

# FAITH @ Home

16 FEBRUARY 2025: 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | YEAR C



Diocese of Waterford & Lismore  
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*Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!*

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 1:1-4, 6

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Gospel:

Luke 6:17, 20-26

"HAPPY YOU WHO ARE HUNGRY NOW: YOU SHALL BE SATISFIED..."



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 the Gospel today we hear Jesus preaching part of what is often called His Sermon on the Mount, or in Luke's Gospel, the Sermon on the Plain. We focus in on the Beatitudes. Take some time 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 these words resonate with you personally?
- Imagine yourself in this scene. How do these words strike your heart? Do you feel challenged? Do you feel encouraged? Do you feel confused?
- The Beatitudes are a reminder to us again that joy is deeper than circumstantial happiness. What blessings are in your life? Can you spend 5 minutes each morning when you wake thanking God for 10 blessings in your life at the moment or in the past?

## Family Prayer



*Lord Jesus, the Beatitudes were at the very heart of your preaching and mission. Thank you for this road map on how to live a life worthy of you. Give us the grace and strength we need to choose joy in every aspect of our lives. Amen*

## Talk



Today's Gospel teaches us a lot about what joy in the Lord means versus success in the eyes of the world!

- Can you think of people who are really successful in today's world? What have they achieved? Are they rich? Are they famous? Do you think they have everything that is important in life?
- Who are the people you know who are happiest in life? Do you know anyone whose life is challenging, but they can always be joyful and see the good in life?
- Based on today's reading, what kind of life is Jesus calling us to live? What kind of priorities should we have? What kind of things should we not give too much importance to?

## Family Challenge!



How can you live out the Beatitudes as a family this week? Can you be thankful for all the blessings God has given you? Can you try to complain less? Can you be more humble, a peace-maker, less interested in material things?

# A FRAMEWORK FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in [Matthew 5:1-7,11](#) that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these gospel readings.

When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the [Ten Commandments](#). As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us.


Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the [Beatitudes](#) in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel—Luke uses the article “you” whereas Matthew uses “they” or “those.” There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning.

The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God. The word blessed in this context might be translated as “happy,” “fortunate,” or “favoured.”

As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of “woes,” those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation . . . these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness.

The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God.

[Adapted from Loyola Press - Sunday Connection \(click here\)](#)



## CARLO'S CORNER

### Are You Blessed?

This Gospel passage tells the familiar story of the Sermon on the Mount, (or in Matthew's Gospel, the Mount), or part of it anyway, the part we refer to as the Beatitudes. If Jesus was running a modern day marketing campaign for the Church, people would think He was crazy! Happy are the meek, the persecuted, those who mourn, those who hunger, really? That just doesn't make sense, or at least not by the world's standards. Jesus knows our happiness cannot be based on the circumstances we find ourselves in, or our achievements or power or wealth: all these things are fickle and fleeting. True joy is based on the sure knowledge that we are created and loved by God, and no matter what life may throw at us, from bad weather, difficult exams, strained friendships, match losses, breakups, sickness and even death, we know that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. United with Him, with our eyes fixed firmly on Him, we can choose joy in any circumstance. Our ultimate goal can't be earthly happiness; our ultimate goal is heaven, and any losses or inconveniences or suffering we may have to go through on our way there will pale into insignificance against the glory and never-ending joy of Heaven!

Take note this week of how often you are tempted to complain. Do you find yourself complaining about things that aren't even that important? Has it become a habit? Try for a whole day not to complain about anything. Instead say a silent prayer offering up the inconvenience, or asking God to bless those who annoy you! Say something positive and affirming instead!

["Why joy is more Christian than happiness" \(Fr Mike\)](#)

[The Beatitudes - Hillsong](#)

*To the Heights Youth Resource also available*

## Check this out

### ABIDING TOGETHER

*Abiding Together is a weekly podcast hosted by Michelle Benzinger, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, and Heather Khym, providing a place of connection, rest and encouragement for people who are on the journey of living out their passion and purpose in Jesus Christ. With book studies, podcasts for liturgical seasons, Apostolic Letters and series, these podcasts are full of inspirational wisdom and encouragement, particularly for Catholic women who want to go deeper in their faith.*



**The Chosen Season 2, Episode 8:  
Jesus Gives the Beatitudes**

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