

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 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Genesis 2: 18-24

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 127(128)

Second Reading:

Hebrews 2:9-11

Gospel:

Mark 10:2-16

"They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide."



Christ among the Pharisees, JACOB JORDAENS, 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 the Gospel today we hear Jesus speak strongly about the value of marriage and family life. His message is challenging, but a very important one at the same time.

Take some time this week to reflect on the key message of this week's Gospel. Think about the following:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do Jesus' words resonate with you personally?
- Where do you need help from Jesus as a family? Take some time to talk honestly with Jesus and invite Him into your family life.
- Do you think you have childlike faith and trust in Jesus to provide for all your needs? Is this something you need to practice more, individually and as a family?

Family Prayer



Lord Jesus, thank you for the love you have for our family and for all families. Bless us this week and in the weeks ahead, and teach us how to be always loving, generous, truthful and faithful to each other and to You. Amen

Talk



Jesus reminds us in this week's Gospel that marriage and family life are hugely important in the building up of God's Kingdom. Keeping promises and commitments can be challenging, especially as we grow older.

Discuss the following as a family:

- What kind of promises do we make as a family? Are some harder to keep than others? What makes it difficult to keep a promise?
- Why is it important that we keep commitments to our family, even when they are difficult?
- What kind of things do you think Jesus would want us to do as a family to honour our commitments to each other?
- Can we each think of one thing each this week that we can promise each other to do as a sign of our love and faithfulness e.g. clean our rooms, not complaining, greeting each other with a smile, praying together as a family...?

Family Challenge!



Ask Jesus for the grace to stay faithful to the promises you decided on, and check in with each other throughout the week to see how you are getting on with them!

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

In today's Gospel the Pharisees question Jesus about the lawfulness of divorce. Under specific conditions, divorce was an accepted practice among the Jewish people during the time of Jesus. It was regulated by the Law of Moses, (Deut 24:1-5). This law only permits that a husband may divorce his wife if he finds her to be indecent. This is the justification that the Pharisees reference when Jesus inquires about the commandment of Moses. In reply, Jesus quotes from the Book of Genesis and counters that God's original intention was that men and women would become one flesh in marriage. Jesus describes the teaching of Moses as a concession made to God's original intention because of human stubbornness.

In private, Jesus' disciples question him further about this teaching on divorce. It is to his disciples that Jesus lays out the implications of his teaching by explaining that remarriage after divorce is adultery. Jesus' teaching was more restrictive than the teaching of the Pharisees, which permitted remarriage. Jesus further distinguished his teaching from the cultural norms of his time by applying his words equally to men and women. Jewish culture permitted only that a husband may divorce his wife. Wives were not permitted to divorce their husband for any reason, including adultery.

Both of these passages present a strong picture of Jesus' emphasis on the importance of family. God intended for women and men to be joined together in marriage. Among the purposes of marriage is the raising of children. By welcoming children and fostering their relationship with God, parents and families bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

At the end of today's Gospel, the people were bringing their children to Jesus, and again Jesus' disciples show that they just don't get it. Recall that in the Gospel for each of the past two Sundays, Jesus has taught his disciples the value and importance of these "little ones" in the Kingdom of God. Yet in today's Gospel, the disciples try to prevent people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus reprimands his disciples and welcomes these children. Again Jesus offers these children as an example of the kind of complete trust and dependence upon God that ought to be the attitude of all believers.

Adapted from Loyola Press: Sunday Connection

Check
this
out

HALLOW APP

Hallow is a Catholic prayer app that offers audio guided meditation sessions to help us grow in our faith & spiritual lives and find peace in God. Explore over 500 different sessions on contemplative prayer, meditation, Catholic Bible readings, music, and more .e.g Daily prayers, Christian Meditation, Bible Sleep Stories, Rosary, Ignatian Examen, Lectio Divina, Taizé & Gregorian Chant, Community, Homilies & Guests, Praylists, Challenges, Litanies & Novenas and Minute Meditations. There really is something there for everyone!



CARLO'S CORNER

WHAT LOVE REALLY MEANS

Families are so dear to Jesus' heart Today He speaks about how we need to care for the little ones, the children and the vulnerable ones in society. He also provides some tough teaching on the seriousness of marriage and its indissolubility. Marriage break-up can, without a doubt, cause deep wounds and sadness for the couple and their families, and some have even had to leave their marriage for their own safety. Today is an opportunity to pray for those who are suffering, and for marriages that are in difficulty.

We cannot get away either from the words of Jesus in this Gospel, as He speaks about marriage as more than just a contract, but rather as a "covenant". Contracts are for goods and services, and are conditional. Did you know, however, that marriage is meant to be an image of God's faithfulness? His covenants are unconditional. They cannot be broken, and that is why the vows of marriage are supposed to be unbreakable too, "till death do us part". For this reason, the Catholic Church views the Sacrament of marriage as a very solemn thing, a beautiful thing, not to be entered into lightly.

This week, think about the music / tv programmes you hear / watch and how they present love and marriage? Do they reflect the full Christian understanding?

 WHY LOVE IS MORE THAN FEELINGS (FR MIKE)

 WHAT LOVE REALLY MEANS (JJ HELLER)

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

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.

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