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Year A 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Acts 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 32(33):1-2,4-5,18-19

Second Reading:

1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel:

John 14:1-12

*'I am the Way, the Truth
and the Life.'*

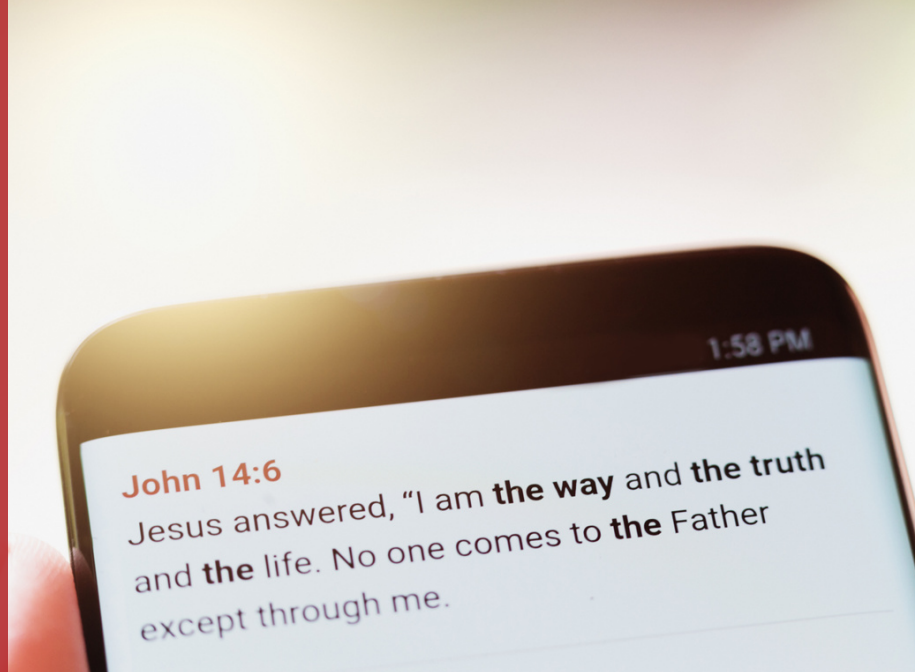


Image: canva.com

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 Jesus explaining His unity with the Father.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Reflect on the phrase: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" this week.
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Way? What implications does that have for your life? Are you looking in other places for happiness or fulfillment?
- Is Jesus is the Truth, what does that mean for how you live your life? Do you look for Truth elsewhere? Do you fill your heart and mind with Scripture and His message?
- Jesus is the Life: how does Jesus give life to your soul? How is He reflected in how you live, in your joy, in your surrendering of your anxieties to him?

Talk

In today's Gospel Jesus explains how He and the Father in heaven are unified.

- Who are you most like in your family - either by appearance or personality?
- Are there any hobbies or interests that your family shares?
- Have you ever said or done something that reminded you of your parents?
- Hopefully our families are good role models for us and can teach us how to be good and loving people, and how to serve God.
- Jesus told the disciples that if they had seen Him they had seen the Father. They could know the heart of the Father through Jesus' words and actions. The heart of the Father is bigger than we can ever understand - let's just lean into that love!

Family Challenge!

Why not take a family photo this week: make it as goofy or as serious as you would like! You could even dress in similar outfits or colours!

Thank God for the gift of your family and ask Him to show you His heart through the love in your family too!

THE WAY, THE TRUTH & THE LIFE

The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told his disciples, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what he has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks his name to his disciples: "I am the way and the truth and the life."

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: "Take the Risk for Christ"

YEAR FOR VOCATIONS TO THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD



Have you ever thought that the Lord might be calling you to be a priest?

Five priests from around Ireland share how they followed their vocation to the Diocesan priesthood, explaining what a priest is and his sublime mission in the world.

This video was made at the request of the National Vocations Office, an office within the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, in honour of the Year for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood held from April 30, 2023 - April 21, 2024. The theme for the year is "Take the Risk for Christ."



"Where I found truth, there found I my God, who is the truth itself."
St Augustine

WHAT IS TRUTH?

In today's Gospel we hear the often quoted line, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Jesus does not present himself as a way, a truth and a life... but as the definitive way, the only truth and the life. Christians believe that Jesus is God, the 2nd person of the Trinity. That statement is either true or false. He cannot both be God and not be God at the same time. The mystery of the Incarnation, God becoming Man, is central to Christianity. Does it make it easy to comprehend? Not always! Yet here we have a God, so invested in humanity, so in love with us that He took on flesh, becoming a tiny baby, suffering our weakness and limitations, to live like us, to show us how to live and to die for our sake. God's love for us is real, tangible - that's the truth. Truth is a difficult thing in today's world. Subjective truth and emotions seem to be the guiding factor most of the time. People can shy away from acknowledging objective truth for fear of offending others' beliefs. Yet, this is the question we each should ask ourselves: is Jesus God or not? He doesn't allow us the option to see Him as just a nice guy or a good teacher. If Jesus is what He said He is, if He is God, if He is the source of all Truth, if He is the Way to Heaven and the Life that we are all searching for, shouldn't we be listening to His voice more?

This week, take some time to really consider what it is that you believe about Jesus Christ. Maybe it would help to write your ideas down. Do your beliefs about Jesus match what the Catholic Church teaches? Spend time in prayer asking Jesus to reveal Himself to you, as he is, not as you imagine Him to be.



Fr Mike Schmitz: What is Real Truth?



The Way (New Horizons): Pat Barrett

Check out our [To the Heights Youth Newsletter](#)



Family Prayer

Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. I want you to be the Way, the Truth and the Life in my life, my family, my home, my work and in all I do. Let me witness to Your Presence to all I meet. Amen

EVENTS

Encounter (for young adults aged 18-35): St John's Church, Parnell Street, Waterford 12th May @8pm. Music, Talk, Adoration, Fellowship!

Meditating with Mary in the month of May: 3 week Visio Divina series with the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tues @ Sacred Heart, The Folly - (9th - 23rd May) following 10am Mass. | Thurs @ St John's, Parnell St - (11th - 25th May) following the 9:30 Mass | Thurs @ Sts. Joseph & Benildus (4th - 18th of May) 7pm. €5 to cover materials. Queries: Sr. Kathryn waterford@ascjs.org 087 404 2784

Catholic Mother's Association Retreat Day: Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, Saturday May 13th. €45. More info on www.holyfamilymission.ie/events

Family Day: Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, Sunday 14th May, 10am - 3pm. Bring a packed lunch! Booking is essential: email info@holyfamilymission.ie

World Youth Day: The Diocese of Waterford & Lismore is inviting young people from the diocese aged 18 - 35 to join us on Pilgrimage to Lisbon for World Youth Day, 31 July - 8 August 2023. €895. Join over a million young people from all over the world for an unforgettable experience! Zoom Info Session: Thurs 18th May at 7.30pm, Meeting ID 840 9562 5229 | Passcode WYD23 More info on www.waterfordlismore.ie/pilgrimages

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

