

FAITH @Home

"To the Heights" Post-Primary Schools / Youth Edition also available
27 FEBRUARY 2022 | VOL. II ISSUE 13

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



EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 91(92): 2-3, 13-16

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel:

Luke 6:39-45

"There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, not again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit..."



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 the Sermon on the Plain continues, with a very challenging message for us all. 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?
- The parable of the splinter and the plank is a very visual one. Have you ever felt judged by someone who clearly didn't see their own faults? Have you ever been guilty of doing the same? Sometimes what annoys us in others is something we are prone to do too.
- What kind of fruit do you think you are producing? Reflect on the past week - how have you spoken about others and treated them? Is there some resentment or jealousy that needs to be brought to confession for forgiveness and healing?

Talk

Like last week's Gospel, today's Gospel teaches us a lot about what is expected of true followers of Jesus, and what our interior life needs to be like.

- Have you ever heard the expression, "blind leading the blind" before? What do you think it means?
- Why is it important to have a good teacher to learn something well? What else is needed when you want to learn something new?
- Jesus is the best teacher. He used parables to help His disciples understand His message. Jesus didn't just tell us how to live, He showed us by His life.
- Have you ever criticised somebody else or judged them for doing something, but ignored what you need to change in yourself? Have you ever let anger or jealousy affect how you speak about someone or behave?

Family Challenge!

How can you live out this Gospel as a family this week? Make a special effort this week to do an examination of conscience every night and ask God to remind you of what you did well and what you could have done better during the day!

No-one likes rotten fruit - good fruit is so much better! How can you bear good fruit this week for Jesus? Watch what you say especially - be kind to others in what you say, and what you choose not to say!

Song of the Week!
GOOD FRUIT



Unasked for and unsolicited advice is just criticism

DOES YOUR OPINION COUNT?

Being a follower of Christ is not for the apathetic - He constantly calls us to greater things and closer union with Him. More often than not, that call involves searching deep in our own hearts and considering how well we are treating others. He doesn't tell us we cannot judge actions. He Himself talks in this passage about good and rotten fruit. Good and evil actions are a reality of life, but judging another's heart and their motives is not our job, it's His. It can be really hard to bite our tongues, especially when we feel we're so clearly right and they're just not getting it?! Reflecting on the why, what, who and how of our opinions can be just the speed bump we need, stopping us from jumping in feet first into needless criticism that can just burn bridges and harden hearts. What kind of witness to Christ do I show daily? Is this how Jesus would speak? Am I correcting out of love, or out of a need to justify myself? Do I even know enough about the topic or this person to have an informed opinion? When it comes to someone else's heart, we need to tread carefully and lovingly. Above all, let's check for any glaringly obvious planks in our own eyes and work on those first!

Put Fr Mike's Four Question Rule into practice this week when faced with an opportunity to offer your opinion and weigh up if this something you actually deserve to have an opinion on? Why are you speaking about this? Do you have the kind of relationship with this person that allows you to speak your mind? what is the best way for the receiver to hear your opinion?

VIDEO: [Expressing Your Opinion \(Fr Mike\)](#)

TUNE: [Love you with the truth - Casting Crowns](#)

RESOURCE: [In my Opinion...](#)



Family Prayer

Jesus, help us all this week to be more conscious of what we do and what we say. Fill our hearts to overflowing with your love so that we can show that to all we meet in how we speak, act and think. Give us patience and humility to recognise our own need to grow and change. Amen

EVENTS

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

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 Day: Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, Sun 13th March. More info on www.holyfamilymission.ie

Lent is coming! Check out our Lenten resources for young people at www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry

WHAT FRUIT AM I PRODUCING?

Jesus' Sermon on the Plain is definitely challenging - there really is no let-up with it! Each week His message continues to push deeper and deeper, to challenge us more and more, to shake us out of any complacency or a spiritual acedia we might find ourselves in.

Again Jesus shows us how important it is to set God alone as our standard: to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. Anything lower than this is less than we are called to be. We don't have to figure out the path ourselves. We have the greatest teacher imaginable in Jesus Christ., One who lived and walked among us; One who showed us by His life and His death how to love others.

This week the focus is on judging others and ourselves. Judging actions is something we need to do: we know that some actions or thoughts or words are sinful, hurtful, damaging to our relationship with God and others. Judging people and their hearts, however, is *not* our job. God alone knows human hearts, struggles and motivations, even better than we know ourselves. We are called to love others: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them." (St Teresa of Calcutta) We are also called to reflect on what is really going on in our own hearts: a good tree cannot produce rotten fruit. If we are not producing the fruit, the behaviour, the relationships we should be, then we are called to examine our hearts in light of God's standard. The image of the splinter and the plank is so visual, it's almost comical, and yet how often do we point a finger at another, only to find three fingers pointing back at ourselves! It's easy to fall into a "they should do this... or that..." mode, but Jesus calls us to look deep within our own hearts and examine our motivations and our desire to follow Him with true humility. St Francis de Sales once said, "A spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a barrelful of vinegar." How do we treat others? How do we witness to Christ? When others see us, is it Christ they see? Do we try to see Christ in others too?

We're only human, and loving others, especially those who are unlovable is difficult; in fact, it's beyond us. However, it is not beyond the God who will live and love in and through us if we allow Him. "Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain."

CHECK IT OUT: HALLOW APP

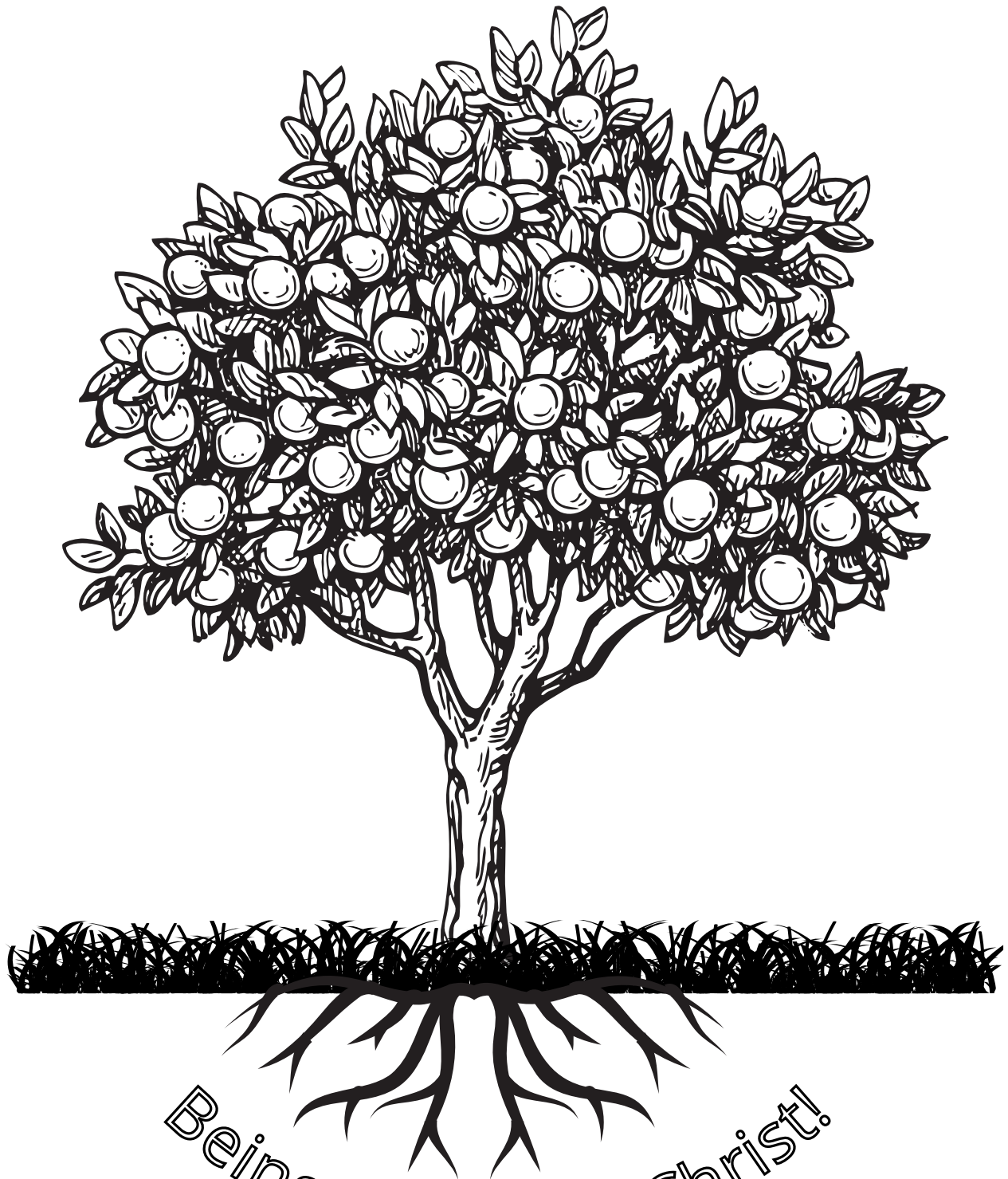
Hallow is a Catholic prayer app that offers audio guided meditation sessions to help us grow in our faith & spiritual lives and find peace in God. Explore over 500 different sessions on contemplative prayer, meditation, Catholic Bible readings, music, and more .e.g Daily prayers, Christian Meditation, 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!



GET IT ON
Google Play

Download on the
App Store

Colour in the fruit tree and think of ways
you can bear good fruit in your life, e.g.
praying, helping others...



Being rooted in Christ!

