FEBRUARY 2022 | VOL. II ISSUE 12

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love
in the heart of the family!



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram!



Subscribe to us on YouTube



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 11-13, 22-23

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 102 (103):1-4, 10,12-13

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel:

Luke 6:27-38

"Love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return..."



Carl Bloch, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

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 hear Jesus continuing his Sermon on the Plain to His disciples. 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 these words resonate with you personally?
- Is there any particular command spoken by Jesus here that you find particularly challenging? Stay with this in prayer, asking the Lord for His guidance on why you might struggle with this particularly. Is there any area where you feel drawn to change?
- Is there anyone in your life you find it difficult to treat well, to do good to, or even to forgive? Make a commitment to pray for that person this week, and ask Holy Spirit to give you the grace to do it, and even the desire to do it if that's what you struggle with.

Talk

Today's Gospel teaches us a lot about what it means to be a follower of His, and about how we are expected to treat others.

- What kind of things are we expected to do as members of this family? What kind of responsibilities do we have around the house? What happens if someone does not carry out their chores or responsibilities?
- Can you remember a time when someone went the extra mile when helping another person in the family, when they did more than was expected of them? How did that make people feel?
- Jesus is calling us to love those we find difficult to love, to treat others well, to pray for others. We need His help to do this because it's not easy! Can you think of situations where it is hard to love others?

Family Challenge!

How can you live out this Gospel as a family this week? Make a special effort to go the extra mile at home and at school, to not just do the minimum when helping people, but to ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" in every situation!

Kids Corner

Check out page 3 for a picture to colour from this week's readings!

Mission:

Jesus asks us to do a lot of hard things in this Gospel, but that's because He wants us to love others like He loves us. Is there someone you find it hard to like? Can you pray especially for them this week?

Song of the Week:
LOVE ONE ANOTHER



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

Privacy Notice: Please kindly note that by requesting receipt of the weekly newsletter, you are agreeing to the Diocese using your name and email address for this purpose in accordance with data protection requirements. The Diocese will not share your email address or use the address for any other purpose, unless legally required to do so. If you wish to stop receiving the newsletter, please email your request to faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie. We will delete your email address upon receipt of such a request. If you have any queries, please contact us.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Today's gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' disciples. This is in contrast to the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds.

These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged.

There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the Beatitudes. Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the law and the prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing.

Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is the terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behaviour of his followers with the behaviour of "sinners." In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behaviour desired with the behaviour of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasizing God's mercy.

In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.

From Loyola Press Sunday Connections

EVENTS

The Chosen: Zoom Series, Wednesday nights, 8 - 9.15pm, see www.waterfordlismore.ie

Cherished: Women's Retreat at Glencomeragh House (ages 18-50) Feb 25 - 27. To book: info@holymission.ie / Shauna (087) 1378364.

Encounter: gathering for young adults aged 18-35 in St John's Church, Waterford, Fri 11th March, 8pm, Talk - Music - Prayer - Refreshments. Free Admission. More info: www.waterfordlismore.ie

"Show us the Father" - Lenten Retreat at Glencomeragh House, March 25 - 27. More info: (052) 6133181 / info@holymission.ie

Silent Retreat preached by: Fr. Kilian Byrne, Foyer of Charity at Glencomeragh House, April 18-24, Cost €380 full board. Contact Helen 086 1678027 / hellywilliams@gmail.com

Family Prayer

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, teach me true generosity.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give without counting the cost, to fight heedless of wounds, to labour without seeking rest, to sacrifice myself without thought of any reward, save the knowledge that I have done your will. Amen.

"...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who trespass against us..."



IS FORGIVENESS TOO HARD?

This Gospel passage is a continuation of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain (or on the Mount depending on which Gospel you are reading). He holds up for us an incredibly high standard of living - the Christian standard: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. This is tough, really tough! Is it impossible? By human standards, yes, but by God's grace, thankfully no. Jesus calls us to love and view others as He does if we want to call ourselves a follower of His. Jesus calls us to give and not count the cost, or as we looked at in Fr Mike's video, to count the cost and still forgive. This passage directly follows the Beatitudes, the path to joy Jesus promises us. Lack of forgiveness can enslave us, hold our hearts hostage, eat away at our joy and our ability to love. This is not living life to the full. This is not a path to joy. Jesus also knows we're weak and frail. He modelled for us how to live this way by His own life and death. He promises us all the help that we need. If we wait until we feel like doing any of this, that feeling may never come. Love is a decision, forgiveness is a decision. If you are struggling to forgive, make a decision to set your heart free, by God's grace.

