

FAITH @Home

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2 JULY 2023 | VOL.III ISSUE 30

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



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Year A 13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION BACK IN AUTUMN

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

2 Kings 4:8-11,13-16

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 88(89):2-3,16-19

Second Reading:

Romans 6:3-4,8-11

Gospel:

Matthew 10:37-42

"If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward."



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 speaking a lot about hospitality.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Do you feel you have a heart for hospitality? If yes, thank God for that charism and ask him to provide you with the opportunities to use it. If not, ask the Lord what holds you back: is it fear, being out of your comfort zone, bad experiences in the past? Invite him into that situation.
- Pray this week for all those who have welcomed you in your life, all those who made Christ present to you through their love and warmth. Ask for the grace to do the same for others.

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus remind us of the importance of hospitality and being welcoming.

- What are some of the things we do in our family to welcome guests? What are some ways to be a good host?
- Have we ever been guests at someone else's home? What are some ways to be a good guest?
- Jesus wants us to love Him and love others with our whole hearts. Let's pray for the grace to be able to do that as a family!

Family Challenge!

Make a special effort to make everyone who visits your house over the summer especially welcome! It might mean sacrificing a little more of your time to serve them, but remember that when we serve others, we are serving Jesus himself! Remind yourself of that when you have an opportunity to be a host this summer!

CHOOSE CHRIST IN EVERYTHING

Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the instructions and consolations that we have heard Jesus offering to his disciples during the past few weeks. In this passage, Jesus summarizes both the costs of discipleship and its rewards. Once again our understanding of the Gospel is strengthened by considering the context in which it was written and the perspective of Matthew's audience.

The conditions of discipleship outlined in Matthew's Gospel may appear harsh. Yet they underline for us a truth—choosing anything with one's whole heart has consequences. Choosing life with Christ means that every relationship we have must be understood from a new perspective. For many in Matthew's community, this choice brought division to their family.

Matthew also outlines the reward of hospitality offered to Jesus' followers. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the difficulties of discipleship, yet reveals that those who welcome the disciples have also welcomed him.

Today's Gospel also highlights for us the importance of hospitality in the Christian life. To welcome another in Jesus' name is to extend hospitality to Jesus himself. We have many opportunities in our daily life to reach out to others, to be a welcoming presence and a sign of God's love.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: YOUTH 2000



"Youth leading youth to the Heart of the Church!"

Youth 2000 is a Catholic youth organisation that organises fantastic faith festivals, retreats, prayer groups and other events for young people aged 16-35 across the island of Ireland, and has been doing so for over thirty years. Check out their upcoming Summer Festival in Clongowes College, Co Kildare from 10-13 August - a gathering of over 1000 young people from across Ireland for a weekend of inspiring talks and testimonies, fantastic workshops, great music and great people! Donation only. More info on www.youth2000.ie



"Make Hospitality your special care"
Romans 12:13

HOSPITALITY

On a scale on 1 - 10 how hospitable do you think you are? When you hear someone is calling to your house, what's your reaction? What about when someone is coming to stay? Do you invite people to be part of your life, and welcome their presence? Or would you prefer an easier life, with less self-sacrificing for the sake of others? Would you prefer to be the guest, who is served and honoured, rather than the host who has the responsibility of welcome and care?

Maybe you're a combination of both! Jesus makes it pretty clear in today's Gospel that Christians are expected to be people with welcoming and serving hearts. Not only do we serve others through our actions, but our actions towards them are how we treat Christ too.

Maybe that is a little wake-up call in how we treat others: is this how I would treat Jesus himself?

Would I put him off, do the bare minimum, look after myself first? Or would I make a special effort to invite him in and welcome him as part of my life?

This Week's Challenge:

- Pray intentionally this week for a spirit of hospitality, the gift to be welcoming and loving towards others. In every situation you'd prefer to turn away from and take the easier option, try to see Jesus in that person, and ask yourself how would you treat him?
- Ask God for the graces needed - we're not in this on our own!



Matthew West: Do Something

To the Heights Youth Resource back in Autumn



Family Prayer

*Dear Jesus, grant us loving hearts
that are free to invite and welcome
as you would. Help us to see you in
everyone we meet. 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/>

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!

Youth2000 Summer Festival: National Catholic Youth Festival of faith, fun and fellowship for those aged 16 - 35 years at Clongowes College, Co. Kildare from 10th - 13th August. Donation only. An unforgettable weekend of talks, testimonies, music, drama, prayer, games, time to chill and meet new people and experience faith in a new way. Free bus from Waterford (book early to secure seat!) For more details and information on how to book go to www.youth2000.ie

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