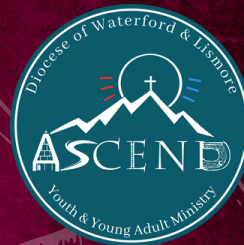




To the Heights



Year A 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Download from www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources or subscribe to receive by email!



YOUTH 2000

Young people from the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore with Bishop Cullinan at the Youth 2000 Summer Festival. The next Munster retreat is 20 - 22 October - check it out in our events section!

HEAR: Sunday Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14



If you don't have a Bible handy, click the image here to access the Mass readings for this Sunday!

Fr Mike Schmitz

WATCH:

TWO MARKS OF CHRISTIAN EXCELLENCE



PRAY:



Lord Jesus, I want to be the best version of myself. I want to use the gifts and talents you have given me, I want to reach my true potential. I know this is only possible with and through you. Please don't let me settle for mediocrity, but help me to strive for excellence in everything I do. Amen

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Take some time this week to look at any area where you're struggling with being prompt and prepared. How is this impacting your life? How could it be better? Are you prompt and prepared when it comes to practicing your faith, or are you like the wedding guest who just turned up with no commitment or genuine effort on your behalf especially in matters of faith?



GAMECHANGERS:

ST LUKE, EVANGELIST

18 October

Luke was believed to be a doctor and an artist also, and is credited with painting an image of Our Lady.

Click the image to discover more about St Luke.

The Catholic Church offers us so many examples of inspirational saints and heroes, or as we like to call them here, **Game Changers!**

More Gamechanger resources available on our website.



TUNE!

The Motions

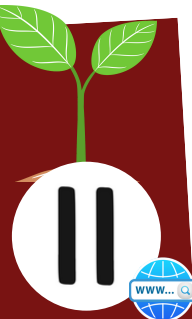
Matthew West



GROW:

RESOURCES: ONE MINUTE PAUSE APP

Take a pause. A simple way to connect with God in the middle of your busy day. From John Eldredge, the New York Times Best Selling Author of *Wild at Heart* and *Captivating*. Based on the One Minute Pause chapter of his new book "Get Your Life Back", this app invites you into the simple practice of releasing everything to God, restoring your union with God and inviting him to fill you.



EVENTS

The Chosen TV Series: Beginning Tues 10th Oct (8pm) on zoom (over 18s) 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@ascjus.org

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

Prayer Vigil for Vocations: with the Sisters of Mary Morning Star. 22nd October at 3pm at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity. Blessing with relic of St John Paul II.



www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry



AscendWaterfordLismoreYM



ascendwaterfordlismore.ym



Ascend Youth Ministry

PUZZLE

FIND THE WORDS FROM THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW



bind
called
chosen
crossroads
feast
guests
invitation
king
seized
servants
troops
wedding garment
weeping

T	H	J	M	V	G	W	H	R	G	F	S	E	I	Z	E	D
H	R	G	I	M	U	Z	P	A	I	N	C	H	O	S	E	N
E	I	O	G	A	E	U	B	A	M	Z	I	S	W	M	V	E
S	R	S	O	M	S	Q	X	H	H	K	X	K	S	A	K	S
M	S	N	S	P	T	I	A	F	A	K	A	V	E	V	W	J
D	F	C	H	N	S	J	C	C	E	X	T	L	F	O	G	S
O	D	T	A	X	I	E	H	L	A	E	N	Y	G	E	E	K
A	V	N	X	K	G	A	W	Y	Q	O	C	J	S	T	Q	U
F	S	J	I	X	L	P	D	G	I	R	G	O	H	N	O	O
L	T	T	Z	B	B	E	W	T	O	S	N	F	K	Z	X	U
Q	N	Z	D	I	L	K	A	S	N	E	I	O	E	M	E	X
Y	A	H	U	L	Y	T	S	V	T	A	P	E	Z	A	P	O
C	V	C	A	M	I	R	O	K	E	H	E	S	H	W	S	S
S	R	C	E	V	O	S	J	E	O	F	E	N	A	G	B	T
Y	E	Q	N	A	M	I	T	E	B	Q	W	E	X	K	K	Q
W	S	I	D	U	B	V	D	Q	E	W	R	G	E	G	P	O
M	K	S	T	N	E	M	R	A	G	G	N	I	D	D	E	W

Can you explain how any four of these words relate to the message of the Gospel?

What do you think God could be saying to you in this Gospel? What speaks to your heart? Maybe it raises questions, maybe it's a little uncomfortable, maybe it offers hope... what matters is that we are open to hearing God speak to us individually.

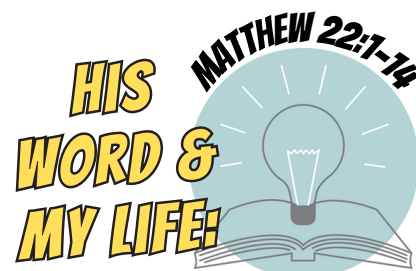
RESPOND!



