

# FAITH @ Home

www.waterfordlismore.ie

29 SEPTEMBER 2024 | VOL.IV ISSUE 31

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram!



Subscribe to us on YouTube

Year B 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MONTH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Numbers 11:25-29

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 18(19): 8,10,12-14

Second Reading:

James 5:1-6

Gospel:

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

*"No one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us"*



The Exhortation to the Apostles, 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, we hear Jesus speak strongly to the disciples after John complained about someone driving out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus responds to John by saying, *"no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me"*.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Do your choices reflect your relationship with Jesus? What sin(s) are you struggling with at the moment?
- When was the last time you received God's mercy and forgiveness in Confession? How do you feel about approaching Jesus and confessing your sins to him? If you are anxious about confession, watch this video from Ascension presents: [Confession is a Place of Victory](#)

## Family Prayer



*Jesus help us this week to see what habits in our lives are keeping us from getting closer to you, and closer to each other. Help us to cut out anything that is a block to us becoming the best versions of ourselves, and a united family. Amen*

## Talk

Jesus reminds us in this week's Gospel that we must have courage to speak on his behalf to others. The spirit of God can move when and where the Spirit wills. Consider the following:

- Why do you think John was so upset by the man casting out devils in Jesus' name?
- Why did Jesus not want them disciples to stop him?
- Reflect back on the last week. What are some examples of good deeds and actions that you witnessed or experienced?
- How have you contributed to the building up of God's Kingdom by your words and actions this week? Share one example that comes to mind
- What are some of the "obstacles" in your life that affect your relationship with Jesus? What steps can you take to remove these obstacles?

## Family Challenge!



Pray in a special way this week for those who do not know God. Ask God to make himself known to those who do not believe or who have turned away from Him.

## DON'T CREATE OBSTACLES

Today we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

Loyola Press: Sunday Connection

Check  
this  
out



LOYOLA PRESS     

In the spirit of Saint Ignatius of Loyola who points us always to personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and in response to those they serve, they create books and multi-media products that facilitate transformative experiences of God so that people of all ages can lead holy and purposeful lives with and for others. Check out their free online Sunday Connection resources with ideas for all age groups, Saint Stories, Liturgical Year resources, and more.



## CARLO'S CORNER

CUT OFF MY HAND?!?  
SAY WHAT NOW?!?

*That's some pretty dramatic language in today's Gospel: If your right hand or foot causes you to stumble, cut it off! If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out!*

*Jesus isn't asking us to maim ourselves, but He is asking us to rid our hearts and our lives from anything that actually is causing us to stumble in our relationship with Him, with others and with ourselves.*

*Are we suffering from pride, thinking we're better than others? Are we eaten up with jealousy, even wishing others to fail? Are we selfish and self-centred? Are we sarcastic and bitter? Do we gossip about others and ruin their reputations?*

*These are all things that we seriously need to cut out of our lives. Jesus doesn't say maybe we should perhaps think about making changes - He's really clear. If something is causing us to sin, to hurt others and ourselves, then we have to cut it out of our lives.*

*This week, try to come up with one area of your life where you know you need to change, to do better, to be more loving, less critical, less divisive, less selfish. Then take His advice: cut it out. It's all about becoming the best version of yourself!*

 3 QS TO ASK TO PREVENT GOSSIPING (FR MIKE)

 MEAN GIRLS (LEANNA CRAWFORD)

*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](mailto:waterford@ascj.us.org)

**Diocese of Waterford & Lismore Eucharistic Adoration Retreat**

Sunday 6th October 2 - 5pm in St Mary's Parish Church Clonmel. 2pm Rosary / Confessions; 2.15pm Retreat Talk; 2.45pm Tea / Coffee Break; 3.15p, Silent Adoration; 4.00pm Celebration of Holy Mass. All are welcome.

**Have you subscribed yet to our Diocesan newsletters and events bulletin? Receive them direct to your inbox!**

**Click the Subscribe Button OR go to [www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources)**

- Faith@Home / Let's Dive In Newsletters ([faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie)) WEEKLY
- To the Heights Youth Newsletter ([youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie)) WEEKLY
- Check it Out! Diocesan Events Bulletin ([events@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:events@waterfordlismore.ie)) FORTNIGHTLY

