

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 B 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 24(25): 4-6, 7b-9

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel:

Mark 1:14-20

"The time has come, and the Kingdom of God is close at hand."



By Pietro da Cortona - Bridgeman Art Library: Object 58808, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49852892>

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 reflect on Jesus calling Peter, Andrew, James and John to be Fishers of Men. You might like to watch this extract from [The Chosen Season 1](#) to help you reflect.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Jesus didn't waste time calling those He wanted to be His Apostles. Put yourselves in the shoes of the men mentioned in today's passage - how would you respond to Jesus saying to you, "Follow Me"?
- These men left everything and followed Jesus - what do you find difficult to leave behind or aside to follow Jesus? What has a hold of your heart that you need to hand over to God to free yourself to do His will more?

Talk

In today's readings we hear about Peter, Andrew, James and John dropping everything for Jesus.

- Have you ever had to change your plans suddenly - how did it feel?
- Can you think of a time when you just had to drop everything and go somewhere - maybe someone was sick or needed to be collected?
- What makes us willing to drop everything? It means we're choosing something more important, doesn't it? There's nothing more important than choosing to follow Jesus, but that doesn't mean it's always easy. Let's ask the apostles to pray for us!

Family Challenge!

Put up the poster "Follow Me" in a visible space in your house this week. Whenever you need to choose, or make a decision, ask yourself - which choice leads me to follow Jesus better? Ask Him for the grace to be faithful followers this week and always!

URGENCY AND IMMEDIACY

Today we begin a continuous reading of Mark's Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry.

As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

Taken from Loyola Press - Sunday Connection

CHECK IT OUT: WORD OF THE YEAR GENERATOR



A one word reminder can be a powerful tool for having the right mindset and focus. Some people like to choose a word for the year that they feature on their Vision Board. Others pick a word a month. As long as the word and timeframe mean something to you then it's a great habit to start. For example, think about the word 'Believe'. Having the word displayed somewhere you see it regularly might be just the thing you need in a moment of hopelessness. Or perhaps it is a mental trigger that Christ will strengthen you and give you courage in all your activities.

Check out <https://christianplanner.com/pages/word-generator> for just one of many word generator options.



LET'S GET TO WORK!

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls Peter and the other apostles to follow Him, to become 'fishers of men' instead of fishermen. There's no way they could have understood what that actually meant at the time or how it would really change their whole lives, but they trusted in Him.

Do you ever wonder what your personal mission is? You definitely have one - God has given you a particular mission and way of serving Him and others that no-one else can do in the same way! You don't need to figure it out all at once. But it's a good idea to keep it in mind.

Here are some tips to figuring it out: 1. With every decision, just do the next good thing (and then the next after that.) i.e. make good daily decisions. 2. Be open and honest about who you are (and ask God who He created you to be). 3. Discern your gifts and talents For more ideas, read this blog from LifeTeen by clicking here!

This Week:

Write out a list of your strengths and talents. Be honest about them! Maybe ask someone who knows you well to list some too. And then Ask God how He wants you to use those gifts and talents.

▶ Fr Mark Mary: "God has a mission for you"

🎧 Newsboys: Fishers of Men

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



Family Prayer

Jesus, you call us to follow you. Help us to have the radical courage and strong faith in you that we need to be witnesses to your life and love in our world today. Amen

EVENTS

Encounter: for young adults aged 18 - 35 in St John's Church, Parnell Street, Waterford. Starts at 8pm with talk, prayer and music. Finishes with pizza and chat! Newcomers always welcome

Songs of Praise: 28th January at 5pm in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Waterford. Join local choirs singing Waterford's favourite hymns in aid of The Samaritans and Friends of the Cathedral Music which supports the cathedral music programme for young musicians

Family Day: Sunday 4th February in Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary. 10am - 3pm. Bring a packed lunch. Donation only. Pre-booking is essential - email info@holymission.ie

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