

# FAITH @Home

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18 JUNE 2023 | VOL.III ISSUE 28

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



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**Year A** 11TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION BACK IN AUTUMN

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Exodus 19:2-6

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 99(100):2-3,5

Second Reading:

Romans 5:6-11

Gospel:

Matthew 9:36-10:8

*"You received without charge,  
give without charge."*



James Tissot, 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 Jesus sending out his twelve apostles on mission.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- How do you feel when you think about having a mission from Christ yourself?
- Are there elements that confuse you? Excite you? Overwhelm you? Fill you with peace?
- Sometimes we wish for a different life, or different opportunities; we might think it would be easier to be a missionary if we were a priest or religious, or in a foreign country, but what kind of mission do you think Jesus is entrusting to you, in your life, right at this moment in time?
- Pray for the grace to respond to that mission this week!

## Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus send out his apostles with a mission.

- Let's think about our own mission in our family:
  - What kind of contribution does each person in our family make: what are the gifts that each individual has that make our family what it is?
  - What kind of chores or roles can we each take on to help our family and our home grow as places of love?
  - How can our family be a model to other families of the love that God has for us, and that we have for Him?

## Family Challenge!

Spend some time as a family talking about the opportunities we have had, or hope to have in the future to be missionaries for Jesus: by helping others, by sharing his word, by praying for others and so on.

# ONE WHO IS SENT

In today's Gospel, Jesus shares his mission to proclaim the kingdom of heaven with his disciples. The signs of the kingdom's presence consist of the work that Jesus has already been doing: the sick are cured, lepers are cleansed, demons are driven out, and the dead are raised to life. The disciples are sent to continue doing the work that Jesus has begun. This is a moment of transition in Matthew's Gospel. The focus has shifted from the ministry of Jesus to the work of the community that he has inaugurated. More than any other Gospel, Matthew's Gospel elaborates on the work of the Church, which is to continue after Jesus' death and resurrection.

The Gospel reports that Jesus commissions twelve disciples. Many scholars believe that the twelve disciples symbolize the twelve tribes of Israel. It designates, therefore, continuity between Israel and the Church.

Matthew lists the names of the twelve disciples, as do Mark and Luke. Matthew also uses the word apostle when referring to the Twelve. The word apostle means "one who is sent." In this context, Matthew is calling attention to the mission that the twelve disciples are being given. They are sent by Jesus to proclaim the kingdom of heaven in word and deed.

As Jesus sent his disciples to continue his work and mission, so too the Church is sent by Jesus. The Church is his continuing presence on earth. Every member of the Church is sent by Jesus to contribute to this mission.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

## CHECK IT OUT: VOCATIONS IRELAND



*Vocations Ireland is an office made up from members of the many Religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests from Congregations, Societies, Contemplative and Missionary communities in Ireland. Our Mission is to discern, foster and encourage vocations to Religious and Missionary life.*



Click here for: [Diocese of Waterford & Lismore Vocation Information](#) / [Diocesan Prayer for Vocations](#)



"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."  
Theodore Roosevelt

### DISCIPLE OR APOSTLE?

Did you ever wonder what the difference between a disciple and an apostle is? Let's look at the root meaning of the words: Disciple means a personal follower, but apostle means one who is sent out.

The great news is, you're called to both! We talk about the 12 Apostles from Scripture, but we're all called to be apostles. In other words we're all called to be missionaries. That doesn't mean we have to travel to foreign lands. We can be missionaries right in our own home towns, in our schools, our colleges, our workplaces - even in our own families! All that is necessary is a heart that has a burning zeal to spread the Gospel of Jesus. We can do that in our own particular way and in our own particular place: we each have a particular vocation to live out (as well as the universal call to holiness that we all share!) Look at the saints: they had such dramatically different lives and situations, but they lived holiness and carried a desire to spread the message of Jesus to all they met, and they did it in many different ways: some from cloistered convents, seemingly shut off from the world; others from their workplaces or schools; others in family life; others as public martyrs for the faith. What can you do, concretely, to be a missionary?

This week's Challenge:

- Take some time in prayer to honestly ask Jesus what it is He wants you to do with your life. It's unlikely you'll be asked to make a dramatic change right now - but ask Him for the first step along the way!



Are you called to be a missionary? (Fr Mike)



The Cause of Christ - Kari Jobe

To the Heights Youth Resource back in Autumn



## Family Prayer

*Jesus, you have blessed our family with so many good things. Give us opportunities and zeal to share your blessings with all we meet. Amen*

## EVENTS

**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. **Limited spaces.** Join over a million young people from all over the world for an unforgettable experience! Deposit of €200 asap to secure seat. More info on [www.waterfordlismore.ie/pilgrimages](http://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/>

**Home of the Mother: - National Family Encounter** - De La Salle Retreat Centre - Elderfield, Castletown, Co. Laois, R32 N6D8, Sunday 2 July 2023. For more information and to register: <https://forms.gle/gn9mpM1qFYFnZ5rR8>

**Foyer of Charity Silent Retreat:** July 3rd - 9th, Glencomeragh House. Preached by Fr Kilian Byrne (Foyer of Charity). Cost: €400 (full board). Daily Mass, Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, Teachings. Enquiries: Helen 086 1678027 / [hellywilliams@gmail.com](mailto:hellywilliams@gmail.com)

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