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**Year A** 22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION BACK IN AUTUMN

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 62(63):2-6,8-9

Second Reading:

Romans 12:1-2

Gospel:

Matthew 16:21-27

*"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.."*



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 familiar words: if we want to be a follower of Christ we must take up our cross and follow Him.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- How do you react initially to the thought of taking up your cross willingly to follow Christ?
- Is there a cross in your life that you are already carrying? Is it something that you are able to unite to Jesus's cross, or are you carrying it by yourself?
- Take some time to pray about your cross(es) this week. Ask Jesus for the courage to unite your suffering with His, and to embrace your cross as He did His, out of love for Him and for others.

## Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus remind us of what it takes to be a follower of His.

- Can you think of an example of a time when you heard news or were given an answer that disappointed you, but later you saw that it was all for the best?
- Jesus' disciples must have been very sad to hear Jesus talk about his suffering and death. It was only after His Resurrection they could understand the victory He won over sin and death!
- What kind of things are happening in your life that you need to hand over to God and trust that He will bring good from?

## Family Challenge!

**If you're not already praying a Morning Offering, try this one!**

*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.*

# SACRIFICE AND SERVICE

Today's Gospel continues the story that began in last week's Gospel. Simon Peter was called the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus' identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him "Satan." In opposing this aspect of Jesus' mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ's disciple is to follow in his way of the cross.

Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way.

Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus' prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called "rock" would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

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## TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY

Life can be really tough, can't it? And it can seem so unfair. Sometimes we might even be tempted to think God has landed us in situations that we can't understand, then walks away and doesn't care about our suffering.

Nothing could be further from the truth. It has been said that Jesus came, not just to die for us, but to show us how to live. Being fully divine Jesus knew what His passion meant: he knew the unfathomable suffering He would have to face, and in his humanity, He wanted to escape from it: he asked for the cup to be taken from Him. But His love for God the Father and for all mankind gave him the necessary strength and determination to actively embrace His cross, the cross which became His crown, and thereby win the greatest victory over sin and death.

How do you react initially to the thought of taking up your cross willingly to follow Christ? Is there a cross in your life that you are already carrying? Is it something that you are able to unite to Jesus's cross? Are you carrying it by yourself and bowing under the weight of it? Remember that Jesus is by your side, offering us His strength to lean on until our crosses become our crowns too.

This week:

- Take some time to pray about your cross(es) this week.
- Can you see any area where they have helped you to grow as a person or in your relationship with God?
- Pray for strength each day to unite your difficulties to his cross, and to say yes to God's will for your life.



Picking up your Cross daily: Fr Mike



CityAight: Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me



To the Heights Youth Resource back in Autumn

## Family Prayer

*Lord Jesus, you have shown us what it is to sacrifice and serve others. You have already made the ultimate sacrifice out of love for us. Help us to take up our daily crosses and follow you.*

## EVENTS

**Intro to Theology of the Body Study Group**, The Foyer of Charity, Dunmore East Waterford, X91 FC65. Mondays 7.30 - 9pm. October 7 - December 4. Prayer, DVD, Discussion, Tea/Coffee. Registration Essential: Helen 086 1678027 / hellywilliams@gmail.com

**Formation Meetings for Families with the Home of the Mother**: Beginning with Adoration at 6:20, formation meeting at 7pm. For new members - Catechesis for parents and games with brothers and sisters for children.

**Conference on Education in the Light of the Current Curriculum Changes**: Saturday 9th September, 9.30am - 4pm. Talbot Hotel, Clonmel. Cost €40. Register at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/educationorindocrination/973973>

**Evangelium Apologetics Conference for Young Adults**: Saturday 7 October, 11am - 4.30pm, Imperial Hotel Cork. €15. Book in advance. More info on [www.evangelium.ie](http://www.evangelium.ie)

**Youth2000 Christmas Retreat**: National Catholic Youth Retreat - faith, fun and fellowship for those aged 16 - 35 years at Newbridge College, 8 - 10 December. Donation only. For more details and information on how to book go to [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

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