

To the Heights

Year c 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Download from www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources or subscribe to receive by email!



SPOTLIGHT!

Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat at Newbridge College drew hundreds of young people from all around the country to prepare for Christmas through prayer, music, workshops, talks, confession and a whole lot of fun and friendship! Find out when the next Youth 2000 retreat is on or where your nearest prayer group is at www.youth2000.ie

HEAR! Sunday Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

If you don't have a Bible handy, click the image here to access the Mass readings for this Sunday!



FR MIKE SCHMITZ



WATCH:

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

PRAYER FOR JOY!

My God, You know me by name and You love me, with an eternal love that never fades. Show me how to base my joy on You, because in You my joy will be complete, no matter what circumstances come my way. You delight in me - help me to truly believe that! Amen



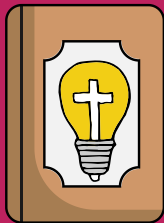
PRAY



WEEKLY CHALLENGE!



Take some time over the next few days or weeks to make a good examination of conscience. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you try to remember any areas of your life where you failed in your relationship with God, others or yourself; times where you failed to show love or deliberately ignored God's will or guidance for your life. Find out when your local church has confessions and decide to go. you can pray for the priest in advance too!



REFLECT

- What recommendations does John make to each group in this Gospel?
- Why do you think he makes a specific recommendation rather than general comments?
- Think about apologies - is it better when someone apologises for specific wrongs, or just offers a general "I'm sorry". What's the difference?
- What do you think John the Baptist would say to politicians, church leaders, parents, and young people today?
- If John the Baptist were to look you in the eye, what would he suggest that you need to change?

TUNE!

Make Room
Casting Crowns



GROW

Do you want to find out more about your vocation and what God is calling you to in life? Check out www.called2mission.org

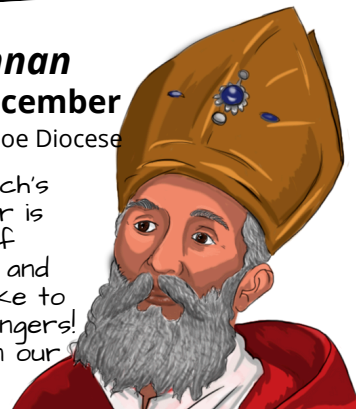


GAMECHANGERS! St Flannan 18th December

Patron of Killaloe Diocese



The Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar is crammed full of inspirational saints and heroes, or as we like to call them, Game Changers! Check them out on our web page!



www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry



[AscendWaterfordLismoreYM](https://www.facebook.com/AscendWaterfordLismoreYM)



[ascendwaterfordlismore.ym](https://www.instagram.com/ascendwaterfordlismore.ym)



[Ascend Youth Ministry](https://www.youtube.com/AscendYouthMinistry)



PUZZLE

FIND THE WORDS FROM THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW

- announce
- baptise
- chaff
- expectancy
- fire
- Good
- Holy
- intimidation
- John
- News
- powerful
- sandals
- soldiers
- someone
- Spirit
- strap
- tax collector
- threshing
- tunics
- water
- wheat

M	B	P	G	D	Y	P	W	A	T	E	R	Z	E	S	R
L	B	U	O	H	W	I	H	S	Z	S	Q	S	T	T	O
Y	F	O	H	W	B	O	O	E	A	L	I	T	U	R	T
U	G	O	I	K	E	L	X	N	S	T	E	H	N	A	C
S	D	H	Z	M	D	R	D	E	P	R	R	R	I	P	E
Y	L	O	H	I	D	A	F	A	T	K	I	E	C	X	L
S	D	M	E	Z	L	N	B	U	X	I	F	S	S	K	L
I	O	R	Q	S	W	H	N	L	L	Y	R	H	R	A	O
Q	S	M	B	H	L	O	N	E	W	S	B	I	X	Q	C
A	J	U	E	P	O	J	D	Z	N	C	J	N	P	G	X
A	E	A	L	O	F	S	S	T	B	E	P	G	R	S	A
G	T	V	A	N	N	O	U	N	C	E	U	W	L	E	T
N	X	N	E	X	P	E	C	T	A	N	C	Y	V	W	P
N	O	I	T	A	D	I	M	I	T	N	I	X	M	G	P
F	F	A	H	C	C	W	T	S	P	N	Z	Y	G	C	L
D	D	H	L	S	T	Q	Y	V	L	T	M	A	T	E	L

Can you explain how any four of these words relate to the message of the Gospel?

What do you think God could be saying to you in this Gospel? What speaks to your heart? Maybe it raises questions, maybe it's a little uncomfortable, maybe it offers hope... what matters is that we are open to hearing God speak to us individually.



DOODLE PRAYER

Reflect on the scripture quote and allow thoughts and images that come to you to form part of your doodle prayer: it could be people or situations that need prayer or even areas you might need to change in. Certain words or phrases might stand out for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart as you pray and doodle!

"What must we do?"

LUKE 3:10-18

HIS WORD & MY LIFE!



In this Gospel passage, we hear John the Baptist being asked by many groups of people what they need to do in their own lives to prepare for the Messiah's coming? John gives specific recommendations to each group, to soldiers, to tax collectors and so on. Everyone can live their lives in expectant and joyful preparation. Each of our hearts is unique. Our circumstances vary. For us, the Messiah's arrival happened 2000 years ago, but we still need to prepare for his arrival. What might John the Baptist recommend personally to you? What do you need to say "no" to, in order to make more room for Jesus? As we prepare throughout Advent, there's a growing sense of excitement and expectancy in our readings: preparing for Jesus should fill us with excitement! Jesus is offering us hope, peace, joy and love beyond anything we can imagine or what the world can offer. Let's not cram our hearts full of things that don't last, and lose out on His graces!



