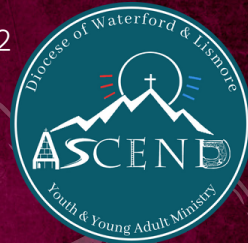




# To the Heights



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Year A



**Hear** Click the Bible image for this week's readings if you don't have a Bible handy!

## Sunday Mass Readings

**First Reading:**

Isaiah 7:10-14

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 23(24): 1-6

**Second Reading:**

Romans 1:1-7

**Gospel:**

Matthew 1: 18-24

[www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry)



ascendwaterfordlismore.ym



AscendWaterfordLismoreYM



Ascend Youth Ministry



"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'"

## Reflect



1. What is meant by the word "betrothed"?
2. What kind of man was Joseph according to the Gospel?
3. Why did Joseph decide to divorce Mary informally?
4. How did the Angel reassure Joseph in his dream?
5. What does the name Jesus mean?
6. What does Emmanuel mean?
7. What does this Gospel passage teach us about Joseph's faith?

## Game Changers

The Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar is crammed full of inspirational saints and heroes, or as we like to call them, **Game Changers!**

Check them out on our web page!

20 December

St Fachanan



21 December

St Peter Canisius

23 December

St John of Kety (Kanty)

**Ascend  
Christmas  
Playlist!**



## CHECK IT OUT: THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR



In response to countless requests, Ascension is launching *The Catechism in a Year* (with Fr. Mike Schmitz) on January 1, 2023! With this podcast, Catholics will: Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days | Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter | See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture | Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition | Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness | Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded. If you have ever wanted to understand what it means to be Catholic and allow those truths to shape your life—this podcast is for you!



"Joseph's faith does not falter, he obeys quickly and to the letter." St Josemarie Escriva

### PRAY, LISTEN, ACT

Ever had plans that were so carefully thought out, so well prepared that you were sure you were in control and everything would work out the way you intended? Life doesn't always work that way does it! Just ask St Joseph! He was betrothed to the beautiful, pure, good and holy virgin Mary. They were ready to start their life together. Then he found out she was expecting a child, and it wasn't his. Can you imagine the confusion, the pain and the whirlwind of emotions he must have felt? Yet Joseph was a good man, a godly man. God honoured his faithfulness and revealed to him in a dream that Mary's child was no ordinary child, but Emmanuel, God with us. She had conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. I'm sure he still didn't understand fully what all that meant, who could? Joseph trusted God however, and he acted. We see this time and again with Joseph in the Gospel. He prays, he listens, he hears and he obeys. What a role model for all of us, especially when we're confused, or feel overwhelmed. Can you imagine what it was like knowing you were chosen to care for the Son of God, and God's mother? Talk about pressure!! Joseph listened and took the next good step, that's all he was asked to do. Trust and act, and leave the rest to God.

Let that be our motto in this final week of Advent!

### Puzzle

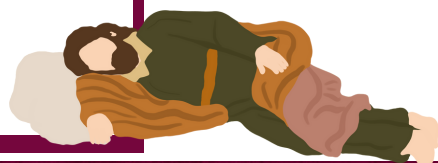
### FIND THE WORDS FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL IN THE WORDSEARCH!

F D X Q U Y T G X L P F R V Y J B A  
U X A B K M O T K I R C C U G H N P  
O E D V Y D O P S F O Z H M O S T J  
B C N R I O R F J L P O Y O P N A A  
P N A Y U D X E D U H Y D I E K O U  
U M R C D M Z X A F E P R C K A R H  
J S R A N G E L W M T I R H U U H S  
D N A B S U H I L N T O I W O Y Q U  
E O D R O K F G N F V W R U R M B H  
L B J S V E H S E I B D R E H P E T  
C E I O D F U I D W X V K H O F R I  
Z F U R M S R F I X E N K P L J H W  
G T K N E A P P E A R E D E Y A D D  
E Y W J A I H T J E M W B S R P W O  
N D J E O M K O I G I W N O R Z X G  
P F Z O L N M S Q D H D K J B V D C  
Q Y D H G H R E G W R C V W A R L K  
D I A R F A C O N C E I V E D X R B



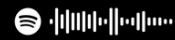
afraid  
Angel  
appeared  
conceived  
David  
divorce  
dream  
Emmanuel  
fulfil  
God with us  
Holy  
home  
honour  
husband  
Jesus  
Joseph  
Mary  
prophet  
Spirit  
wife

Pick one line from the gospel to reflect on this week!



### TUNE OF THE WEEK

Your Promises



Elevation Worship



### WEEKLY CHALLENGE:



Spend your last week of Advent in gratitude rather than thinking about uncertainties or worries. Make a list of the blessings in your life, things or people you are truly grateful for. Think back on situations you were worried about that have since resolved and have maybe even worked out better than you had initially hoped. Adopt an attitude of gratitude this week, especially for the gift of our Saviour at Christmas time!

### Having Joy in Uncertainty (Fr Mike Schmitz)



### Young Person's Prayer



My God, You know me by name and You love me, with an eternal love that never fades. Show me how to base my joy on You, because in You my joy will be complete, no matter what circumstances come my way. You delight in me - help me to truly believe that! Amen

THE INCARNATION



Paul Harvey, the Man and the Birds

### WHAT'S ON

**Living Nativity: with the Home of the Mother.** Saturday Dec 17th, Parochial House, Pearse St., Cahir. Stop by between 5 - 8pm. Bring the family and experience the real meaning of Christmas! Live animals, hot chocolate, Christmas carols, take a photo with the Holy family!

