

FAITH @ Home

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15 SEPTEMBER 2024 | VOL. IV ISSUE 29

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



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Year B 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MONTH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 50:5-9

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 114(116):1-6,8-9

Second Reading:

James 2:14-18

Gospel:

Mark 8:27-35

"Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's"



Get Thee Behind Me Satan, James Tissot, Public domain, 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](#).

Pray



In today's Gospel, Jesus rebukes Peter for trying to prevent Him from being faithful to God's will.

- *What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?*
- The job of Satan is to tempt each of us from the path that God has planned for us - which is to become a great saint! A good way to recognise the work of Satan in our life is through the lies that we tell ourselves. These lies include: *I am not loved or loveable; nobody cares about me; God cannot forgive me for my sins; my feelings do not matter; I am not free to express what I think; I am alone or I don't need anybody's help.* Sometimes we can tell ourselves these lies without even realising!
- This week, pay attention to your thoughts and notice when these kinds of lies and fears are triggered. Recognise that it is Satan at work, trying to take your peace and steal your identity as a beloved child of God. Then use Jesus' words to rebuke Satan: *"Get behind me Satan!"*

Family Prayer



O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.

Talk

In today's Gospel, Peter recognises that Jesus is the Messiah, or Saviour. Peter knew that this meant God the Father had sent Jesus to save us. He had expectations about what this would mean. He knew it was good news, but he didn't understand what would happen. Discuss the following as a family:

- Tell a story about a time that something turned out in a way that you did not expect.
- Think about a time when you were told something that you didn't want to hear. How did you respond? Why do you think Peter didn't want to hear that Jesus would suffer and die?
- Who is Jesus to you at this time? How would you describe your relationship with Jesus to someone? How can you deepen this relationship with Jesus?

Family Challenge!



Remember that God is always working in our lives in ways that are beyond our imagination. Pray this week's psalm, Psalm 114, together everyday this week as a morning offering!

THE PATH WE ARE INVITED TO TAKE

Today's reading is the turning point in Mark's Gospel. In the presentation of the life and ministry of Jesus found in the Gospel of Mark, the deeds of Jesus have shown Jesus to be the Son of God. Yet many, including Jesus' disciples, have not yet realized his identity. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples for a field report by asking what others say about him. He then turns the question directly to the disciples and asks what they believe. Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ.

The word Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah, which means "the anointed one." At the time of Jesus, the image of the Messiah was laden with popular expectations, most of which looked for a political leader who would free the Jewish people from Roman occupation. Jesus does not appear to have used this term for himself. As we see in today's reading, Jesus refers to himself instead as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures, found in the Book of Daniel and in other apocryphal writings. Many scholars suggest that the phrase Son of Man is best understood to mean "human being."

Now that the disciples have acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he will be rejected, must suffer and die, and will rise after three days. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely. The image of Christ that Jesus is giving is not the image of the Messiah that Peter was expecting. Jesus then teaches the crowd and the disciples about the path of discipleship: To be Christ's disciple is to follow in the way of the cross.

We can easily miss the fear that Jesus' words must have evoked in his disciples. Death by crucifixion was all too familiar as a method of execution in Roman-occupied territories. It was also an omnipresent danger to the Christian community for whom Mark wrote. The path that Jesus was inviting his disciples to share meant tremendous suffering and death. This is the kind of radical commitment and sacrifice that Jesus calls us to adopt for the sake of the Gospel.

Loyola Press: Sunday Connection

Check
this
out

PRAY AS YOU GO



Pray As You Go is a daily prayer session, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly whilst travelling to and from work, study, etc.

Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection.

The style of prayer is based on Ignatian Spirituality.



CARLO'S CORNER

CARRY YOUR CROSS

Life can be really tough, can't it? And it can seem so unfair. Sometimes we might even be tempted to think God has landed us in situations that we can't understand, then walks away and doesn't care about our suffering. Nothing could be further from the truth. It has been said that Jesus came, not just to die for us, but to show us how to live. Being fully divine Jesus knew what His passion meant: he knew the unfathomable suffering He would have to face, and in his humanity, He wanted to escape from it: he asked for the cup to be taken from Him. But His love for God the Father and for all mankind gave him the necessary strength and determination to actively embrace His cross, the cross which became His crown, and thereby win the greatest victory over sin and death.

How do you react initially to the thought of taking up your cross willingly to follow Christ? Is there a cross in your life that you are already carrying? Is it something that you are able to unite to Jesus's cross? Are you carrying it by yourself and bowing under the weight of it? Remember that Jesus is by your side, offering us His strength to lean on until our crosses become our crowns too.



How to pick up your cross (Fr Mike Schmitz)



Passion, Kristian Stanfill - Follow You Anywhere

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



Events

Visit of Relics of St Bernadette: 17th & 18th September. The relics of St. Bernadette will visit the Diocese and a programme of events will be held in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity over the two days. More info on the programme and resources to accompany the visit can be found on www.waterfordlismore.ie or www.stbernadette.ie

The Chosen Series, Season 3 on Zoom: Tuesdays 8-9.30pm in October and November. Watch an episode of Season 3, discuss and pray together. To register contact Sr Kathryn 087 4042784 or waterford@ascjjs.org

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