



LUKE 2:22-40

"Dear young people, the happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: it is Jesus of Nazareth, hidden in the Eucharist."  
- Pope Benedict XVI -

# RECOGNISING JESUS



WHO IS THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON YOU HAVE EVER MET? WHAT WAS IT LIKE MEETING THEM? HOW DID YOU FEEL? HOW DID THEY RESPOND TO YOU?

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Have you ever heard someone share their faith-based testimony - their personal story of how and where God acted in their lives? If yes, what do you remember about it? If no, check out the testimony videos from Holy Family Mission: young Catholics sharing their story of what faith means to them.



WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ, "HOW DO I KNOW IF I'VE ACTUALLY ENCOUNTERED JESUS?" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



What do faith-based testimonies often consist of?

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Why do some people think they don't have a story when it comes to their faith? How can their story be summed up according to Fr Mike?

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Who should the star of your testimony be?

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What three-part structure should a testimony follow?

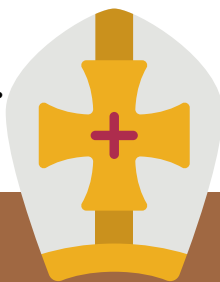
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What's the danger of just telling the details of your life and not following the structure above?

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**IN BEARING WITNESS TO JESUS, WE CAN FOCUS ON A MOMENT OR A SEASON OF ENCOUNTER.**

Whose quote below inspired Fr Mike? \_\_\_\_\_



"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" (Deus caritas est, n. 1)

How would you summarise Fr Mike's own moment of encounter?

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What strikes you about it?

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What decisive direction did it actually send him in?

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# RECOGNISING JESUS

**Think about your own life:** have you had a moment or a season of encounter with God? It doesn't have to be super dramatic: it can be ordinary, natural, calm - maybe it's only when you look back at your life you can actually see what was happening. Are there any God-moments in your life so far? Don't dismiss anything because you think it's too small!

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READ: LUKE 2:22-40



Have you ever met someone famous? Maybe you knew you were going to meet them and you were so excited! You knew all about them, you were their No. 1 fan! Maybe you just saw them in the distance and that was enough. Simeon and Anna in this Gospel passage from Luke waited their entire lives to encounter the Messiah - the long prophesied one who would save their nation and they instantly recognised Him as a tiny baby. Can you imagine the amount of trust and faith in God they had to recognise His presence in a tiny little baby boy, unable to speak yet, so totally dependent on his parents for everything? Do we recognise Jesus and His presence in our lives? Have we met Him, really and truly encountered Him in a personal way that changed our lives? It might not have been a dramatic event, maybe just gradual over time, but to really be a Christian involves a personal encounter with the One who created us, knows us and loves us infinitely. That changes everything. Maybe you're not sure if you've met Jesus personally, and that's ok! The good news is you have so many more opportunities - every moment of every day in fact! And all you have to do is ask Him to reveal Himself to you - make a simple and honest prayer with the heart. Then let Him introduce Himself to you and become part of your life.



MISSION!

TAKE SOME TIME THIS WEEK TO REFLECT HONESTLY ON YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS:

- IT MIGHT BE REALLY STRONG, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR LIFE!
- IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE ROCKY: YOU KNOW HE'S IMPORTANT BUT IT'S HARD TO STAY FOCUSED ON THAT.
- YOU MIGHT FEEL LIKE YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW HIM AT ALL, OR MAYBE YOU THINK IT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

THIS WEEK, CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO AN HONEST AND SIMPLE PRAYER: "JESUS REVEAL YOURSELF TO ME AS YOU ARE!"



PRAYER TIME!

## THE NUNC DIMITTIS (Canticle of Simeon)

"At last, all-powerful Master, You give leave to Your servant to go in peace, according to Your promise. For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared for all nations, the light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, Your people."



## CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON RECOGNISING JESUS



- Pat Barrett, Steffany Gretzinger – Knowing You
- Paul Baloche: Behold Him
- Harvest Worship - Have You Met My Jesus
- Chris Tomlin - Jesus Messiah
- God With Us - All Sons & Daughters
- MercyMe - Then Christ Came
- Here I am to Worship - Hillsong
- VOCES8: Nunc Dimittis - Paul Smith



Holy Family Mission Testimony: Zara



Testimony of Sr. Clare Crockett, SHM - Holy Week 2008