**Faith Formation For Adults: Tuesdays during Advent.** St Mary's Cahir Parish Hall. 6.30 - 7.30. More info: [cahirshm@homeofthemothor.org](mailto:cahirshm@homeofthemothor.org)

**Advent Lectio Divina.** Thursday nights (Dec 8th, 15th, 22nd) 7.15 - 8.00pm, St Joseph & Benildus Parish Centre. Join for a cuppa and prayer. Join via Zoom also: Link 84105354648

**REnewal Rosary Making Workshop for RE Teachers.** Practical workshop on how to make twine rosaries with your students, plus other rosary resources, 25 Feb, 11am - 1pm. For more info email [events@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:events@waterfordlismore.ie) Register before Dec 15th to facilitate ordering of materials.





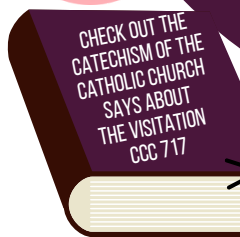
MATTHEW 1: 18-24



# Are you certain?



Joseph wasn't given certainty. He was given a promise.



*Romans 12:12 "Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times."*

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS SONGS? DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE RELIGIOUS CAROL? WHICH CAROL SUMS UP THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS FOR YOU?



DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS MEMORY?

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ, "HAVING JOY IN UNCERTAINTY" (ASCENSION PRESENTS) AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



- According to Fr Mike, what is the only thing that is certain for us?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Why does he suggest we find comfort in past Christmas memories?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What can we let our lack of certainty about the future steal?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Christmas is a Season of Joy in the midst of uncertainty.  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUT YOURSELF IN JOSEPH'S SANDALS...



How would you have felt before and after hearing the Angel's message?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## ARE THE "JOYFUL MYSTERIES" REALLY JOYFUL???



- At the Annunciation, immediately after Mary said yes, what did the Angel do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What kind of things could the Angel have told Mary to take away some of her uncertainty? (List 2 things Fr Mike mentions)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- "All is calm, all is bright...." Was it really? What kind of uncertainty did Mary and Joseph face in Bethlehem?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



- In the 4th mystery, the Presentation in the temple, where was the uncertainty?  
\_\_\_\_\_

WE CAN LOOK BACK AT THESE STORIES 2000 YEARS ON, KNOWING HOW THINGS WORKED OUT, BUT THEY WERE LIVING THROUGH THEM.

# ARE YOU CERTAIN?

MATTHEW 1: 18-24

**Even in the darkest times, when we are at our weakest, or suffering the most, when it seems there is no way out, God is \_\_\_\_\_.**



WE CAN CELEBRATE A "MERRY" CHRISTMAS, NOT BECAUSE OF CERTAINTY, BUT BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A SAVIOUR, ONE WHO ENTERS INTO UNCERTAINTY AND HIS PRESENCE IS TRANSFORMING. HE BRINGS JOY TO THE WORLD!

Now Read Matthew 1: 18-24



Ever had plans that were so carefully thought out, so well prepared that you were sure you were in control and everything would work out the way you intended? Life doesn't always work that way does it! Just ask St Joseph! He was betrothed to the beautiful, pure, good and holy virgin Mary. They were ready to start their life together. Then he found out she was expecting a child, and it wasn't his. Can you imagine the confusion, the pain and the whirlwind of emotions he must have felt? Yet Joseph was a good man, a godly man. God honoured his faithfulness and revealed to him in a dream that Mary's child was no ordinary child, but Emmanuel, God with us. She had conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. I'm sure he still didn't understand fully what all that meant, who could? Joseph trusted God however, and he acted. We see this time and again with Joseph in the Gospel. He prays, he listens, he hears and he obeys. What a role model for all of us, especially when we're confused, or feel overwhelmed. Can you imagine what it was like knowing you were chosen to care for the Son of God, and God's mother? Talk about pressure!! Joseph listened and took the next good step, that's all he was asked to do. Trust and act, and leave the rest to God. Let that be our motto in this final week of Advent!

## MISSION!

GOD IS DOING WONDERFUL THINGS IN YOUR LIFE - BUT SOMETIMES WE ARE TOO BUSY OR TOO CAUGHT UP WITH FUTURE WORRIES TO REALISE WHAT HE IS CURRENTLY DOING, OR HAS DONE IN THE PAST. MAKE A LIST OF THE BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE, THINGS OR PEOPLE YOU ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR. THINK BACK ON SITUATIONS YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT THAT HAVE SINCE RESOLVED AND HAVE MAYBE EVEN WORKED OUT BETTER THAN YOU HAD INITIALLY HOPED. ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE THIS WEEK, ESPECIALLY FOR THE GIFT OF OUR SAVIOUR AT CHRISTMAS TIME!



## PRAYER TIME!



**Choose one of the Joyful Mysteries, and reflect on what is happening in that scene.** Ask St Joseph to show you how to trust in God's promises like he did. Then pray a decade of the rosary: One Our Father, Ten Hail Mary's and a Glory Be. You can use this [Ascend YM rosary resource](#) to help you if you need it!



## CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON TRUSTING IN GOD



- [Your Promises - Elevation Worship](#)
- [I am a Carpenter - Cher & Gene Klosner](#)
- [Greater Things - Mack Brock](#)
- [Whom shall I fear? \(Chris Tomlin\)](#)
- [Light of the World - Lauren Daigle](#)
- [Even the Winter - Audrey Assad](#)
- [When I think upon Christmas - Hillsong](#)
- [Hallelujah, Light has Come - BarlowGirl](#)

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



6:04 MINS



**God's Ways are not our ways**  
(Fr Mike Schmitz)



**Joseph's Lullaby**





# My Gratitude List!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Write a letter of thanksgiving to God for the promises He has made to you,  
and the blessings you have seen in your life so far.

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IN ALL  
THINGS  
give  
THANKS

Begin  
EACH WITH  
DAY ((A))  
grateful  
HEART

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