




FAITH @ Home

13 APRIL 2025: PALM SUNDAY | YEAR C

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore
www.waterfordlismore.ie

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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

Luke 19:28-40

First Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 21(22): 8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel:

Luke 22:14-23:56



"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING..."

image: canva

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 the longer Gospel about the Passion and Death of Jesus. There is a lot to take in, so why not choose a particular section to pray with each day?

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Where would you imagine yourself at Jesus' passion? Can you identify with any of the Apostles, or with Mary? Would you have been an onlooker? How would you have felt?
- A beautiful way to pray Holy Week is to choose one character from the Passion story, and meditate on the week through their eyes: what they saw, heard, experienced. Let their experience touch your heart and draw you closer to Jesus' heart this week too.

Family Prayer



Jesus, you know that we are weak and that we stumble and fall through our sin. Help us to rise again with you and strive onwards for holiness. Amen

Talk

In this week's Gospel, we hear about the passion and death of Jesus as we begin Holy Week.

- What events happened during Holy Week?
- Why do you think we say "Good Friday" when it was the day Jesus was crucified? What is "good" about it?
- How can we make this a very special week in our own family? How can we create a sacred space to remind us of the events of Holy Week, and Jesus' love for us? How can we treat each other with love, and serve each other, just like Jesus asked us to?

Here are some ideas for sacred spaces at home:

- [Resurrection Eggs](#)
- [Free Colouring Page Printables](#) (Shining Light)
- [Catholic Icing Ultimate Guide](#)

Family Challenge!



Pray the Stations of the Cross together as a family this week, even just choosing 2 or 3 stations each day. There's a beautiful one to download for children here at [OSV](#) or older teens might benefit from the Holy Family Mission Dramatisation on [YouTube](#).

PASSION SUNDAY

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the Triduum, three days that are the highlight of the Church year.

Throughout Luke's Gospel we see that Jesus' words and actions proclaim the Kingdom of God. This motif continues throughout Luke's passion narrative. Jesus appears to be in total command of events at the Passover meal as he hands over the kingdom to his disciples. He welcomes them to the Passover meal announcing that this will be his last until the Kingdom of God is fulfilled.

As throughout Luke's Gospel, however, the disciples show little understanding of this kingdom that Jesus often announces. Following the meal, the disciples argue about who is the greatest. Jesus takes the opportunity to distinguish the meaning of leadership in the Kingdom of God from the forms of leadership seen in the world.

Jesus initiates a conversation with Simon and predicts his denial. Jesus then instructs his disciples to prepare themselves for the events that will follow. His words reveal an awareness of the challenges that all of them will face in the days ahead. As the disciples and Jesus enter the Mount of Olives, Jesus indicates the importance of the disciples' time in prayer, telling them that through prayer they will be able to face the challenges ahead.

As he prays, Jesus is tested. In the garden, an angel is sent to strengthen him and to prepare him for the events ahead. After this moment, Jesus is again in charge of the events and circumstances.

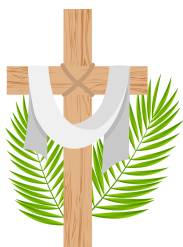
In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is portrayed as active and vocal throughout his passion. When one of the disciples strikes the high priest's servant, Jesus heals the man, an event reported only in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus stops the disciples' protest against his arrest by noting that this is the "time for the power of darkness." Jesus engages and responds when brought before the Sanhedrin; his words speak about the "power of God" that will bring about the reign of the Son of Man. When questioned by Pilate, Jesus responds with just one phrase; yet before Herod, Jesus refuses to speak.

When Luke describes the Way of the Cross and Jesus' crucifixion, he calls to our attention many events that are not reported in the other Gospels. Throughout his Gospel, Luke has paid heed to the women who accompanied Jesus. Now, on the road to Calvary, Jesus speaks to the women who walk with him. Only Luke reports Jesus' words of forgiveness spoken from the cross. And only Luke reports the dialogue between Jesus and the good thief. Finally, in contrast with the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Luke reports no words of abandonment spoken by Jesus on the cross. Instead, Jesus, in full command until his death, commends his spirit to his Father and takes his final breath.

Throughout Holy Week, we will continue to reflect on the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son and brought to fulfillment the Kingdom of God.

Read the full explanation on [Loyola Press - Sunday Connection](#)

Check
this
out



HOLY WEEK IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

- <https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/holy-week-ideas-for-families/>
- <https://www.catholicicing.com/ultimate-guide-for-celebrating-holy/>
- [Catholic Family Crate's Free Holy Week Guide](#)
- [A Catholic Mom's Holy Week Checklist](#)



CARLO'S CORNER

He died for me

It's Holy Week. What does that mean to you? Is it simply a relief just to have some time off school or college? Or is there something more going on? Each year we are given a precious few days to really refocus our hearts on what matters most in this life: the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God! We owe it to ourselves as well as to God to take a few minutes each day to sit in silence in our rooms, or a Church, or outdoors and just think about how great His love is for us, that He would send His Son to die in our place so that we may have eternal life with Him in heaven. Think of the humanity of Jesus, knowing what He was to face during His passion and death, but choosing it out of love for each one of us too, without hesitation. That's how much you're worth! Think about how we have a God who understands pain, rejection, cruelty, loneliness, fear, torment, abandonment. Think about what the mother of Jesus went through that week, seeing her only Son, completely innocent, tortured, mocked and abused, but silently supporting Him because she knew what the end goal was: our salvation. Then rejoice on Easter Sunday with her. Jesus conquered death, sin and darkness!

Make a special effort this week to pray the Stations of the Cross. You can watch them online, or use the post on our Instagram page to meditate on a few stations each day. Ask Jesus to show you this week how much He really loves you, and pray for the grace to let that love affect your whole life!



The Cross: A Good Friday Reflection
from Passion City Church



Reckless Love: Cory Asbury



To the Heights Youth Resource also available

WATCH NOW



Stations of the Cross:
produced by Holy Family Mission

Have you subscribed yet to our Diocesan newsletters and events bulletin? Receive them direct to your inbox!



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- Faith@Home / Let's Dive In Newsletters (faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie)
- To the Heights Youth Newsletter (youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie)
- Check it Out! Diocesan Events Bulletin (events@waterfordlismore.ie)

