

# 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 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 98:1,2-3,3-4

Second Reading:

1 John 4:7-10

Gospel:

John 15:9-17

*"You did not choose me, no, I chose you and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last"*



www.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 Jesus shares with us that love is the greatest of all the commandments.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- As you enter into a time of prayer this weekend, find a place where you are comfortable having a conversation with Jesus. Why not visit Jesus in the Tabernacle of your local Church if possible or consider journaling your thoughts?
- Think of people who have shown you what love is and pray for them. For each person, give thanks to God for them and tell Him why you are thankful for them.

## Talk

In today's Gospel we see Jesus explaining to us how to love others.

- Sometimes it can be hard to love people who have hurt us or let us down in the past.
- Is there someone in your life who you find hard to express your love? Share the experience of this challenge with those in your family or a close friend
- Are you patient and kind to the people around you? Where do you struggle with this the most?
- How does Jesus love? How did He love those He encountered in His time?
- Does knowing you are loved by God change how you see and love others?

## Family Challenge!

Create a box for prayer intentions this week and write down the names of anyone who comes to mind who you love and those who love you. Pray for them especially this week!

# FRIENDSHIP NOT SERVITUDE

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is agape. The second is philia. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, philia. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God. Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

Check this out

## ALL-IRELAND ROSARY RALLY 2024

The All-Ireland Rosary Rally will take place on Saturday 1st June at Knock Eucharistic and Marian Shrine, County Mayo, Ireland. The All Ireland Rosary Rally has taken place every year at Knock for over forty years. Last year over 10,000 people travelled from the four corners of Ireland to attend the rally. The day will consist of Marian talks, Rosary Procession, Stations of the Cross, and Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Cullinan.



## LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Our world loves heroes, our world needs heroes; those who are able to rise above and beyond the pettiness and worries of every day life; those who are willing to sacrifice themselves in the service of others; to show just what goodness, even greatness, humans are capable of; those who direct our attention to higher ideals and purpose in life.

Emil Joseph Kapaun, born in 1916 in Kansas, was ordained a Catholic priest, and became a United States Army chaplain in 1944 in World War II and later chose to re-enlist for the Korean war. He died as a prisoner of war in Korea in 1951 after seven brutal months in a Korean prison camp.

Father Kapaun heroically served his fellow prisoners, acting like a father and a mother to them in their needs, keeping their spirits up with his humour and his dedication to God. In 1993, he was declared a Servant of God by Pope John Paul II and was presented, posthumously, with the Medal of honor by President Barack Obama in 2013. In fact, he is the most decorated military chaplain in US history. Check out his story in the video below!

**Fr Kapaun (Real Life Catholic)** A resource on Fr Kapaun's life is available to download at [www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry). too

**Surrender (Marc James)**

To the Heights Youth Resource also available

## Family Prayer

*Lord, teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Show us how to put each other's needs above our own, to bring peace and joy to our home, to pray for and support each member of our family, this week and always. Amen*

## EVENTS

**International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles around the World:** Designed and created by Blessed Carlo Acutis. April 28th - 12th May at Sacred Heart Church, The Folly, Waterford. Solemn Opening at 3pm on April 28th. Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm / Sat: 11am - 5pm / sun 2pm - 6pm. Closed for lunch 1-2pm.

**"More than Conquerors" - Men's Retreat:** Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary E91H584. May 10th - 12th. Cost: €220

**Procession in honour of Our Lady of Waterford:** Saturday 18th May at 3pm. Starts in St Saviour's Church, Bridge Street, passing the Old Walls of the City and by the Black Friary. Concludes in Cathedral.

**Family Day:** Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary E91H584. 10am - 3pm. Donation only. Booking is essential.

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