[Click here for some relaxing instrumental music](#)
SPONTANEOUS WORSHIP | TWO HOURS OF WORSHIP PIANO



YEAR A: MATTHEW 11:2-11
YEAR B: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28
YEAR C: LUKE 3:7-18

The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday - we light a pink candle as a symbol of joy!

PREPARE JOYFULLY!

CHECK OUT THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS ABOUT THE SOURCE OF JOY CCC 1423-1424

NAME A PERSON OR A PLACE THAT BRINGS A SMILE TO YOUR FACE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THEM / IT?

DO YOU THINK A PERSON CAN DECIDE TO BE JOYFUL, EVEN IF LIFE IS TOUGH? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER



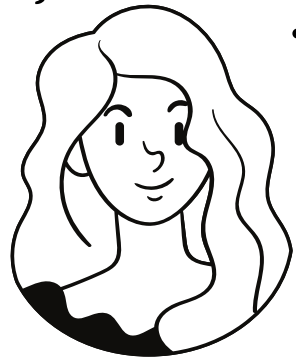
WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ, "ADVENT: MORE THAN A CHOCOLATE CALENDAR" (ASCENSION PRESENTS) AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



- Advent is a penitential season like Lent: TRUE FALSE
- Advent is a season of d_____ and j_____ preparation for the coming of Jesus.
- How does Fr Mike define "devout"? _____



JOY VS HAPPINESS



- Happiness often comes out of our _____, when things are _____.
- Joy is the ability to have a certain happiness _____ of your circumstances.
- Joy is an abiding sense of _____.
- Joy comes from knowing that the Father _____ me and He knows my _____.

• Joy is a **choice!** We can choose to live with an abiding sense of the Father's love. Our circumstances can be awful and we can still be _____.

CHRIST'S MAJOR ARRIVALS

- His Past Coming at the original C_____.
- His future coming at the End of T_____.



WHAT'S THE GOAL OF ADVENT?



The goal of Advent is not to have a merry Christmas. The goal is to worship him well, celebrate the fact He came into this world, AND to prepare for His

WHAT DO SAINTS DESCRIBE AS THE INTERMEDIARY ARRIVAL OF CHRIST?



The arrival of Christ into our _____. This can happen when we open our hearts to His _____, whenever we _____ in His name, when we are in the presence of the _____.



Question: If Advent is the whole-hearted and joyful preparation for the coming of Jesus into our lives.... if Jesus showed up in your life today, would there be any room for Him? Take a moment to think about today's schedule. Is there room there for Jesus?

PREPARE JOYFULLY!



Should we party during Advent? Limited amounts of Christmas parties, music and food can help us enter into the Christmas mood, but we need to be able to say no. **Why is being able to say "no" important? What does it make room for in Advent?**

IF I CAN LEARN TO SAY "NO" MORE TO MATERIAL THINGS, I CAN LEARN TO SAY "YES" MORE TO JESUS.



How are your Christmas preparations going for you? Shopping done? Outfits planned? Events in the diary? Decorations up? Or is it all still a muddle? Does it even feel like you're approaching Christmas yet? Sometimes it all gets so busy doesn't it, and other things like exams and visits and more mundane jobs get in the way of excitement and joy. Maybe it's even stressful, or a lonely time of year for you if you have lost someone you dearly loved.

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday we're called to pause and reflect on joy in the Advent season - because Christmas is the season of Joy: Joy Incarnate was born at Christmas time, and that's a good thing to remember in the midst of a dark and dreary month of December! It's a hard thing to remember though when we see so much suffering around us in our own communities and in the world at large. But today we can hit the pause button and take a good look around us to choose to find the joy! Jesus asked John the Baptist's disciples to look for signs of His Kingdom - to see the Good News already present through His actions. We can do the same thing in our own world. Make a conscious effort this week to notice goodness and kindness around you, and to bring that joy to others too! Make your heart a joyful place for Jesus this Christmas time.



MISSION!

MAKE A DECISION TODAY TO LIVE ADVENT JOYFULLY AND PREPARING TO WELCOME JESUS. USE A DAILY ADVENT CALENDAR ON INSTAGRAM TO HELP YOU IF YOU NEED SOME IDEAS. TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR DAILY SCHEDULE. WHERE CAN YOU FIT FIVE TO TEN MINUTES IN EACH DAY FOR PRAYER? CAN YOU SET YOUR ALARM TO GO OFF EARLIER? CAN YOU CUT OUT A FEW MINUTES OF TV / GAMING / MUSIC? DECIDE FOR WHOLE-HEARTED JOYFUL PREPARATION - IF YOU DON'T DECIDE, IT WON'T HAPPEN!



WHAT COULD I SAY NO TO THIS WEEK TO MAKE MORE ROOM FOR CHRIST?

PRAYER TIME!

PRAYER FOR JOY:

My God, You know me by name and You love me, with an eternal love that never fades. Show me how to base my joy on You, because in You my joy will be complete, no matter what circumstances come my way. You delight in me - help me to truly believe that! Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON JOYFUL PREPARATION



- Make Room (Casting Crowns)
- The Earth Stood Still (Future of Forestry)
- Unspeakable Joy (Chris Tomlin)
- O Come, O Come Emmanuel (David Crowder Band)
- When Hope Came Down (Kari Jobe)
- Awake O Sleeper (Ike Ndolo)
- Hearts Waiting (Matt Redman)
- God Made Low (Sovereign Grace)

7:46 MINS



Why Joy is More Christian than Happiness (Fr Mike Schmitz)

4:31 MINS



JOY (The Bible Project)