

FAITH @Home

"To the Heights" Post-Primary Schools / Youth Edition also available

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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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IDEAS TO
CELEBRATE OUR
LADY'S BIRTHDAY
THIS WEEK!



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Wisdom 9:13-18

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 89(90):3-6, 12-14, 17

Second Reading:

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Gospel:

Luke 14: 25-33

"Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."



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](#) on the Gospel for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear Jesus speak about the cost of discipleship.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- How do you find the cost of discipleship in your own life? What do you feel you are called to give up to be an authentic follower of Christ?
- What are the rewards you see in your own life for following Christ? How does your faith and belief in Christ bless your life and those around you? Spent some time in gratitude for the graces you have received.
- Make a commitment this week to put Jesus first in your life, and ask Him now for the graces you will need to do that.

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus what it means to follow Him, and how that can be challenging at times.

- If you could choose how to spend a day doing anything you want, what would you choose? Let everyone come up with a list and then compare them. Chances are you all have different ideas and priorities for what you would choose.
- Jesus asks us to choose too, whether we put Him first before everyone and everything else in our life or not. With Jesus in first place, everything else will fall into place too! What are some concrete things we can do this week to make sure Jesus comes first?

Family Challenge!

Put the Put Jesus First poster in a prominent place in your home this week as a reminder to set your priorities correctly! Encourage each other during the week to make the best decisions about how to spend your time.



Mission:

Do you find it hard to say your prayers in the morning and at night? Make an extra special effort this week to show Jesus you love Him first thing in the morning and last thing at night!

CHOOSE

In chapter 14 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus is speaking to people gathered at the table about the difficulties of following him. This group of people is suspicious about Jesus, looking to catch him doing something wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables, emphasizing that although there is a right way to be a disciple and enter into the kingdom of his Father, it is a difficult path to follow. Many, even some of the guests at the table, reject the invitation. So Jesus turns to the crowds and speaks to them of discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing can get in the way. When Jesus describes "hating" one's father and mother, he is not talking about feelings. Rather, he is emphasizing very strongly that choosing to be a disciple means that everything else—family, money, your own life—must come second. In Matthew's version of this story (Matthew 10:37), Jesus refers not to "hating" father or mother, but to loving them more than Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that being a disciple is not easy. It means to bear one's own cross. These difficult sayings of Jesus are followed by two brief parables (a person constructing a tower and a king marching into battle) that make an obvious point—don't start what you cannot finish. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else.

Loyola Press Sunday Connection

Jesus speaks some hard-hitting words in today's Gospel. He leaves us with no doubt as to the demands of discipleship. Just believing in God isn't enough - that belief needs to be matched by our actions and choices we make, by the priorities we set. Is Jesus a priority in my life? Is He THE priority? Is Heaven my goal?

The idea of taking up a cross sounds so uncomfortable, and so contrary to the messages we hear in the world today: to relax, take it easy, "You're worth it!", take the shortcut, do the minimum. Christianity is never about minimum participation... but it's not about minimum rewards either. The cost of discipleship might seem high, but the prize is happiness with our loving Father, beyond anything we can possibly imagine, and for all eternity!

So many inspiring people have gone before us to show us that this kind of life is possible. Jesus said "take up your cross", not "My Cross". Whatever we have to carry in our lives, whether we chose it or not, is possible to carry through God's grace. If we unite our sufferings with Jesus, they become incredibly powerful, and Jesus can do great things in our hearts and in the lives of others.

Learn about Fr Emil Kapaun this week, and how much he was willing to do to be a disciple of Christ. [Click here for the resource!](#)

• When All is Said and Done
(Matt Redman)

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



Family Prayer

*Jesus,
may You be first in our
lives and first in our
family today and always.
Amen*

EVENTS

Monthly Cherished Evening of Prayer & Fellowship for women aged 18-50, Mon 12th Sept at Holy Family Mission. Rosary @ 7.30pm, Mass @ 8.00pm followed by tea/coffee and lots of chat! For more info contact Shauna (087) 1378364.

"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@holymission.ie / For more info on the retreat 087 4042784 / www.waterfordlismore.ie

The Chosen: Zoom Series, Season 2: TUESDAY nights, 8 - 9.15pm, 4 - 29 October - www.waterfordlismore.ie for more information or [click here to sign up](#)

CHECK IT OUT: LITTLE NELLIE'S BABY BANK

Little Nellie's Baby Bank is an initiative established in the diocese to provide material support for expectant mothers and families in need. The name was inspired by Waterford's Ellen Organ, also known as "Little Nellie of Holy God". Little Nellie's Baby Bank provides: Clothing - Buggies - Nappies - Baby Equipment.

