

FAITH

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22 MAY 2022 | VOL. II ISSUE 25

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



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6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 66(67): 2-3, 5-6, 8

Second Reading:

Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23

Gospel:

John 14:23-29

"Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid..."



canva.com

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](#) about the Holy Spirit for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear Jesus speaking to His apostles about sending the Holy Spirit, the Advocate to them.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- What kind of relationship do you have with the Holy Spirit? How do you relate to the third person of the Trinity? Do you find it easy to pray to the Holy Spirit?
- Think about the names we use for the Holy Spirit: what do they mean to you in your life? Advocate, Consoler, Fire, Wind of God, Intercessor, Spirit of God.
- Consider taking on a simple prayer practice this week: pray "Come Holy Spirit" before making decisions, meeting people, starting a new day... and be open to His promptings.

Talk

In today's Gospel we see Jesus explaining to his apostles that He will have to go away, but He will send the Holy Spirit to teach and guide them.

- What do we do at home to get ready to welcome a guest? What happens in our house?
- Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to the apostles. We received that same Holy Spirit at baptism, and again at Confirmation. How can we welcome the Holy Spirit every day in our lives? How would you make sure a regular guest is welcome in your home?
- Spending time in their presence, talking to them, listening to them: these are all great ways to make someone welcome. This is what we need to do to make the Holy Spirit welcome too!

Family Challenge!

Consider creating a sacred space in your home with an image of the Holy Spirit (see page 4) and the words Come Holy Spirit. Light a candle each day and pray together as a family to prepare for the great feast of Pentecost (just 2 weeks away!)

Mission: It can hard not to worry sometimes: but Jesus wants us to trust in Him always. He gives us the Holy Spirit to be our friend and consoler all the time. Make a special effort this week to pray to the Holy Spirit every day: Come Holy Spirit!

Song of the Week!
DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED



Love one another:
just as I have loved you

A NEW COMMANDMENT

"Love one another: just as I have loved you, you also must love one another."

Jesus called this a new commandment, not a suggestion or something on a wishlist, but a commandment. Do you ever wish Jesus had given a simpler commandment? I mean, loving everyone sounds fine until that one person who drives you insane is in front of you again, or you're let down by someone you trusted, or someone is just being nasty mean to you for no real reason... that's where the rubber hits the road!

Why would Jesus ask us to do something like this? Doesn't He know how hard it is? There's the thing: Jesus knows exactly how hard it is because Jesus suffered the weight of our sins, He was innocent and yet crucified. Jesus knows what frustration is like; He understands betrayal, suspicion, ridicule and suffering at the hands of others all too well. He also knows how weak and broken we are, and still He commands us to love as He has loved. The good news is we don't have to do it on our own: the love we need to show others we can draw from Him - frankly, we HAVE to draw it from Him because we won't have it in us otherwise.

This week, pray the Act of Love everyday and offer it especially for one particular person who you find it difficult to love. Ask Jesus to fill you with His love as He blesses both them and you!

VIDEO: [Love is an Ability \(Fr Mike Schmitz\)](#)

TUNE: [Love Each Other \(Graham Kendrick\)](#)

Check out "To the Heights" full resource



Family Prayer

Come
Holy Spirit!

GOD'S ABIDING PRESENCE

This portion of John's Gospel comes near the end of the first of four chapters that make up Jesus' long farewell discourse at the Last Supper. This section of chapter 14 actually sums up the themes of the opening of the discourse: the Christian's life is not shaped by Jesus' absence but by God's abiding presence; God's presence overcomes anxiety about God's absence; and the present holds in it the seeds of a fresh future shaped by love, not fear.

These verses also contain a glimpse of some of the other themes of the farewell discourse: Jesus' relationship with the Father and the disciples' relationship to Jesus connect the disciples to the Father as well. Jesus promises to send an Advocate or intercessor who will remind the disciples of everything that Jesus taught them and bring them peace.

Jesus is preparing his disciples in advance for his absence so that they will continue to believe in him and not feel all alone after his return to the Father. After the initial excitement of his Easter appearances, Jesus will remain with his followers in a very different way throughout the centuries.

As our celebration of the Easter season is coming to an end, the liturgy reminds us that Jesus remains with us through the Holy Spirit, who teaches us everything we need to know, reminds us of all that Jesus taught, and brings us peace.

from Loyola Sunday Connection

EVENTS

Lightfever: Time of Adoration - Music - Reconciliation in Ss Peter and Paul's Church Clonmel, Sat 21 May: 2-5pm

Nightfever: Time of Adoration - Music - Reconciliation in St John's Church, Waterford Fri 27 May, beginning at 7.30pm

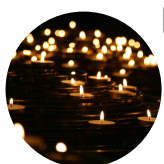
Rosary Procession: Sun 29 May. Leaving Ballybricken Green @3pm - to the Dominican Church, Bridge Street: Crowning of Our Lady and a short prayer service finishing with benediction.

