



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram!



Subscribe to us on YouTube

www.waterfordlismore.ie

Year A 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 65(66):1-7, 16, 20

Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel:

John 14:15-21

*"If you love me you will
keep my commandments."*



Андрей Николаевич Миронов (A.N. Mironov), CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, 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 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?
- Jesus is speaking to His disciples, preparing them for His passion and death, and He promises them another Advocate. What is your relationship with the Holy Spirit like? Do you see the Holy Spirit as an advocate or paraclete, one who intercedes for you? Do you pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and for an awareness of the presence of God at work in your life?
- This week try making a conscious effort to grow your relationship with the Holy Spirit in a personal way, calling on the Paraclete for daily inspiration and guidance.

Talk

In today's Gospel Jesus explains how He will send the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples when He is gone.

- Have you ever had someone you care for move away? What helped you during that time? Did you give them a farewell gift? Or maybe they gave something to you to remember them by?
- Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples to be their friend and guide, the Advocate, when He is gone. The Holy Spirit is always with us, ready to guide us and inspire us in all that we do if we're open to listening.
- What prayers do you know to the Holy Spirit?
- How could you pray more to the Holy Spirit in the next 2 weeks as we approach the great feast of Pentecost?

Family Challenge!

If you pray together as a family already, trying adding the short prayer "Come Holy Spirit" to your regular prayers. If daily prayer isn't yet a habit for your family, trying praying this prayer to the Holy Spirit even as you drive to school or to the shops together! Make it a part of your daily routine!

SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Today's Gospel is a continuation of last week's Gospel: Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. In today's reading Jesus offers encouragement to his disciples, who will soon see him crucified. He reassures them that even though he will leave them, he will not abandon them. Instead he will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus.

Jesus uses the term Advocate to describe the Holy Spirit, whom the disciples will receive. Another word used to describe the Holy Spirit is Paraclete, a legal term meaning "one who offers defense for another." Note that Jesus says that he will send "another Advocate." Jesus himself is the first advocate, interceding for his disciples with the Father.

In today's reading Jesus contrasts his impending departure with the permanence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the disciples.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

Today's reading is one example of the contrast that John's Gospel presents between the community of disciples, to whom God will reveal himself, and the unbelieving world, which will remain in darkness. The unbelieving world cannot accept the "Spirit of truth," whom the disciples will receive. Only through the Spirit will God's revelation and love be known.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: MAY ALTARS



Have you ever created a May Altar in your home? Maybe it's something you did as a child but have fallen out of the practice since.

The tradition of honouring Our Lady in our homes during the month of May with a small "altar" or sacred space has been passed down through the generations in our country.

You can create a space for your altar on a small table, on a windowsill or on a shelf in your home. Check the links here for ideas on how to prepare your altar!

[Knock Shrine](#) | [Real Life at Home](#) | [Catholic Icing](#)



You can't pour from an empty cup!

FILL UP ON GOD'S LOVE

"If you love me you will keep my commandments." That message is pretty challenging. If we say we love Jesus or are at least trying to, we have to keep His commandments. When He was asked what the greatest commandment was, do you remember what He said? "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39) Simple? Yes. Easy? No! Loving God and your neighbour as yourself sounds fine until that one person who drives you insane is in front of you again, or you're let down by someone you trusted, or someone is just being nasty mean to you for no real reason... that's where the rubber hits the road! That's where we need supernatural grace to love, to choose love. Thankfully for us, that supernatural grace is available through the power of the Holy Spirit. Even though Jesus knows how weak and broken we are, He still expects us to keep his commandments because we don't have to do it on our own. He sends us the Holy Spirit, the love between the Father and the Son, to be our Advocate and guide. We fill up on God's love and that love within us impels and compels us to live as Jesus commanded. We can't pour from an empty cup! Let's make sure we fill up on God's love every morning so as to be a true witness to Him every day by how we live, especially how we treat other!

This week, pray intentionally everyday for one particular person who you find it difficult to love. Ask Jesus to fill you with His love as He blesses both them and you!



Fr Mike Schmitz: Love is an ability

Graham Kendrick: Love Each Other

Check out our To the Heights Youth Newsletter



Family Prayer

Come Holy Spirit

EVENTS

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@ascj.us.org 087 404 2784

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

Campa Mhuire Mháthair Catholic Summer Camps for Primary School Children: Ardmore and Tramore in July. (Also in Ballina, Killarney and Mitchelstown). Music, Action Songs, Arts & Crafts, Games, Prayer and a whole lot of fun! More info on <https://www.holyfamilymission.ie/campa-mhuire-mhathair/>

Have you subscribed yet to our Diocesan newsletters and events bulletin? Receive them direct to your inbox!

Click the Subscribe Button OR go to www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources

- Faith@Home / Let's Dive In Newsletters (faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie) WEEKLY
- To the Heights Youth Newsletter (youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie) WEEKLY
- Check it Out! Diocesan Events Bulletin (events@waterfordlismore.ie) FORTNIGHTLY

