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Year A 27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 5:1-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 79(80):9,12-16,19-20

Second Reading:

Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel:

Matthew 21:33-43

"It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone."



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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 presenting a stark parable, a foreshadowing of His own rejection, passion and death.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Do you find yourself very challenged by this parable? Do you find it easy to listen to the Word of God and apply it in your life? Where am I rejecting God's word to me?
- Can you make time this week for God's Word, even just setting aside 5 or 10 minutes each day to read a passage or line of scripture, and sit with it in silence and prayer. See how the Lord will speak to your heart this week.

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus tell a dramatic parable about people who don't listen to God's word in their hearts.

- Are there rules in your household? What kind of rules are really important? Do people ever need reminding of them? What about when we play games or sport?
- God doesn't want us to respond to His word just because we should or it's our duty. He's a loving Father who sent us His Son Jesus to show us how to live and to die for us so we can get to heaven: do we spend time listening to God every day and telling Him that we love Him and try to serve Him?

Family Challenge!

Colour in the poster at the back of "Let's Dive In" and hang it in a visible place in your home this week as a reminder to "Do the Right Thing". Encourage each other, and affirm each other when you make right choices this week!

ARE WE LISTENING?

Today's Gospel follows directly after last Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus was questioned by Jewish religious leaders about the source of his teaching authority. After refusing to answer their questions, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons and then criticizes the priests and elders for their lack of belief in John the Baptist.

In today's Gospel, Jesus once again speaks to the priests and elders with a parable. In this parable, the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants and sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest that the tenants owe to him. Several times the servants are sent to collect payment, and each time they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the landowner sends his son to collect his rent. The tenants, believing that they will inherit the vineyard if the landowner dies without an heir, plot together and kill the landowner's son.

After telling the parable, Jesus questions the chief priests and elders about what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants. They all agree that the landowner will kill the wicked tenants and give the land to new tenants who will pay the rent.

In telling the parable, Jesus is clearly drawing upon Isaiah 5:1-7, which is today's first reading and one that the priests and elders would have known well. Jesus doesn't, therefore, have to explain the symbolism of the parable; the Pharisees would have understood that the vineyard represented Israel, the landowner represented God, the servants represented the prophets, and the bad tenants represented the religious leaders. Yet Jesus nonetheless explains the meaning of the parable for his audience: the Kingdom of God will be taken from the unbelieving and given to the faithful. The chief priests and elders have condemned themselves with their answer to Jesus' question.

Today's Gospel has a parallel in Mark 12:1-12. There are some notable differences, however. In Matthew's version, the religious leaders condemn themselves; in Mark's Gospel, Jesus answers his own question. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous. Matthew's Gospel was written about 70 years after Jesus' death and reflects the conflicts and tensions found in the Christian community for whom Matthew was writing. Many biblical scholars believe that the tension between Matthew's community and their Jewish neighbours can also be heard in today's reading. This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways—through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers?

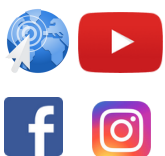
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CHECK IT OUT: THE CHOSEN SERIES



"Created outside of the Hollywood system, The Chosen allows us to see Jesus through the eyes of those who knew him. No matter where you are at in your journey with Jesus Christ, this show is for you."

A free Bible series, offering insight into and deeply personal encounters with the disciples of Jesus, bringing the characters and events to life in a new way, and opening our eyes to a new encounter with Jesus ourselves. Watch online, download the App or join us in our October Diocesan zoom series!



LEARN FROM BLESSED CARLO

Sometimes Jesus' parables are a little easier to listen to: sheep being found, mustard seeds growing big and tall, sons reuniting with their fathers... and then there are parables like today: violent attacks and even murder. This is a pretty challenging story. It's important to consider the context first: Jesus was telling this story to the chief priests and elders, the ones who knew the Law and the scriptures inside out, the ones who should have been obeying God's law and loving him without reserve. Yet Jesus is comparing them to the tenants, who were put in charge of God's "vineyard": throughout history, God's prophets and his word were rejected again and again... and Jesus, God's Son, would be rejected, beaten and sentenced to death. That was a pretty stark comparison to make with the pharisees... but let's apply it to ourselves today. Am I open to God's word? Am I willing to step away from the crowd and follow Him? Am I willing to build up His Kingdom in whatever way I can? Am I willing really follow Jesus?

This coming week we have the feast day of an amazing role model to look to for inspiration: Blessed Carlo Acutis, who died from leukaemia at age 15, who once said, "I am happy to die because I know I have not wasted a single minute of my life doing what was not pleasing to God." Look at Carlo's life for a model of holiness in the ordinary things of life!

This week:

Read about the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis. How can you put God first in your life like he did? What can the first small step be? Decide for change and ask Carlo to guide you!



The Life of Bl. Carlo Acutis (Ascend)

Hillsong: From the Inside Out



To the Heights Youth Resource also available

Family Prayer

God, open our hearts to hearing your Word and give us the grace to put it into action in our lives. Amen

EVENTS

The Chosen TV Series: Beginning Tues 10th Oct (8pm) on zoom or Wed 11th Oct (2.30pm) in person in St John's Pastoral Centre, Waterford. For more info contact Sr. Kathryn 087 404 2784 or waterford@ascj.us.org

Encounter for Young Adults: Friday 13th October, 8pm in St John's Church, Parnell Street, Waterford. Talk, music and prayer followed by pizza and chat! For 18-35 year olds. More info on www.waterfordlismore.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

Holy Family Mission All Saints Party: Monday 30th October, Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House. Prayer, Talk, Mass, Music, Fun and Games for all the Family! 11am - 2pm. Bring a packed lunch. For more info email info@holymission.ie

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- Faith@Home / Let's Dive In Newsletters (faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie) WEEKLY
- To the Heights Youth Newsletter (youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie) WEEKLY
- Check it Out! Diocesan Events Bulletin (events@waterfordlismore.ie) FORTNIGHTLY