Queen of Peace Retreats: 4-day Medjugorje-style retreat at Glencomeragh Retreat Centre. Spiritual Director: Fr Patrick Cahill. Full Board Accommodation - limited places, book now! Thurs 21 - Sun 24 July / Thurs 18 - Sun 21 Aug / Thurs 1 - Sun 4 Sept. Cost: €260. For more info or to book contact info@holymission.ie or (052) 6133181

Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: August 3rd - 10th, Cost: €725pps, Open to those aged 16 - 35. For more info: Roisin Browne 083 3002123 <https://waterfordlismore.ie/pastoral/pilgrimages/>

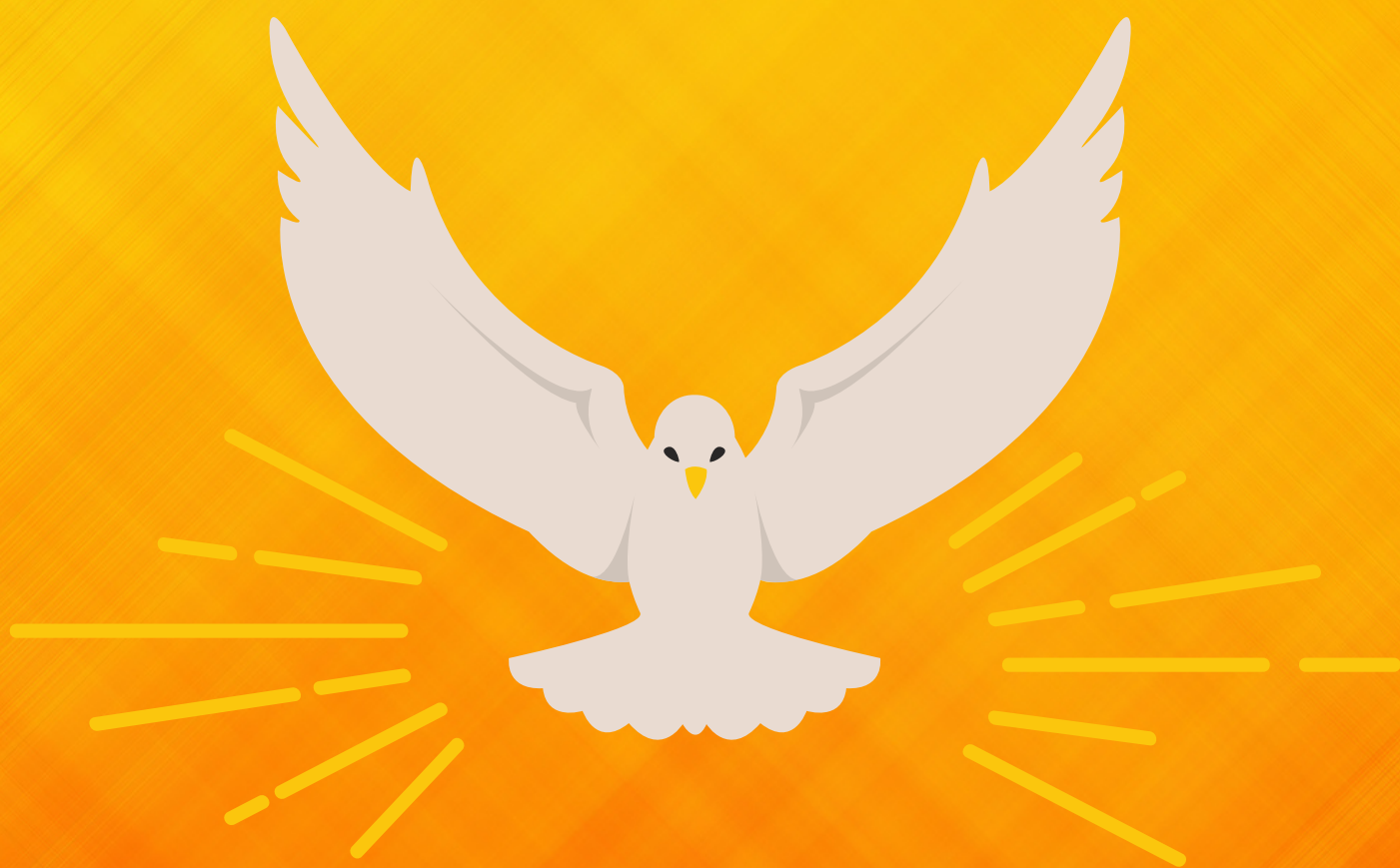
CHECK IT OUT: LIGHTFEVER / NIGHTFEVER

Have you ever attended a Lightfever or Nightfever? They are a beautiful and sacred time to really encounter Jesus in a personal way. The event runs for a number of hours in a specific church, while a team of volunteers outside approach people on the street with a simple request: "Would you like to light a candle in the church?" If they choose to come in, they are welcomed into a candlelit Church, with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, music, and opportunities for silent prayer or confession if they choose, or simply light their candle for an intention and leave. Check the events guide for upcoming dates.



The Holy Spirit will
teach you everything!





*Come
Holy Spirit!*