DOODLE PRAYER

Reflect on scripture quote and allow thoughts and images that come to you to form part of your doodle prayer: it could be people or situations that need prayer or even areas you might need to change in. Certain words or phrases might stand out for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart as you pray and doodle!

**'FOR MANY ARE CALLED,
BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN.'**



"Anything worth doing is worth doing well": Sound familiar? Sound easy? We can all look for the easy option at times - staying in our comfort zones, wanting things handed to us - who wouldn't want that? There's a lot going on in this parable: the first part is easier to understand. God invites many into His Kingdom, the wedding feast of His Son (Jesus) but many refused the invitation - just like many refused to listen to the prophets in the Old Testament (the servants in the parable). So God goes beyond the Jews, the Chosen People, and others are invited into the feast, the Kingdom of Heaven. For the Elders and Pharisees at the time of Jesus this would have been shocking, but it's a concept we're more familiar with these days. Maybe too familiar... that's why the next part can still jar with us. One guest comes, not properly dressed and is thrown out. Would God really kick someone out of his kingdom for not being properly dressed? That sounds ridiculous, and it's not actually what's going on here. It's a reminder to us that all are invited, but we need to actively decide for Christ. We need to strive to reach our Christian potential with promptness and preparedness and not settle for a life of mediocrity. We were made for more!



[Click here for some relaxing instrumental music](#)
SPONTANEOUS WORSHIP | TWO HOURS OF WORSHIP PIANO



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

*"To live without faith, without a heritage to defend, without battling constantly for truth, is not to live but to 'get along'; we must never just 'get along'!"
Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati*

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REALLY EXCELLENT AT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE POSSIBLE OBSTACLES TO THAT?

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ "HOW TO BE EXCELLENT (NOT A PERFECTIONIST)" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



Why is perfection sometimes called "the enemy of the good"?

If excellence is not the same as perfection, how could excellence be defined?

Fr Mike suggests two factors or metrics to see if we are striving for excellence or just settling for mediocrity:



PROMPTNESS

Give 4 examples of promptness Fr Mike suggests:



Finish the quote: "Punctuality is the _____"

How would you explain this in your own words?



(BEING) PREPARED

How did Fr Mike explain the importance of being prepared for having an excellent liturgy? How is it different to being just very skilled in each role?

How can we honour God by being prompt and prepared?

What are we using / maximising?



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

MATTHEW 22:1-14

Have you thought about this before? How would it change things for you if you applied this to your actions? Pick one area of life and reflect on this: it could be prayer / Mass attendance / serving others / school work.

SITUATION: _____

HOW I COULD BE PROMPT & PREPARED _____

THE DIFFERENCE IT COULD MAKE _____



Now Read Matthew 22:1-14



"Anything worth doing is worth doing well": Sound familiar? Sound easy? We can all look for the easy option at times - staying in our comfort zones, wanting things handed to us - who wouldn't want that? There's a lot going on in this parable: the first part is easier to understand. God invites many into His Kingdom, the wedding feast of His Son (Jesus) but many refused the invitation - just like many refused to listen to the prophets in the Old Testament (the servants in the parable). So God goes beyond the Jews, the Chosen People, and others are invited into the feast, the Kingdom of Heaven. For the Elders and Pharisees at the time of Jesus this would have been shocking, but it's a concept we're more familiar with these days. Maybe too familiar... that's why the next part can still jar with us. One guest comes, not properly dressed and is thrown out. Would God really kick someone out of his kingdom for not being properly dressed? That sounds ridiculous, and it's not actually what's going on here. It's a reminder to us that all are invited, but we need to actively decide for Christ. We need to strive to reach our Christian potential with promptness and preparedness and not settle for a life of mediocrity. We were made for more!



MISSION!

TAKE SOME TIME THIS WEEK TO LOOK AT ANY AREA WHERE YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH BEING PROMPT AND PREPARED. HOW IS THIS IMPACTING YOUR LIFE? HOW COULD IT BE BETTER? ARE YOU PROMPT AND PREPARED WHEN IT COMES TO PRACTICING YOUR FAITH, OR ARE YOU LIKE THE WEDDING GUEST WHO JUST TURNED UP WITH NO COMMITMENT OR GENUINE EFFORT ON YOUR BEHALF ESPECIALLY IN MATTERS OF FAITH?



PRAYER TIME!

Lord Jesus, I want to be the best version of myself. I want to use the gifts and talents you have given me, I want to reach my true potential. I know this is only possible with and through you. Please don't let me settle for mediocrity, but help me to strive for excellence in everything I do. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON STRIVING IN FAITH



- Matthew West: The Motions
- Matt Redman: The Heart Of Worship
- Brian Doerksen: Today I Choose
- Phil Wickham: Battle Belongs

"Go do what you know is right" (Fr Patrick Cahill)

How do you think this video relates to this parable?