

FAITH @Home

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"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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31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Wisdom 11:22-12:2

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 144(145):1-2,8-11,13b-14

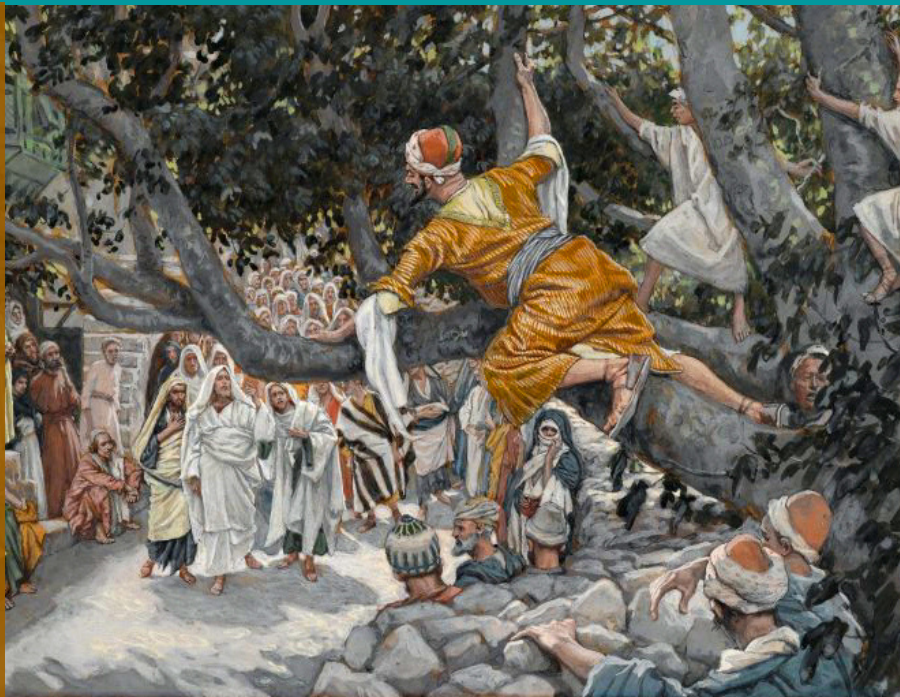
Second Reading:

2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

Gospel:

Luke 19:1-10

"And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully."



James Tissot, 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 readings for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear the familiar story of Jesus and Zacchaeus.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Do you remember this story from your childhood? What was your understanding of it then? What is your understanding of it now as an adult? Can you identify in any way with Zacchaeus? Or the onlookers?
- In prayer, imagine yourself in Zacchaeus' place: feeling drawn towards Jesus, willing to do anything to get a glimpse of Him. Imagine how you feel when Jesus calls your name and invites Himself to your house. What would Jesus invite you to change in your life?

Talk

In today's readings we hear the story of Jesus inviting Himself to the house of Zacchaeus, the tax collector.

- If a guest is coming to your house, what do you do to get ready? How would you prepare your house and make them welcome?
- If you knew Jesus was coming to your house today, what would you do to get ready? What would you talk to Jesus about? What would you show Him?
- Is there anything you would change, in your house, or more importantly in your heart, to make Jesus feel really welcome? How can we get our hearts ready as places that are welcoming and loving places for Jesus?

Family Challenge!

This week we celebrate the Feast of All Saints.

Pray and choose a saint as a protector for your whole family. Find an image of them to display somewhere in your home, and remember to ask for their intercession every day! [Click here for more All Saints ideas!](#)

Mission:

Imagine if you never got a second chance to play a computer game if you messed up the first time! Jesus always gives us a second chance to do right. Remember to say sorry to Jesus and others if you do wrong, and thank Jesus for second chances!

Song of the Week!
I WANNA DO RIGHT



I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me
Joyce J Rouse

WHAT BRANCH DO YOU STAND ON?

