



Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 55:10-11

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 64(65):10-14

Second Reading:

Romans 8:18-23

Gospel:

Matthew 13:1-23

*"But happy are your eyes
because they see, your ears
because they hear!"*



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' familiar parable of the sower.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- What kind of soil do you think your heart is when it comes to hearing the word of Jesus? Are you actively preparing your heart as good soil, through silence and prayer, through actively engaging with the process?
- This week, set aside time for silence and prayer, even just 5 minutes a day, but be consistent. As any gardener or farmer knows, consistency and care is key to growth and harvest. Rather than filling the time with petitions and telling Jesus your concerns, sit quietly and allow Him time to speak to your heart.

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus remind us of the importance of listening to His Word.

- What kind of sounds / noise do we hear everyday in our house? Make a list together!
- How much time do we have for silence? Is there anything we could do as a family to create a little space for silence each day?
- Jesus wants the seed of our faith to grow in our hearts. We need to be able to hear His voice to help that seed to grow. Look for ways this week to "water" the seed through prayer and silence, encouraging each other!

Family Challenge!

Watch the Campa Mhuire Mhathair Into the Deep session on the Parable of the Sower, with lots of games, crafts and songs to help you enjoy this week's gospel! [Campa Mhuire Mhathair 2021: Into the Deep - "Parable of the Sower" \[Junior\] \(Day1\)](#)

All resources you need to print are here: www.holyfamilymission.ie/campa-mhuire-mhathair

ENGAGE WITH GOD'S WORD

Today's Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward—of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

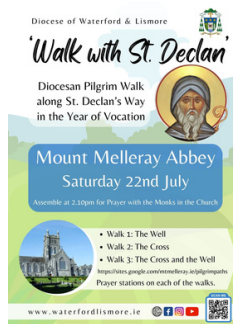
To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: DIOCESAN CAMINO WALK

On **Saturday 22nd July**, the Diocese will undertake a Diocesan Camino Walk in honour of St. Declan whose Feast day we will celebrate on July 24th. There are three walks to choose from, and the paths are outlined by clicking on <https://sites.google.com/mtmelleray.ie/pilgrimpaths>

Walk 1 – The Well; / Walk 2 – The Cross; / Walk 3: The Cross and the Well. All these walks are part of the pilgrim paths that are on St. Declan's Way. There will be short stops along the paths – a time for prayer, including prayer for Vocations in this special year. The walks are open to everyone, including families. When finished, you are welcome to come back to the Monastery, light a candle in thanksgiving for graces you have received on your 'camino' and perhaps enjoy a cuppa and a scone in the café. No booking is necessary. Bring family and friends in your car! Assemble at 2.10 for Prayer with the monks in the Church.



Prayer is to our soul
what rain is to the soil.
St. John Vianney

GOOD SOIL

"Do you do much gardening? Are you from a farming background? If so, you probably can see pretty clearly what Jesus is getting at in today's Gospel. Understanding it is one thing, putting it into practice is another however!"

How are you with silence? Do you find it easy to integrate silence into your day? Do you find it easy to schedule time to pray, and when you pray, to allow some quiet time to allow God to speak directly to your heart?

It's challenging - our brains are busy places and we've so much to keep on top of, to ask for help with, to worry about. But Jesus wants us to allow the seed of faith to grow in our hearts not to allow it to be choked by worries, or burned away because we're too concerned with superficial things; he doesn't want it to be eaten up by distractions and temptations. That's why we need good soil and we can only get good soil through actively creating it in our hearts.

This Week's Challenge:

- Choose a time of day (any time that suits you) and consistently set aside 5 minutes for quiet prayer. Maybe read a few lines of scripture first, but then sit quietly and allow the Lord to speak to you, and listen!



The Daily Replay (Fuller Youth Institute)



The Sower's Song: Andrew Peterson

To the Heights Youth Resource back in Autumn



Family Prayer

Lord God, you planted the seed of faith in our hearts at our baptism. Show us how to water and nourish that seed so that we may grow closer to you! Amen

EVENTS

Holy Family Mission Applications: now open for 2023/2024! Closing Dates: EU residents – 20th August 2023 | Closed for non-EU residents. Email info@familymission.ie for more information

Home of the Mother Day Camps for Girls! Ages 8-12, July 19-21 from 12-5:30pm in the Parish Rooms, Cahir. Sports, drama, games, music, prayer, fun, faith formation, etc., and for only 10 euros a day! Come for one day, or for all three! Contact Sr Rachel Maria for more information: hmactivitiesireland@gmail.com or 087 6323883

Annual Mass at St. Declan's Holy Well, Toor, Aglish, will take place on Thursday 27th July at 12 noon. Confessions will be held before Mass. All are welcome.

Diocesan Camino Walk in honour of St. Declan, Sat 22nd July, Mount Melleray. More info on www.waterfordlismore.ie

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. For more details and information on how to book go to www.youth2000.ie

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