Contact: babybank@waterfordlismore.ie / 085 862 3705. Follow on Facebook to see what we have in stock.



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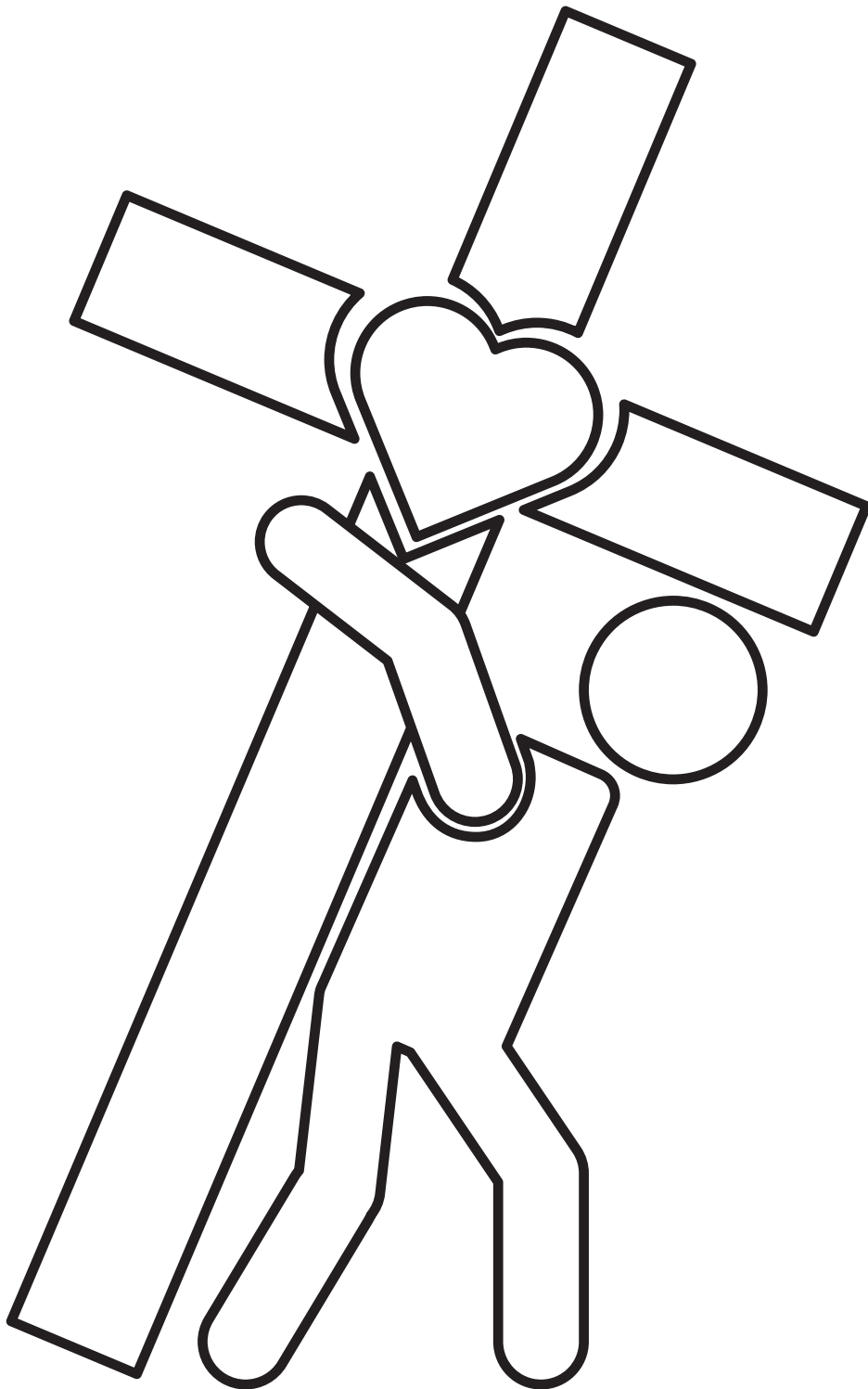
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- "To the Heights" Youth Newsletter (youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie)
- Check it Out! Diocesan Events Bulletin (events@waterfordlismore.ie)

WEEKLY
WEEKLY
FORTNIGHTLY



"Anyone who does not carry
his cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple."





put
Jesus
FIRST

and the rest will follow!

