

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 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MONTH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 53(54):3-6, 8

Second Reading:

James 3:16-4:3

Gospel:

Mark 9:30-37

"Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me"



Jesus and the Little Child, 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 teaches his disciples that the greatest are those who serve all.

- *What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?*
- Imagine you are one of the disciples who has been journeying with Jesus or the little child wrapped in Jesus' arms. As you meditate on the Gospel, as yourself the following questions. You might like to use a journal to write down your thoughts:
 - Where do you find yourself most focused and open to hearing Jesus speak to you?
 - Have you ever been confused by Jesus' words or actions? Were you ever afraid to question Jesus?
 - How might you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus for a comfortable conversation? What topics do you think Jesus might bring up?

Family Prayer



Holy One, I ask you to help each member of our family to be completely humble and gentle in our interactions with each other; and to be patient, bearing with one another's faults in love - even when we're tired, frustrated, angry, or hurt. Help us to make every effort to remain united in the Spirit in this home. Please bind us together in peace.

From jesuitresource.org

Talk

Jesus takes the time in this week's Gospel to teach the disciples a very powerful truth. The key to greatness in the Kingdom of God is very different to the greatness of the world. Discuss the following as a family:

- Have there been moments in your life where you sounded like the disciples in today's Gospel? Have you ever been jealous of other people's talents and abilities?
- Who is someone you consider to be "great" and why? What is it about them that makes them great in your eyes?
- What are some of the things that society tells us are "great" but which differ from the definition of greatness given to us by Jesus in this week's Gospel?
- What can you do this week to grow in child-like love and commitment to Jesus?

Family Challenge!



Take some time this week to come up with an affirming family mantra. An example would be: "I belong. I am special. I am loved." Include it as part of your family's grace before meals!

THE PATH WE ARE INVITED TO TAKE

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus again predict his passion, death, and Resurrection to his disciples. The setting here is important. Jesus and his disciples are preparing to journey through Galilee, a Jewish territory in which Jesus has already encountered problems with the Pharisees. Perhaps this is why Mark indicates that Jesus was trying to journey in secret. In predicting his passion, Jesus is acknowledging the danger they will face and is trying to preparing his disciples for it. Yet Mark tells us that the disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying and were afraid to ask what he meant. Such hesitation on the part of the disciples is not characteristic behaviour. Peter had no fear about rebuking Jesus in last week's Gospel. Perhaps this is an indication that the disciples were aware that a new situation was emerging.

Mark paints a vivid picture in today's Gospel. Having arrived at Capernaum, Jesus and his disciples enter a house. In this private place, Jesus asks his disciples about the argument they had while they were journeying. Again, the disciples are uncharacteristically silent and afraid to answer. They have been found out. Jesus then summons the Twelve, whom Mark identified earlier in his Gospel as those chosen by Jesus to preach and to drive out demons. To this select group of disciples, Jesus teaches that those who would be first in God's kingdom must be servants of all.

Jesus then calls forward a child and teaches the Twelve that to receive a child in Jesus' name is to receive both Jesus and the One who sent him. We might easily fail to understand the significance of this action. In first-century Palestine, children were without status or power, possessing no legal rights. In this action, Jesus is teaching his disciples and us that when we serve the least ones among us, we serve Jesus himself. Who are the people without power or status in our society that Jesus is calling us to serve? Do we do so willingly? Jesus teaches that God's judgment of us will be based on this criterion alone.

Loyola Press: Sunday Connection

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CARLO'S CORNER

ARE YOU AN INFLUENCER?

Imagine the scene - Jesus trying to teach his disciples that He, as God, would perform the greatest act of humility the world has ever seen on Good Friday, and just a short time later He overhears them squabbling about which of them was the greatest. That must have been a cringe-worthy and really humbling memory for them as they went to go make disciples of all nations!

Yet, it's easy for us today as well to misunderstand what real leadership and real influence means. It's incredible to think that we can play a role in helping someone else become the best version of themselves, to become a saint! But how seriously do we take that responsibility? Are we ready and willing? Do we ever even think much about it?

Jesus makes it pretty clear in today's Gospel: we're called to humility and service. Fr Mike's video challenges us to ask ourselves if someone modelled their lives on ours, would they become a great saint? I don't know about you, but I've a lot of reflecting to do on that one myself this week!

This week, let's make a conscious effort to consider how our actions, words and life can influence those around us - and try to help others become the best versions of themselves!

Influencing the World (Fr Mike Schmitz)

Litany of Humility (Thomas Muglia)

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



Events

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@ascj.us.org

Creation Surf Retreat for Young Adults:
Young Adult Retreat for Body, Mind and Soul. Saturday 28th September, 10am - 3pm. Tramore, Co. Waterford. Experience the exhilarating sport of surfing and have the opportunity to discover how God is relevant in your life today. €29 per person. Bring a packed lunch, towel & swimwear, wind / rain jacket. To book contact: 086 3914908 | info@freedomssurfschool.com

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