

# FAITH



# @Home

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

*Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!*



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**Year A** 34TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

## Sunday Mass Readings

**First Reading:**

Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 22(23):1-3a,5-6

**Second Reading:**

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

**Gospel:**

Matthew 25:31-46

*"I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."*



Metropolitan Museum of Art, CC0, 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 reflect on the Kingship of Christ, Jesus the Shepherd King who will

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- If Jesus Christ is King of the Universe, do I also allow Him to be King of my life, and of my heart? Am I willing to follow His ways, to trust in Him to provide? Do I believe He is just? Pray this week for an increase in trust in Jesus' loving plan for your life.
- If I were to judge myself according to the acts required in this Gospel, how would I measure up? Is there something there in particular I can pray about and work on this week?

## Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus explain the final judgement.

- In what ways are sheep different to goats? Is it easy to identify a sheep from a goat?
- Is it always easy to identify what's going on in a person's heart? Only Jesus really knows our hearts and our intentions. That's why at the end of time, He is the one who will know if we have really done acts of mercy for others or not!
- Look up the spiritual and corporal acts of mercy and put them somewhere where you will see them in your home!

## Family Challenge!

Jesus is the King of the Universe - and He's a good King who loves us all. How can we act like Jesus is our King? How can we carry out acts of mercy? What kind of things does He ask us to do? How can we build His kingdom by the way we show love to others?

# ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE

Today's Gospel passage is the conclusion of Jesus' discourse with his disciples. It is about the end of time, the coming of the Son of Man, and the final judgment. We hear this description of the final judgment at the conclusion of our liturgical year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of Matthew's Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of Matthew's report on Jesus' life and ministry; the remaining chapters report the events of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes to his disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones—the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies himself with the least ones.

Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ himself.

When we read today's Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew's Gospel, we learn the extent to which Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept him who suffered and died on the Cross as one of the least ones.

Loyola Press - Sunday Connection

CHECK IT OUT: **WORDS OF WISDOM SERIES**



Are you ready for a supernatural life? Drawing inspiration from sacred scriptures, delve into the profound truth that God desires us to experience life to the fullest. Join us on a spirit-filled series of encounters, revival, and purpose with speaker **Emily O'Shea (Diocese of Waterford & Lismore)** as she unpacks life in the Spirit. Tune in to words of wisdom: 'The WOW Series' on Shalom World!



## THE KING OF MY HEART

Kings and Queens - they seem pretty far removed from our everyday life. We read about them in Hello Magazine, or follow their activities on Instagram, or TV shows - that's if we have any interest at all in royal lives. They live surrounded by wealth, grandeur, high security and not a lot of privacy.

Today we celebrate Jesus Christ as King. You couldn't find a more different model of Kingship anywhere. Born into a poor stable, an animal feeding trough for his bed, living a simple life, earning his wages as a carpenter in a small obscure village in Israel. He came to build a different type of Kingdom. He came to serve and not be served, to speak out for the poor and the marginalised, to bring healing and forgiveness, to set people free, to ultimately give His life for others.

The idea of a King with a crown of thorns, and a cross instead of a throne, is a jarring one. Yet 2000 years on, other kingdoms have fallen, and His remains and will continue to remain. The question is, will I let Him be King of my heart? Will I allow Him to guide me and my actions? Will I be proud to belong to Him? Will I carry out acts of mercy for others like He mentions in today's Gospel?

### This week:

*This week, reflect on the place you reserve for Jesus in your heart. Read the inspiring stories of Bl. Miguel Pro and St José Sanchez del Rio, whose lives were driven by the cry, "Hail Christ the King!"*



Christ the King (Chris Stefanick)



King of my Heart Kutless

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



## Family Prayer

Angels, saints and nations sing :  
"Praised be Jesus Christ our King;  
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,  
King of love on Calvary!"

## 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

**Special Remembrance Mass at Holy Family Mission:** on Thursday November 30th @ 7:30pm. Live-streamed on [www.churchservices.tv/glencomeragh](http://www.churchservices.tv/glencomeragh) You are welcome to email any names you would like to be included in prayers at Holy Family Mission throughout the month of November to [info@holymission.ie](mailto:info@holymission.ie)

**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!

**Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat:** Newbridge College, Co. Kildare. 8 - 10 December. For 16 - 35 year olds. Donation only. Great talks, music, prayer and an opportunity to meet young Catholics from all over Ireland. More info on [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie)

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