CHECK OUT WHAT
 CATECHISM OF THE
 CATHOLIC CHURCH
 SAYS ABOUT RASH
 JUDGMENT
 CCC 2477



In my opinion...

LUKE 6:39-45

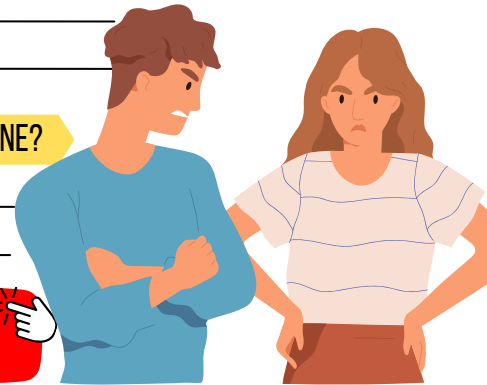
Set a guard over
 my mouth, Lord;
 keep watch over the
 door of my lips.
 Psalm 141:3-4

UNASKED FOR AND UNSOLICITED ADVICE IS JUST CRITICISM...

ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO HAS STRONG OPINIONS? DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE TO SHARE THEM WITH OTHERS?

HOW WELL DO YOU TAKE CRITICISM? WHEN IS IT EASIER TO TAKE CRITICISM FROM SOMEONE?

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ "EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



Why did Fr Mike feel he could not offer his opinion on the OJ Simpson trial?

What does he mean when he says "I don't deserve to have an opinion on this topic"?

FOUR QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION

WHY?

- What are my motives for speaking:
- Do I want to be right? To fix someone? Is it because I'm angry?
- Why am I speaking? Is it out of vengeance or justice?

• **Vengeance** as my motive means: _____

• **Justice** as my motive means: _____



WHAT?

- What am I speaking about? Is it a real thing? Is it a truth?
- Is it a principle or just a p_____?



WHO?

- Who am I? What is my r_____ with this person?
- Do I have their permission to offer my opinion or correction?
- Remember! Unsolicited (unasked for) advice is actually just c_____!



HOW?

There are two sides to communication:

- What is said Vs What is _____
- What is offered Vs What is _____

- A truth that needs to be spoken needs to take into account the person I want to receive it. I need to say it in a way they'll hear it more clearly.
- Am I saying it for myself or for _____?



IN MY OPINION...

LUKE 6:39-45

Jesus taught us how to offer correction when necessary for *personal stuff*.

READ MATTHEW 18:15-18



Step 1: _____

Step 2: _____

Step 3: _____



What not to do! _____



Now Read Luke 6:39-45



Being a follower of Christ is not for the apathetic - He constantly calls us to greater things and closer union with Him. More often than not, that call involves searching deep in our own hearts and considering how well we are treating others. He doesn't tell us we cannot judge actions. He Himself talks in this passage about good and rotten fruit. Good and evil actions are a reality of life; but judging another's heart and their motives is not our job, it's His. It can be really hard to bite our tongues, especially when we feel we're so clearly right and they're just not getting it!?! Reflecting on the why, what, who and how of our opinions can be just the speed bump we need, stopping us from jumping in feet first into needless criticism that can just burn bridges and harden hearts. What kind of witness to Christ do I show daily? Is this how Jesus would speak? Am I correcting out of love, or out of a need to justify myself? Do I even know enough about the topic or this person to have an informed opinion? When it comes to someone else's heart, we need to tread carefully and lovingly. Above all, let's check for any glaringly obvious planks in our own eyes and work on those first!



MISSION!

PUT FR MIKE'S FOUR QUESTION RULE INTO PRACTICE THIS WEEK WHEN FACED WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER YOUR OPINION AND WEIGH UP IF THIS SOMETHING YOU ACTUALLY DESERVE TO HAVE AN OPINION ON? WHY ARE YOU SPEAKING ABOUT THIS? DO YOU HAVE THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS PERSON THAT ALLOWS YOU TO SPEAK YOUR MIND? WHAT IS THE BEST WAY FOR THE RECEIVER TO HEAR YOUR OPINION?



PRAYER TIME!

Memorise and repeat every morning:

*Set a guard over my mouth, Lord;
Keep watch over the door of my lips.*



Psalms 141:3-4

CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON YOUR HEART'S MOTIVES



- [Love you with the truth - Casting Crowns](#)
- [Psalm 141 Song - Jason Silver](#)
- [I shall not want - Audrey Assad](#)
- [Mean Girls \(Leanna Crawford\)](#)
- [May the words of my mouth - Tim Hughes](#)
- [Slow Fade \(Casting Crowns\)](#)
- [From the Inside Out - Hillsong](#)
- [Lifesong \(Casting Crowns\)](#)

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



Fr Patrick Cahill: "The Spirit of God"



Annie from Holy Family Mission shares how lockdown prompted her to search her own heart