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Year A 23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO,

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

Second Reading:

Romans 13:8-10

Gospel:

Matthew 18:15-20

*"For where two or three meet
in my name, I shall be there
with them."*



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 speak about disagreements and unity.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Is there a relationship in your life that has conflict? Do you feel Jesus is calling you to speak with that person, to offer forgiveness or seek forgiveness if you have wronged them? Is there some way you can work towards unity this week? Is resolution isn't possible, can you take a step towards forgiveness and peace in your own heart?
- Pray for the grace this week to handle conflict and disagreement as Jesus asks us to, and to not hold onto bitterness or grudges.

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus remind us how to deal with conflict.

- What kind of things in the house can break - who do we ask to repair them?
- What about when relationships need repairing?
- How does your family deal with conflict situations? How do the children react? How do the adults react?
- What can we learn from Jesus' instructions here on how to deal with someone we are having a disagreement with? Remember that prayer is an important factor!

Family Challenge!

Let this prayer be your family prayer this week:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

DEALING WITH THE REALITY OF CONFLICT

In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word church in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

CHECK IT OUT: SOUND OF FREEDOM

Sound of Freedom is a true story film that exposes the darkness of child trafficking. A federal agent, Tim Ballard, saves a boy from traffickers, but his sister is still captive. He embarks on a dangerous mission, risking his life to free her from a fate worse than death. Starring Jim Caviezel in the role of Tim Ballard in this gripping and moving film.



Watch the trailer.



SETTING BOUNDARIES

"We get the behaviour we are willing to tolerate." It makes sense really, doesn't it? If we allow a friend or family member to be sarcastic or rude to us, they will continue to be sarcastic or rude. If we decide for ourselves that this is not acceptable, if we communicate it clearly and follow through with consequences, it can make a difference. We hope that their behaviour will change, but if not, something inside us can change as we make the decision and follow through.

What about ourselves though? What are we willing to tolerate in our own behaviour? Can we be a little quick to let ourselves off the hook and make excuses for lowering our standards or our expectations of ourselves? Possibly.

There's a definite challenge in that for each of us this week. Is there something I'm not happy with in myself, some thing that I want to change, some standard I know I should reach or virtue I should practice, but I make excuses and settle for less, or even fall into sin? The good news is we're not on our own in any of this. The Holy Spirit can help us to understand what to tolerate (or not) in ourselves and others, give us the grace to set those boundaries and the strength to commit (or recommit if we fall). The first we have to do is decide for change.

This week:

- Take some time in prayer and reflection. Is there someone in your life you need to have a courageous conversation and set boundaries with? Or is there something within yourself that you need to stop tolerating and change? Make a resolution to work on it this week.



Setting Boundaries for yourself and others:
Fr Mike



Steffany Gretzinger: I Spoke Up



To the Heights Youth Resource also available

Family Prayer

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there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
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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.

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

Youth2000 Munster Retreat: Catholic Youth Retreat - faith, fun and fellowship for those aged 16 - 35 years in Midleton Co. Cork, 20 - 22 October. Donation only. For more details and information on how to book go to www.youth2000.ie

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- Check it Out! Diocesan Events Bulletin (events@waterfordlismore.ie) FORTNIGHTLY

