

# 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 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 125 (126)

Second Reading:

Hebrews 5:1-6

Gospel:

Mark 10:46-52

"What do you want me to do for you?"



Healing of the Blind Man by Jesus Christ, Carl Bloch, 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 a familiar story of Jesus healing the blind man, Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus needs Jesus' help and is insistent in crying out to Him, despite attempts at quietening him.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do Jesus' words resonate with you personally?
- Do you call out to Jesus with confidence when you need help? Do you believe that He really wants to heal you, to help you? Do you believe that He really listens?
- Bartimaeus' faith saved him, according to Jesus. Do you need to ask Jesus to strengthen your faith more this week?

## Family Prayer



*Lord Jesus, increase our faith in You. Show us how to pray with expectant faith, trusting that You always hear our prayers and answer them in the way that is best for us. Amen*

## Talk

Jesus was surrounded by a large crowd as he left Jericho in today's Gospel, yet he did not overlook the needs of one blind beggar by the roadside. Jesus is always compassionate, and always sees our needs.

Discuss the following as a family:

- Can you think of a time when you really needed help, and someone stopped what they were doing to help you?
- When you pray, do you really believe Jesus is listening, or has it become more of a habit? What do you really need Jesus' help with this week?
- What would it be like to be blind, or deaf? What would you miss the most?
- What kind of things make it difficult for us to see Jesus, or see the needs of others? What distractions are keeping us from prayer?

## Family Challenge!



Try to cut out one thing this week that is keeping you from time with Jesus. It might be a TV programme, a computer game or scrolling on your phone. Use that time to pray instead!

# THE POWER OF PRAYER

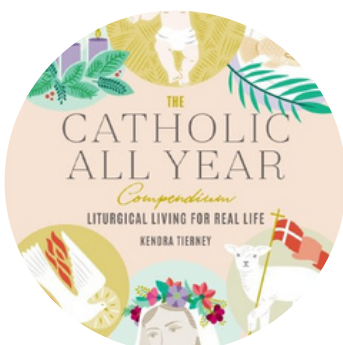
Today we find evidence of Jesus' fame in the sizable crowd that accompanies him as he journeys to Jerusalem. Jesus' reputation as a healer has preceded him. When the blind man, Bartimaeus, hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, he calls out to him, asking for his pity. When Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, the crowd around him tries to silence him. Yet Bartimaeus persists, calling out more loudly and with greater urgency. He will not be silenced or deterred from getting Jesus' attention. We notice how quickly the crowd's reaction changes when Jesus calls for Bartimaeus. Those who sought to quiet him now encourage him.

When Jesus restores Bartimaeus's sight, no elaborate action is required. In this instance, Jesus simply says that Bartimaeus's faith has saved him. Throughout Mark's Gospel, the success of Jesus' healing power has often been correlated with the faith of the person requesting Jesus' help. For example, it is because of her faith that the woman with the hemorrhage is healed. When faith is absent, Jesus is unable to heal; we see this after his rejection in Nazareth.

Once his sight has been restored, Bartimaeus follows Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. In Mark's Gospel, Bartimaeus is the last disciple called by Jesus before he enters Jerusalem. Bartimaeus hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, but he calls out to Jesus using words of faith—"Son of David." Many in Jesus' time believed that the anticipated Jewish Messiah would be a descendent of King David. Bartimaeus's words prepare us for the final episodes of Mark's Gospel, which begin with Jesus' preparation for the Passover and his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As Mark has shown us in our readings over the past few Sundays, however, Jesus will be the Messiah in a way that will be difficult for many to accept. Jesus will show himself to be the Messiah through his suffering and death.

Adapted from Loyola Press: Sunday Connection

## Check this out THE CATHOLIC ALL YEAR COMPENDIUM



If you have been wondering how to bring the rich traditions of the Catholic Church's liturgical year into your family life, this is the book for you. If you have no idea what the liturgical year is, but you are looking for ways to bring your faith home from Sunday Mass—in every season, all year long—this is the book for you too.

Book by Kendra Tierney: available on Amazon



## CARLO'S CORNER

Do you cry out to God for help?

Imagine being Bartimaeus in today's Gospel: blind, outcast, in a seemingly hopeless situation. You hear that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by. You know what He is capable of. Of course you cry out to Him for help.

Jesus saw the depth of His faith, and moved by His infinite compassion, He healed Bartimaeus and restored his sight.

Sometimes we can be blind, spiritually, emotionally or intellectually. Sometimes we can feel outcast or alone. Do we have Bartimaeus' faith and trust in Jesus? Are we willing to make an effort to really effect change in our lives? When we pray, do we really cry out, do we really pray actually expecting results, or do we assume nothing will really change anyway? God won't always answer our prayers in the way we might like, but He will always answer them. We can be certain of this. We should pray with an expectant faith, faith in a God who knows us, loves us and only wants what is best for us.

Take some time to honestly think about your faith. Where are you at in your relationship with God? Are you actively trying to grow in your relationship? Are you stuck in a rut? Have you maybe given up caring or trying to grow? Are there things that are blinding you spiritually or intellectually?

If you can, go to confession this week. If not, spend some time in honest reflection and prayer.



• WHY IS FAITH A VIRTUE? DO WE NEED FAITH? (FATHER MIKE SCHMITZ)



• WALK BY FAITH (JEREMY CAMP)

To the Heights Youth Resource also available

## Events

**A New Saint for Ireland?** The heroic life of the Servant of God Fr Willie Doyle SJ. Tuesday 29th October, St John's Church, Parnell Street, Waterford. 6.30pm Mass / 7.15pm Talk by Patrick Kenny, Fr Willie Doyle Association. Hosted by the Legion of Mary.

**All Saints Party: dress as your favourite saint!**

Holy Family Mission. Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary. Sun 3rd November, 10am - 3pm. Bring a packed lunch. Pre-booking essential.

Email [info@holymission.ie](mailto:info@holymission.ie)

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