Ever get so busy with people and schedules that it's hard to find perspective? Ever get so bogged down with worries, that it's hard to think clearly? Ever find yourself in need of a good confession, to clear away the sin from your heart and make room for Jesus and His grace and power to work more freely in your life? Sin and poor choices can cloud our ability to see truth clearly, but thank goodness the Lord always gives another chance!

Zacchaeus in today's Gospel, couldn't see Jesus because of the crowd. But Zacchaeus didn't let that stop him. Even though it was humiliating for a man of his status and wealth to climb a tree, he did just that. That simple climb (or maybe not so simple depending on his climbing ability!) was enough to change his whole life.

Who or what is your sycamore tree? Whose shoulders (or branches) do you stand on to see Jesus more clearly? This week we also celebrate All Saints - so many men and women who we can be inspired by and whose prayers we can benefit from today, and who can show us how to make the necessary changes in our life, like our friend Zacchaeus! This week, pick a saint for the year - someone you can lean on and learn from in your journey of faith. Use our Cloud of Witnesses pack to help you!



Zacchaeus & Trees to Jesus: 1 Minute Homily



"Who am I" - Casting Crowns

Check out our Cloud of Witnesses Resource pack for the feast of All Saints

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



Family Prayer

Lord, grant us the humility and faith of Zacchaeus to seek you out, welcome you into our homes, and change whatever needs changing in our hearts! Amen

EVENTS

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](#)

All Saints Vigil: Do not be afraid to be holy:
Monday 31st October, 8pm with the Sisters of Mary Morning Star at the Franciscan Friary Church, Lady Lane, Waterford.

All Saints Festival: Girls Get-Together for ages 8-12 Tues 1 November, 12-5.30pm. Parochial House, Pearse St., Cahir. Organised by the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother. Contact Sr Rachel Maria 052 7443588 / cahirshm@homeofthemothor.org

Family Day at Holy Family Mission: Sun 6th Nov, 10am - 3pm. All Saints Costume Party. Bring a packed lunch. Book essential. Email info@holymission.ie

Encounter for Young Adults: Fri 11th Nov, 8pm, St John's Church, Waterford. Testimony / Prayer / Music / Refreshments. More info on www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry

ZACCHAEUS: A MODEL OF SALVATION

In Jesus' day, tax collectors were not popular people. They were collaborators with the Romans and were despised by many Jewish people. The tax system allowed them to charge more than what was required so that they could make a profit for themselves. Thus, they were considered sinners by their countrymen. Observers in the crowd that day grumble because Jesus dines with a sinner. Throughout Scripture, Jesus' choice of dinner companions set him apart from other observant Jews of his time. In first century Jewish culture, to dine together was to show a bond of fellowship and peace among those at the table. Observant Jews did not generally dine with foreigners and sinners. Yet, Jesus chooses to honor the tax collector, Zacchaeus, by staying at his house.

Even before Jesus comes to his home, Zacchaeus shows himself to be someone in search of salvation. Zacchaeus, described as short in stature, climbs a tree in order to see Jesus. We know from Luke's description that Zacchaeus was no ordinary tax collector; he was, in fact, the chief tax collector and a person of some wealth. In his search for salvation, he humbled himself by making a spectacle of himself by climbing a tree.

Jesus recognizes the faith of this tax collector exhibited in his search for salvation and calls him down from the tree. In the hospitality he extends to Jesus and in his conversion of heart, Zacchaeus is raised up by Jesus as a model of salvation.

Loyola Press Sunday Connection

CHECK IT OUT: ABIDING TOGETHER



Abiding Together is a weekly podcast hosted by Michelle Benzinger, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, and Heather Khym, providing a place of connection, rest and encouragement for people who are on the journey of living out their passion and purpose in Jesus Christ. With book studies, podcasts for liturgical seasons, Apostolic Letters and series, these podcasts are full of inspirational wisdom and encouragement, particularly for Catholic women who want to go deeper in their faith.



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WEEKLY
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FORTNIGHTLY



