



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram!



Subscribe to us on YouTube

www.waterfordlismore.ie

Year A 33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 127(128):1-5

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel:

Matthew 25:14-30

"Well done, good and faithful servant; ...come and join in your master's happiness."



Андрей Николаевич Миронов (A.N. Mironov), CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

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 telling the parable of the talents.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- A talent was a measure of silver. We can view this Gospel in terms of the Three Ts: time, talent and treasure. This week reflect on each of these and see how you are using them to serve others and glorify God.
 - Am I using my time well? Do I serve others or think only of my own needs? Do I start well but when things get inconvenient for me, I drop them?
 - What talents has God given me? A generous heart? Organisational skills? A beautiful singing voice? How can I serve with these?
 - Am I using what wealth I have to serve others, without neglecting those in my care?

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus explain how God wants us to use the gifts He gives us well, and to serve others.

- What kind of gifts and talents do our family have? Who is using their gifts really well to serve others? Is there any gift that anyone has that could be used more? (this might be better as a silent question)
- God entrusts us with gifts so that we can help others. Can each person make a list of ten ways they can use their gifts to serve other people? (Think of the three Ts: time, talents, treasure)!

Family Challenge!

Keep your list (of ten ways to serve others and use your talents, time and treasure well) in a visible place and choose at least one each day to do. If you fail, just try again - the important thing is that in our heart we want to serve God and others - we can always start over! You might find new ways of using your talents during the week too - add them to your list! Maybe you could try this for Advent too!

PASSIVITY IS NOT AN OPTION

This week's Gospel speaks of how Jesus' disciples are to conduct themselves as they await the Kingdom of Heaven. In the preceding passages and in last week's Gospel, Jesus taught that there is no way to predict the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. His disciples must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to receive the Son of Man at any time.

Jesus' parable talks about Christian discipleship using economic metaphors. Before he leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to his servants a different number of talents, giving to each according to their abilities. A talent is a coin of great value. Upon the master's return, he finds that the first and second servants have doubled their money, and both are rewarded. The third servant, however, has only preserved what was given to him because he was afraid to lose the money. He has risked nothing; he did not even deposit the money in a bank to earn interest. This servant is punished by the master, and his talent is given to the one who brought the greatest return.

Read in light of last week's parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, this parable teaches that God's judgment will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God's judgment on us will be severe. On the other hand, if we make use of these gifts in service to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even more responsibilities.

This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbour. God's grace allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.

Loyola Press - Sunday Connection

CHECK IT OUT: **ADORO TE DEVOTE DESIGNS**



Looking for some Catholic-themed clothing and merchandise? Check out new company, Adoro Te Devote Designs.

Share your faith in style with modern Catholic clothing, unique designs, beautiful artwork and Catholic gifts for all occasions.



DO YOU LIKE SURPRISES?

It's been said that love can be spelled "I-L-M-E"... we put our time and our treasure into what we love. Today's parable is an interesting one. Each servant was given a measure of silver, a number of talents, according to their ability to use or invest them. We shouldn't look to others and wish for their lives, we each have been given exactly what we need to serve others and give glory to God in the situations we find ourselves in. There's a simple phrase that's worth remembering: "Blossom where you're planted!" If we don't use the time, treasure and talents we have at our disposal, but instead wish for another situation in life, or to be someone else, we miss out on the exact opportunities God has given to us to become the best version of ourselves. False humility isn't helpful either: if you are good at something, there's no point pretending that you're not, but rather use that gift for others! The amazing thing about all of this is that whatever we give, we know the Lord will bless and multiply. Think of the little boy with the loaves and the fish - all Jesus needed was his yes to feed thousands! Whatever we have been given, let's give it back to God, using it to do good for others and glorifying God by our attitude and actions!

This week:

Take some time this week to take an honest look at your time, your talents and your treasure. How can you use these to serve others and bring glory to God? What concrete changes do you need to make?



"Time, talent, treasure for others" Fr Patrick Cahill



The Afters: Well Done

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



Family Prayer

Jesus, may we always use our gifts and talents to serve you and others. Amen

EVENTS

St Joseph's Men's Prayer Group: Wednesday Evening in St. Saviour's Church, Bridge Street, Waterford: 7pm Exposition, Mens Adoration, Benediction, Faith 7:45pm Formation & Group Sharing, ending with Tea and Biscuits

Family Day: Sunday 26th November at Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House. 10am - 3pm. Prayer, Talk, Mass, Music, Fun and Games for all the Family! Bring a packed lunch! Booking is essential: email info@holymission.ie

Fire in the South: A Catholic Charismatic Outreach Movement to enable people to encounter the personal love of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Zoom on Wednesday with companionship, music, sharing, prayer, the odd funny story, Sacred Scripture and adoration. Zoom ID: 86141473152 / Password: fire / Wednesdays 8 to 9.15 p.m.

Advent Evening of Reflection: The Transforming Power of Love facilitated by Sr Antoinette Dilworth rsj, St John's Pastoral Centre, John's Hill, Waterford, Thursday 30th November at 7.30pm. All welcome!

Have you subscribed yet to our Diocesan newsletters and events bulletin? Receive them direct to your inbox!

Click the Subscribe Button OR go to www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources

- 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