Are there people in your life that you struggle to forgive? People who have wronged you and hurt you? People who owe you a debt, who have cost you something in your life? If you feel like you can start the process of forgiveness, follow Fr Mike's advice. If you struggle with that, begin by praying for the grace to want to forgive them, and commit to that prayer.

VIDEO: "Forgiveness" (Fr Mike Schmitz)

TUNE: Forgiveness (Matthew West)



RESOURCE: What Forgiveness Means

DIAL A PRAYER
085 7611822

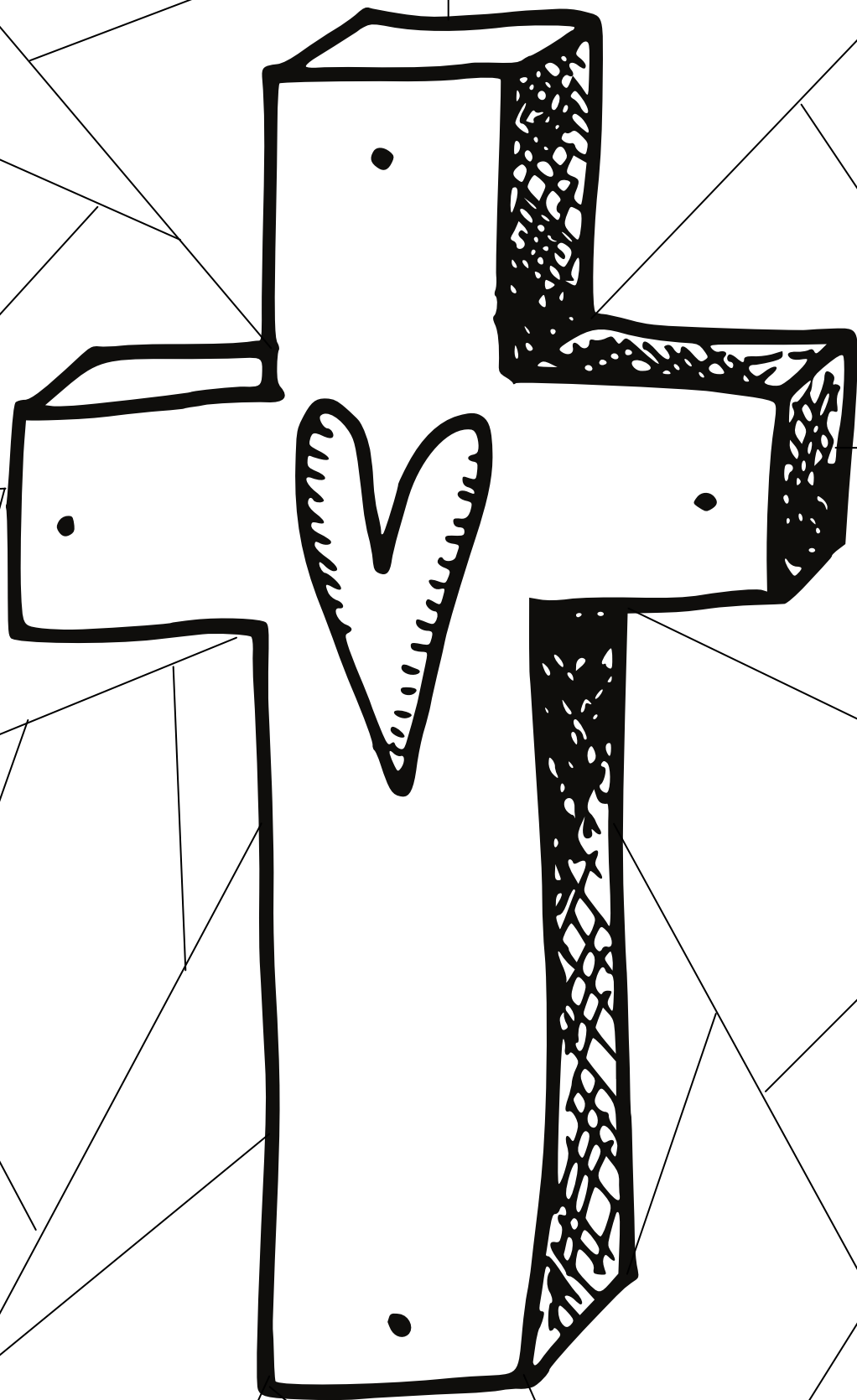
CHECK IT OUT: DIAL-A-PRAYER



Call us

085 7611822 BETWEEN 2 - 3PM EACH DAY

The Sisters of Mary Morning Star in Waterford City offer Dial-a-Prayer for anyone who would like the Sisters to pray for their intentions. Phone 085 7611822 between 2 - 3pm each day with your intentions. The Sisters promise to bring the intentions, thoughts and prayers of people in the Waterford and Lismore Diocese to the Lord in their adoration and daily Mass. Check out the website for the [Sisters of Maria Stella Matutina](#).



