

FAITH @Home

17 MARCH 2024 | VOL.IV ISSUE 12

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



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Year B 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT | ST PATRICK'S DAY

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,14-15

Second Reading:

Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel:

John 3:14-21

*"The hour has come
for the Son of Man to
be glorified."*



[[File:Saint Patrick Catholic Church (Junction City, Ohio) - stained glass, Saint Patrick - detail.jpg|Saint Patrick Catholic Church (Junction City, Ohio) - stained glass, Saint Patrick - detail]]

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 Jesus is speaking to His disciples about his upcoming Passion, Death and Resurrection.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Have you ever experienced a time of loss or change that only when you looked back on it could see how it was necessary for growth, like the kernel of wheat falling to the ground?
- Are there any ways you feel Jesus is calling you to die to yourself in these closing days of Lent? Maybe Lent hasn't been as fruitful as you had hoped, or you fell away from some of your resolutions. How can you answer His call to serve and follow Him in these coming days leading up to Palm Sunday?

Talk

In this week's Gospel, we hear Jesus talking about serving and following Him, as well as His upcoming Passion.

- Have you ever heard anyone ask, "What's in it for me?" Why do you think a follower of Jesus should never ask a question like that?
- Jesus taught His followers through His words and His actions that we are called to serve others, and put their needs and love of God before our own wants and desires.
- Is this difficult to do? Can you think of a time in the past week or two where you had a choice whether to serve your own needs or the needs of someone else. What did you do? Were you acting as Jesus would want you to act?

Family Challenge!

Lent will soon be over and we will be celebrating Holy Week. What extra effort can we put into Lent now? How can we serve others in practical ways, through our actions, words and prayers? Pick one extra thing to do this week for Lent and put your very best effort into it each day!

SELF-SACRIFICE

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

Loyola Press - Sunday Connection

Check
this
out



CABRINI (MOVIE)



Cabrini follows Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant whose heart and ambition helped her to build an empire of compassion for the least fortunate of New York City. Eventually becoming the first American saint of the Catholic Church and one of the most inspiring entrepreneurs in American history, Cabrini devoted her life to fighting for the happiness and health for individuals in the margins of her society. Her determination to serve those in need—and fight the obstacles and bigotry that stood in her way—will inspire all audiences to fight harder and love better.

In selected Irish cinemas this weekend.



DYING TO SELF

"What's in it for me?"

"What's in it for me?" Have you ever heard someone speaking that question, or have you ever spoken it yourself? Our world today can teach us to look out for Number One, to put yourself first or you'll be trampled on, to make sure you get what you want, no matter what the cost to others might be. Yet Jesus calls us to a higher standard, because He knows we have been made for greatness, and part of that greatness involves dying to ourselves and serving others. As St Francis of Assisi said, "It is in giving that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life." Think about the kernel of wheat Jesus mentions in the Gospel today. A seed is not meant to stay as a seed, it's called to so much more, but there will always be an element of change and loss in that process: For a seed to achieve its greatest expression, it must come completely undone. The shell cracks, its insides come out and everything changes. To someone who doesn't understand growth, it would look like complete destruction. (Cynthia Occelli)

We are sometimes called to say no to something so that we can say yes to something better. We will never regret saying yes to Jesus and what He wants for us.

This week, in the run up to Palm Sunday, make a real effort make this your best Lent ever, even if it's just for the last week. Look for opportunities each day to self-sacrifice for others. Pray for the wisdom to see them, and the strength to carry them out!



Holy Ground: Passion

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



Family Prayer

Father, may we glorify you by how we live our lives, how we serve others, die to ourselves and follow your Son.

Amen

EVENTS

Enlighten: Scripture, Theology, Philosophy, Adoration & Tea! Sisters of Mary Morning Star, The Friary, Lady's Lane, Waterford. March 22nd, April 19th, May 24th (age 18 - 35)

"Rooted in Christ" - Cherished Catholic Women's Ministry Retreat: Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary E91H584. April 26th - 28th. Cost: €220 Join us for our third annual Cherished Retreat as we discover our dignity as women of God, rooted in Christ! Mass | Adoration | Rosary | Healing Service Confession | Testimonies | Creative Workshops | Fellowship | Tea & Chats! For more info: Shauna (087) 1378364. To book: info@holymissionmission.ie or call 052 6133181 (Age 18+)

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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