

FAITH @Home

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



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Year A 12TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION BACK IN AUTUMN

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 68(69):8-10,14,17,33-35

Second Reading:

Romans 5:12-15

Gospel:

Matthew 10:26-33

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



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 reminding his disciples to not be afraid.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Do you find it difficult to share the message of the Gospel, or even speak the name of Jesus in conversations because you're afraid what others might think?
- Have you a personal story of experiencing the power or mercy or healing or forgiveness of Jesus in your life that you could share simply with others? Pray about this for the week. Ask the Holy Spirit for the courage and the words to use if you have an opportunity to share your faith with others.
- If an opportunity arises to offer to pray for someone else too, go for it!

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus remind his disciples that they will face difficulties but He will always be there for them.

- What are some of the things we are afraid of? What do we do to calm our fears?
- What are the ways our family needs God's help, as a family and as individuals? (*You could even write these down and put them in a basket of prayer intentions this week*).
- What kind of promises is Jesus making to us in this week's Gospel? How can we remind ourselves of these promises?

Family Challenge!

God cares about even the little sparrows - but He cares even more about you! Every time you see a little bird this week, remind yourself (and your family!) that God knows you personally and God loves you! Set a challenge to see who can notice the most little birds and remember to think about God's love for you!

GOD'S OPINION MATTERS

We read today's Gospel in the context of last week's Gospel in which Jesus sent the twelve disciples to proclaim the kingdom of heaven. In between last week's reading and today's reading, Jesus has predicted that the disciples will face difficulties in their mission. Many people will not receive them well, even within the land of Israel. Even family members will turn away from the disciples because of the disciples' commitment to Jesus and the kingdom. Today's Gospel offers the disciples consolation against this difficult truth.

This section of Matthew's Gospel should be read in the context of Matthew's intended audience, a Jewish-Christian community. The Gospel alludes to the dangers and persecutions that this community has most likely already faced and will continue to face. To reassure this community, Matthew recalls for them the encouraging words of Jesus that we read today.

In this Gospel passage, Jesus might be understood as putting suffering in perspective. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to keep their focus on God. Those who can harm the body do not have ultimate power; God does. Still persecution and suffering can not be avoided or prevented. But Jesus reassures his disciples that God knows and cares about what happens to his children.

We might not face the same type of persecution, but we do experience difficulties as we endeavor to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. We need the reminder that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: PAVING THE WAY HOME



A Catholic online apostolate based in Ireland to support the official teachings of the Catholic Church through contemporary forms of media, which aims to bring clarity and truth to what the Catholic Church teaches instead of the confusion and misinterpretation that people often associate with it. Paving The Way Home wishes to discuss and explain the beauty and richness of what the Catholic Church teaches and why it teaches it.



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

FORTITUDE


In this week's Gospel Jesus is still preparing his disciples for mission, and warning them that they will face trials, but not to be afraid.


We don't really like trials do we? We prefer the easier option, the more comfortable option, the way that costs the least personally.

And yet we are called to so much more than that. We are called to be courageous witnesses of the Gospel. We are called to be Light in the darkness for those without hope, we are called to be Truth in a world beset by confusion and doubt, we are called to be Love in a world that can be cold and broken. Through Christ it's possible, but it takes courage or fortitude. Fr Mike explains in this week's video that it's easy to be good when it's easy to be good, it's easy to be honest with it's easy to be honest but it's difficult to be virtuous when it's going to cost me something. If we don't have fortitude, we don't actually have the other virtues either. Sirach 21 reminds us to prepare for trials. They will come our way whether we like them or not but are we ready to face them, as Christian believers? Are we ready to live lives of truth and courage, or do we just want to keep our heads down and blend in?

This Week's Challenge:

- Pray intentionally this week for courage, and when a situation arises, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your words and actions. It might be just a struggle in your own heart, in private, that you need to courageously overcome: but act! We build virtues like muscles through exercise!

 Take Courage (Fr Mike Schmitz)

 Take Courage - Kristene Di Marco

To the Heights Youth Resource back in Autumn



Family Prayer

God, you love us and you know us;
you even know how many hairs
are on our heads.

Help us to feel your love for us more
deeply in our hearts. Amen

EVENTS

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

Visit of Padre Pio Relics to St Mary's Church, Cahir: Saturday 29th July. Healing Mass at 6pm followed by blessing with relics afterwards. All welcome!

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