CHECK OUT WHAT
CATECHISM OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
SAYS ABOUT FORGIVING
OTHERS
CCC 2838-2485



FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US

What Forgiveness Means



"To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless."
GK Chesterton



WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE HARDEST CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS TO LIVE OUT?



WHAT DO YOU THINK FORGIVENESS MEANS? HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE FORGIVEN SOMEONE?

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ "FORGIVENESS" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



What does Fr Mike claim is one of the most radical teachings of Christianity?

What do we pray at the centre of the Our Father?



WHAT FORGIVENESS MEANS (AND WHAT IT DOESN'T MEAN!)



- Forgiveness doesn't mean you're no longer _____.
- Forgiveness doesn't mean you have to be _____ with this person again.
- Forgiveness doesn't mean that you _____ them.

When you forgive, why do you **not** have to feel like you have forgiven someone?

When you forgive, why do you **not** have to feel like you are hurt anymore?

When you forgive, why do you **not** have to feel like you should trust them again?

WE CAN UNDERSTAND FORGIVENESS IN TERMS OF JUSTICE.

Justice = what I _____
or what another person _____.



IN TERMS OF FORGIVENESS THAT MEANS:
"I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE YOU PAY BACK
WHAT YOU OWE ME."

Retell the parable of the unforgiving servant in your own words:



STEPS TO FORGIVING SOMEONE:

1 (JUSTICE) Write down: _____

2 (FORGIVENESS) Look at list and say: _____

WHAT FORGIVENESS MEANS [LUKE 6:27-38](#)



Forgiveness gives us the freedom to _____.

Forgiveness is a big deal, so before we do any of these steps we need to ask for God's grace, for the Holy Spirit to help us, for Jesus to guide our thoughts and actions, and to trust in the Father.



BONUS



Watch the short YouTube clip, [The Story of Jennifer Trapuzzano](#).

How do you react to Jennifer's ability to forgive in this situation?

Try to find any other incredible stories of forgiveness to share with others!



Now Read Luke 6:27-38



This Gospel passage is a continuation of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain (or on the Mount depending on which Gospel you are reading). He holds up for us an incredibly high standard of living - the Christian standard: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. This is tough, really tough! Is it impossible? By human standards, yes, but by God's grace, thankfully no. Jesus calls us to love and view others as He does if we want to call ourselves a follower of His. Jesus calls us to give and not count the cost, or as we looked at in Fr Mike's video, to count the cost and still forgive. This passage directly follows the Beatitudes, the path to joy Jesus promises us. Lack of forgiveness can enslave us, hold our hearts hostage, eat away at our joy and our ability to love. This is not living life to the full. This is not a path to joy. Jesus also knows we're weak and frail. He modelled for us how to live this way by His own life and death. He promises us all the help that we need. If we wait until we feel like doing any of this, that feeling may never come. Love is a decision, forgiveness is a decision. If you are struggling to forgive, make a decision to set your heart free, by God's grace.



MISSION!

ARE THERE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU STRUGGLE TO FORGIVE? PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRONGED YOU AND HURT YOU? PEOPLE WHO OWE YOU A DEBT, WHO HAVE COST YOU SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE? IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN START THE PROCESS OF FORGIVENESS, FOLLOW FR MIKE'S ADVICE. IF YOU STRUGGLE WITH THAT, BEGIN BY PRAYING FOR THE GRACE TO WANT TO FORGIVE THEM, AND COMMIT TO THAT PRAYER.



PRAYER TIME!

Jesus, You are the source of all joy and peace. You know that there are areas of my life and people in my life that have caused me pain, and it can be difficult for me to forgive. I'm not sure if right now I even want to forgive. But I pray now for the grace to want to let your healing into my life. To make room for Your healing, I know there are things I need to let go of. Fill my heart with Your love, and grant me the grace I need to decide to take a step towards forgiveness today, no matter how small that step may be. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON FORGIVENESS



- Forgiveness - Matthew West
- From the Inside Out - Hillsong
- O Come to the Altar - Elevation Worship
- Forgive our sins as we forgive - Koine Music
- A Heart that Forgives - Kevin Levar
- Forgive - This Hope Music
- Love Your Enemies - Kyle Sigmon
- Bless those who curse - Robert Martin
- O God Forgive Us - For King & Country
- Letting Go - Jeremy Camp

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



Fr Mike Schmitz: Why is it so hard to forgive yourself?



Witness of Mercy: The Story of Jennifer Trapuzzano