



Sunday Mass Readings

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Psalm 39(40): 2,4,7-10

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

GOSPEL:

John 1:29-34

"Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."



Image: 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 readings for children.

Pray

- In the Gospel today we hear John the Baptist call Jesus the "Lamb of God" - let's pray about that phrase today.
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Jesus is called "Lamb of God" here - why do you think this is? What other titles for Jesus do you know of? How do they help you to understand who Jesus is?
- Lambs are gentle creatures: stay with this image and ask Jesus to show you how He has worked gently in your life so far? How have you felt the grace of His sacrifice as Lamb of God, the grace won on Calvary, in your life?
- Make a more conscious effort at Mass this week to pray the "Lamb of God" prayer more reverently.

Talk

In today's readings we hear John speaking about Jesus the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Discuss the following as a family:

- What kind of signposts are near our house? What do they tell us / point us to?
- How is John the Baptist a sign for Jesus? What does he tell us about Jesus?
- Why was Jesus called the Lamb of God? Look it up if you're not sure!
- Why do you think the Holy Spirit appears in the form of a dove over Jesus? What does a dove symbolise?
- When do we hear the words "Lamb of God" at Mass - listen carefully next time you go to Mass!

Family Challenge!

Do you know what date you were baptised on? Make a list of the family baptismal dates, mark them on your calendar and celebrate them throughout the year, just like your birthday!

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

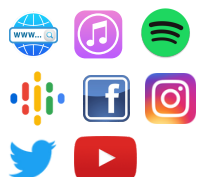
John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

Adapted from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: ABIDING TOGETHER PODCASTS



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.



Vision focuses our decisions. Decisions determine our destiny. Fr Mike Schmitz

CLARITY

Clarity can be a tricky thing, and yet when we don't have clarity, it leads to frustration and lack of peace. Jesus had total clarity about his goals in life. He knew what His mission was: to reconcile us to the Father, to show us how to live and to win eternal salvation for us. All His decisions, all His words and actions were oriented towards that goal, and He never lost sight of the Father's face or heart at any stage, even during His passion and death.

John the Baptist had very clear goals too. He knew He wasn't the Messiah. His goal in life was to prepare the way for the Messiah, to announce His coming, to prepare for it by calling people to repentance. All his decisions (quirky as some of them may have been, like wearing camel skin and eating locusts!) were oriented towards that goal.

Are we as clear about our goals? Do we know where we're headed and how to get there? Do we know who God has created us to be, and are we actively seeking to become that person? God's plan for us is the maximum of our happiness: let's make a start, a small step today towards realising His vision in our lives!

Ask yourself the questions Fr Mike posed at the end of this video: "God, what is your vision for my life?" "What are the decisions I need to make? What obstacles do I need to remove from my life?"

"What is one positive step I can take today to help me achieve that vision?"



Developing a Clear vision in life
(Fr Mike Schmitz)



I refuse (Josh Wilson)

To the Heights will return in January



Family Prayer

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world have mercy on us!

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace!

EVENTS

Cherished Retreat: "Discovering my Identity as a Woman of God". Catholic Women's Ministry Retreat: Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan: Jan 20th - 22nd 2023. Led by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia (Limerick). Mass, Adoration, rosary, confession, healing service, talks, testimonies, creative workshops, fellowship, tea and chats! Full Board accommodation €210 pps. To book email info@holymfamilymission.ie

Men's Prayer Group, St Saviour's Church, Bridge Street, Waterford City. Every Wednesday evening, starts at 7pm: Exposition, Benediction, Faith Formation and Group Sharing. Led by the Servant Priests of the Home of the Mother

Lectio Divina: Join with the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to prayerfully read the Sunday Gospel, share and enjoy a chat over a cuppa. No cost. No experience reading the Bible needed. Queries: Sr. Kathryn 087 404 2784. Tuesdays, 2:30-4pm- St John's Pastoral Centre or Thursdays, 7:30-9pm- Sacred Heart Convent, Cedar Lodge (Newtown Rd.)

Intro to Theology of the Body Study Group, The Foyer of Charity, Dunmore East Waterford, X91 FC65. Tues 11am - 12.30pm. February 21- April 18. Prayer, DVD, Discussion, Tea/Coffee. Registration Essential: Helen 086 1678027 / hellywilliams@gmail.com

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

WEEKLY
WEEKLY
FORTNIGHTLY





Let's dive in!

FAITH
@Home Activities for Children!

www.waterfordismore.ie

Let's Learn!
Check out this video from Kids Catholic Media on this Sunday's readings.

My Baptism!

I was baptised on (day) _____
(month) _____ (year) _____

The priest who baptised me was _____

I wore _____

My godparents are _____

Puzzle Can you find these words from the Gospel in the wordsearch?

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

baptise
Chosen
dove
God
Jesus
lamb
sin
Spirit
water

Celebrate the Seasons!

What colour is the priest's chasuble today?
Colour it in!

Tick the box for the correct liturgical season!

Advent ☐ Christmas ☐ Lent ☐
Easter ☐ Ordinary Time ☐



My Saint Friend



Let's sing!

Jesus the Lamb of God

Twenty Six Eight Kids

Let's PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of Baptism and that I am a Child of God!

Amen



Let's act!



Listen very carefully at Mass: when can you hear the words "Lamb of God" being spoken and prayed?

This is what John the Baptist called Jesus in today's Gospel!

Look, there is the Lamb of God

Word of God



Colour the image of Jesus the Lamb of God

