

FAITH @Home

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15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 18(19):8-11

Second Reading:

Colossians 1:15-20

Gospel:

Luke 10:25-37

"Who is my neighbour?"



Balthasar van Cortbemde, 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](#) on the Gospel for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear the parable of the Good Samaritan.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- This is an incredibly challenging parable for all of us. Have you ever felt that Jesus was pushing you outside your comfort zone, to serve Him in a way that was not as easy or straightforward as you would have liked? What was the outcome of that call? How did you respond?
- Is there something now you feel Jesus might be calling you to do, someone He is asking you to reach out to? Maybe it's someone or something you would rather avoid, and can find plenty of excuses to look the other way? Pray for the grace to act this week.

Talk

In today's readings we hear about the Good Samaritan who went out of his way to help the man in need.

- What is your least favourite chore to do at home? Tidying your room? Loading the dishwasher? Hoovering? Do you ever try to find excuses to get out of it, or pretend to forget so someone else will do it?
- Jesus calls us to go beyond what is comfortable or convenient for us. He wants us to love as He loves. He wants us to love those we find difficult to love too!
- How can we help each other as a family to commit to chores or actions we find difficult or unpleasant? How can we encourage each other this week?

Family Challenge!

- Look for ways this week to be a Good Samaritan. Who can you offer your prayers for? Who can you reach out and help? Who can you sacrifice some of your time and efforts for, even if it's inconvenient? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you!

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

MISSION:

Jesus wants us to be like the Good Samaritan. You can do this in lots of simple ways! Who can you help at home? Can you make a big effort to keep your room tidy so nobody else has to tidy it for you?

Song of the Week!

**GOOD SAMARITAN
KIDS CLUB RA!**



*"It is impossible to love God without loving our neighbour."
St Teresa of Calcutta*

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

It's easy to help the people we like, isn't it? To be a neighbour to those who think like us, and act like us, and look like us? But what about those who are different, who have different opinions, different cultures, different ways of doing things? What about those we find abrasive or annoying? What about those who make life difficult for us? Jesus said to love your neighbour, and all of those people are our neighbours too. He asks us to love like He loves.

Today's Gospel is as challenging today as it was for those who heard it 2000 years ago. Priests and Levites were considered good and holy men - and yet in this parable, they ignore the man in need. It's a Samaritan, (FYI Samaritans and Jews traditionally hated each other) who put himself out to help the traveller on the road who had been attacked. Not only did he give his time and energy, but he also gave his money to support this man in his time of need. This is the type of neighbourly love that Jesus calls us to, not just doing the shopping occasionally or smiling at waving at Mrs Murphy down the road! So who is my neighbour? Who do I try to avoid helping, because it's inconvenient for me? Who do I avoid meeting, because I find them draining or difficult? Who do I make excuses to sidestep because it's easier to look the other way and pretend I don't see their need? Ask Jesus this week to really give you the grace you need to be a Good Samaritan to somebody He'll put in your path!

- [Good Samaritan \(somedudenamedmilian\) LEGO](#)
- [Make Me Over \(Natalie Grant\)](#)

To the Heights Youth Newsletter will return at the end of August



Family Prayer

*Open our eyes that we might see what the Good Samaritan saw. Grant us the insight to see the need in others, the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it. Open our eyes, that we might not cross the road from human need. Give us a deep love for you, that we might see your love at work in this world, and that we might Go and do likewise.
Full prayer here: [www.holyfamilymission.ie](#)*

EVENTS

St Declan's Summer Camp, Ardmore: Catholic Summer Camp for Primary School Children: Music, Action Songs, Arts & Crafts, Games, Prayer and a whole lot of fun! July 18 - 21 in St Declan's NS. More info on <https://www.holyfamilymission.ie/campa-mhuire-mhathair/>

Queen of Peace Retreats: 4-day Medjugorje-style retreat at Glencomeragh Retreat Centre. 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@holyfamilymission.ie or (052) 6133181

"Get used to Different" - Weekend Retreat based on "The Chosen" TV Series: Sept 30th - Oct 2nd. Glencomeragh Retreat Centre. Full Board Accommodation €195. To book (052) 6133181 or email info@holyfamilymission.ie / For more info on the retreat 087 4042784 / www.waterfordlismore.ie

Youth 2000 Summer Festival: Ireland's largest Catholic gathering for young people aged 16-35. August 11-14. Donation only. More info on www.youth2000.ie

GO AND DO LIKEWISE

As Jesus continues his journey to Jerusalem, he is confronted by a scholar of the law who wants to test him and asks what we must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asks the expert to answer this question, "What is written in the law?" The man is caught and responds with Deuteronomy 6:5. This verse is one of the most important prayers in Judaism, and it was said twice a day in Jesus' time. Love of God and love of neighbour are what is required for eternal life. Jesus' response is simple, "Do this and you will live."

Having been shown up by Jesus, the lawyer tries another question: Who is my neighbour whom I must love like myself? In the society of Jesus' time, with its distinctions between Jews and Gentiles, men and women, clean and unclean, this was a trick question. Jesus responds with one of the most beautiful of all the parables, the Good Samaritan. It is found only in Luke's Gospel.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho descends 3,300 feet in just 17 miles. Its narrow passes and rocky terrain made it an easy place for bandits to wait for travellers. The traveller in this parable is identified only as "a certain man." Luke uses this phrase in many of his parables so that the audience, Jew or Gentile, could identify with the man. After the attack, the man is left for dead, naked and bleeding on the side of the road. A priest comes along, but rather than helping, as one might expect, he moves to the other side of the road. Another religious person comes along, a Levite who assists in the Temple. His reaction is the same as the priest's. Both of them choose to not even find out if the man is alive. A third person comes along. The listeners would probably expect him to be an Israelite. This would make the parable a criticism of the religious leadership. Instead he is a Samaritan, an Israelite's most hated neighbour. Samaritans were descendants of Jews from the northern part of the country, who had intermarried with Gentiles and did not worship in Jerusalem. The Samaritan not only goes over to the injured man but cleans his wounds, puts him on his own animal, takes him to an inn to recover, and promises to pay all his expenses. The hated enemy is the compassionate neighbour in this parable.

Jesus has demolished all boundary expectations. It is not social definitions such as class, religion, gender, or ethnicity that determines who is our neighbour. A neighbour is a person who acts with compassion toward another. The point becomes not who deserves to be loved as I love myself, but that I become a person who treats everyone with compassion.

When Jesus asks the lawyer who was the neighbour in the story, the lawyer can't bring himself to say it was the Samaritan. All he says is that it was "the one who treated him with mercy." Jesus' response was similar to that of the first discussion: "Go and do likewise." The lawyer, and we, know what is right. The key is to do it.

Adapted from *Loyola Press Sunday Connection*

CHECK IT OUT: CHRIST ON THE STREET



Christ on the Street, a ministry of the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, is a small attempt to bring a Christian touch to the lives of lonely people among us. It hopes to facilitate a sharing of humanity, an encounter with a human person. See <https://waterfordlismore.ie/pastoral/christ-on-the-street/> for information about how you can get involved, as a volunteer, a pray-er, a missionary or a benefactor.



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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Love your neighbour

It is not enough for us to say:

I love God, but I do not love my neighbour.

**St. John says you are a liar if you say you
love God and you don't love your neighbour.**

**How can you love God whom you do not see,
if you do not love your neighbour whom you
see, whom you touch, with whom you live.**

- ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA -

