

FAITH @Home

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12 FEBRUARY 2023 | VOL.III ISSUE 10

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!



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Year A 6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

FIRST READING:

Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

GOSPEL:

Matthew 5:17-37

"All you need is say "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no;"



Eugène Burnand, 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 familiar but challenging words from Jesus as part of the Sermon on the Mount.
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Do you ever feel tempted to just do the minimum in your prayer and in the way you treat others? Are you ever tempted to justify your actions because "they could be worse" rather than looking at how you can continually grow in sanctity?
- This week, ask the Lord for a special grace to never choose the minimum, to look for new ways to show Him your love, and to show others how your faith impacts your life too!

Talk

In today's Gospel Jesus is teaching his listeners some difficult ideas, ways of digging deeper and growing more in their faith.

- Do you have any rules in your family? What kind of rules do you have? Are they difficult to follow? Why are rules important?
- What kind of road signs can you think of that protect us? Why are they important?
- God has laws for us - not to stop us enjoying life, but to protect us, keep us close to Him and on the road to heaven! Jesus reminded His disciples of this but He also told them He came to fulfil the Law. Jesus asks that we do much more than the bare minimum. Can you think of ways we can serve God with the minimum effort and then how we are really called to serve Him with our heart?

Family Challenge!

Each person could choose an action they usually do (e.g. a chore or a way of helping someone out), but put extra effort into it this week: serve to the maximum not the minimum!

FULFILLING THE LAW

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbor.

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires. The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

Loyola Press Sunday Connection

CHECK IT OUT: EVANGELIUM

The Evangelium Project aims to provide an essential resource for young adults to attain a deeper knowledge of our Catholic faith. Evangelium seeks to be a platform to inspire and encourage the next generation of Catholic priests, religious, husbands and wives who will help to rebuild and reignite the faith in Ireland.

Evangelium Catholic Apologetics Conference for Young Adults (18-40): March 25, 9m - 6pm, All Hallow Campus DCU, €38. More info / registration on www.evangelium.ie or on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).



EVANGELIUM
CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS
SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2023
9AM-6PM

Main Talks

- FR MARCUS HOLDEN
Unlocking the Seven Doors to Evangelisation
- FR FRANCIS GAVIN
St John Henry Newman's Spiritual Journey to Catholicism
- FR ANDREW BLACK
The Annunciation in the Gospel of St. Luke

Workshops

- "THE ART OF FAITH" BEAUTY & TRUTH IN THE TRANSMISSION OF FAITH
Fr Marcus Holden
- THE PERSECUTED CHURCH TODAY
James Bradshaw
- MASS WILL ALSO BE CELEBRATED

Location: DCU All Hallow Campus Dublin 9
Price: €38 Includes dinner, refreshments & social event
To book please go to www.evangelium.ie or search "Evangelium Ireland" on Eventbrite



"God will not be outdone in generosity."
St Ignatius of Loyola

LOVE GENEROUSLY

It's tempting to just do the bare minimum isn't it - whether it's chores at home, homework, assignments, even practicing our faith or saying our prayers.... It's tempting to reassure ourselves that we've done something, which is better than nothing, but deep down we know we're capable of more, and called to more too. Jesus understood this so well. He knew well what the Law represented for the Jewish people, and how many had limited themselves to a minimalistic interpretation, but missed the whole heart of the matter: a loving relationship with God. Jesus Himself came to fulfil the Law, to show us how to live and love generously - just think of the love He lavished on us by giving up His life on the cross! We can't ever match His generosity, but we should try to love generously because He first loved us generously. Only when we open our hearts up to Him and to others will we ever really grow and become the best versions of ourselves. Let's live the commandments in a more complete and fuller manner: let go of hate and anger, of bitterness and impatience, of lust and selfishness, of pride and greed. Let's strive daily to love God with our whole hearts and minds - and ask Him for the grace to do just that! *Keep a watchful eye on your heart this week. Anytime you feel a temptation to only do the minimum in something you're called to and capable of giving more in, push yourself to love and give more generously. Asked to load the dishwasher? Wipe down the counter tops too! Make your bed? Tidy the whole room! Hoover the sitting room? Do the bedrooms too! Give generously!*



Do I love Jesus generously or with the bare minimum? Fr Patrick Cahill
Nothing Else - Cody Carnes

Check out our *To the Heights Youth Newsletter*



Family Prayer

Lord Jesus, may we never settle for the minimum but always choose to give our best and our everything to You. Amen

EVENTS

Family Day at Holy Family Mission: Sunday 26th February, 10am - 3pm. Prayer, Talk, Mass, Music, Fun and Games for all the Family! Bring a packed lunch! Booking is essential: email info@holyfamilymission.ie

Forgiven: Young Adults aged 18-35 are invited to attend an evening of preparation for Lent. Takes place on Zoom from 7-9pm (Ireland Time) on Sunday 19th February. Come on your own or get a group together to watch! More info on www.ascjus.org/youngadult

65th Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage:

Under the leadership of Most Rev Bishop Cullinan. 7 - 12 June. €879 - full board. More info on www.waterfordlismore.ie Enquiries to Joe Walsh Tours 01 2410800 / info@joewalshstours.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

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

WEEKLY
WEEKLY
FORTNIGHTLY

