

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 LENT

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Exodus 20:1-17

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 18(19):8-11

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel:

John 2:13-25

"Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market."



canva.com

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 find ourselves at the scene of Jesus driving out the moneylenders from the Temple.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Do the actions of Jesus surprise you in this Gospel? Where do you think His anger came from? What did He want the people there to understand?
- Where is your own heart when it comes to worship? Do you take opportunities to call to the Church when you can, to bless yourself passing a Church, to reverently be in the presence of our God in the Church? Have you an opportunity this Lent to go to Eucharistic Adoration?
- Ask Jesus this week to help your heart grow in worship and a desire to pray this Lent.

Talk

In this week's Gospel, we hear about how Jesus' anger at the moneylenders in the temple.

- How would you describe the behaviour of people at a football match? What kind of behaviour is expected and acceptable there? What about a concert?
- Would that kind of behaviour be appropriate for Mass? Why or why not?
- How do we show love and reverence to God when we come to Mass or when we enter a Church? Why is it important for us to show reverence to God - how does it help us and our understanding of God and what worship and prayer means?

Family Challenge!

Visit the Church together this week outside of Mass time. Remember to reverently genuflect and kneel, to make the sign of the Cross, to sit quietly and prayerfully, focusing your prayer and worship on God. Make a real effort in the silence to allow room for God to speak to your heart!

THE QUALITY OF OUR WORSHIP

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.

We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

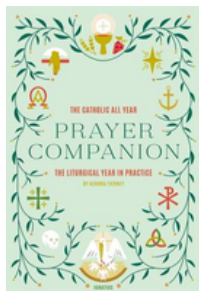
Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection.

During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

Loyola Press - Sunday Connection

Check
this
out



THE CATHOLIC ALL YEAR PRAYER COMPANION

The Liturgical Year In Practice by Kendra Tierney
The Catholic deposit of faith and tradition is wide and deep! There are so many different devotions and ways to pray that it's impossible for anyone to ever use them all, let alone in a busy family. Fortunately the liturgical calendar is here to help!

These prayers and practices are a great way to connect with the Bible, the Saints, the Church, and your family throughout the year. Without paging through stacks of books, you can easily access hundreds of beautiful devotions for every season of the liturgical year. Produced with busy families in mind, Kendra Tierney brings these jewels of the Church into your home and family. Available at [Knock Shrine Online Store](#) or [Amazon](#)



THE HEART OF WORSHIP

Can you imagine what went through Jesus' heart and mind in today's Gospel story: to go to the one place where the Jews could worship God and see it polluted by commerce and corruption instead of true love and worship for His heavenly Father? No wonder He cleansed the temple! It's good for us to take time every now and then to examine our own hearts, especially since we are temples of the Holy Spirit. How fit for worship and praise is my temple for God? Are there things that are taking my attention away from God? Are there habits I've formed that are leading me away from who He created me to be? Am I more concerned about what others think than what God thinks of me? What needs to be cleared out of my life so that I can really worship God on His terms and not mine? Am I placing Him first, or just squeezing Him in if there's room? Do I trust in Him to provide for me or do I hold onto things tightly? Do I take joy in God or do I look for superficial ways to fulfil me? Do I love God, or at least try to love Him to the best of my ability and ask Him for the grace to love Him more? Maybe we need to do a bit of clearing out ourselves...

Take some time this week to examine your priorities. How much of your heart do these things take up? Are these things bringing you closer to God and to becoming the best version of yourself? If not, where can you reduce or remove them? Maybe you could even make a good Confession this week and avail of the graces God wants to offer you to start afresh!

Does God Need Us to Worship Him? (Fr Mike)
 Heart of Worship - Matt Redman

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



Family Prayer

Jesus, help us to never lose sight of you in all we do, in our prayer, our worship, our actions and thoughts. May we strive to know, love and serve you always. Amen

EVENTS

40 Hours of Adoration for Vocations: at locations around the Diocese in February and March. Check www.waterfordlismore.ie for more details

Family Day: Sunday 10th March 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

Encounter: Friday 8th March for young adults at St John's Church, Parnell St. Waterford from 8pm. Talk, music and prayer, pizza and fellowship! www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry

ARISE Catholic Family Festival: May Bank Holiday Weekend in Tramore, Co. Waterford. Great speakers, workshops, games, catechesis and activities for all the family. More info on www.arisefamilyfestival.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

