

# FAITH @ Home

11TH MAY 2025: 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

First Reading:

Acts 13:14, 43-52

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 99(100): 1-3,5

Second Reading:

Revelations 7:9,14-17

Gospel:

John 10:27-30



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## 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 find ourselves with Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Allow yourself some time to contemplate the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Imagine that you are that lamb, nestled close to Him, close enough to hear His gentle voice and the beat of His heart. Stay in that warm and safe space for a time.
- Ask yourself in prayer, what it means for your own personal life to have Jesus as your Shepherd. Do you find it easy to hear His voice? What distractions might you need to remove? What other voices are claiming your attention? Pray for the grace to hear and respond to Him more this week.

## Talk



In today's Gospel we see Jesus the Good Shepherd explaining how His sheep know His voice.

- Who are the people in your life who you can recognise just by the sound of their voice, even with just a few words on the phone?
- Whose voice do you love to hear? Maybe you associate good things with that voice, like granny coming to visit!
- How good are you at recognising someone's tone of voice and what that means?
- What kind of tone of voice do you think Jesus speaks to you in?
- Is there space in your home to hear the voice of Jesus, or is there always a lot of noise? Is there a way that, as a family, you could create quiet time to let Jesus speak His word into your hearts?

## Family Prayer



*Lord, let me know clearly  
The work which you are calling me to do in life. And  
grant me every grace I need to answer your call  
With courage and love and lasting dedication to your  
will. Amen.*

Loyola Sunday Connection

## Family Challenge!



Do something this week that brings you together as a family. Jesus and the Father are totally united, they are as one. What fun activity can you do to unite your family this week?

## TO KNOW JESUS IS TO KNOW THE FATHER

Last week we heard that Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples in a locked room, probably in Jerusalem. In today's Gospel, the disciples are no longer in Jerusalem; they are in Galilee, returning to their work of fishing. Simon Peter is still presented in the role of leader: when he announces that he is going fishing, the other disciples follow. They spend the night fishing but are unsuccessful.


Jesus calls to them from the shore, but just as when Jesus first appeared to Mary of Magdala, the disciples do not recognize him immediately. Still, they follow the stranger's instructions and bring in a large haul of fish. It is at this point that one of the disciples (the "disciple whom Jesus loved") realizes that Jesus is appearing to them. Upon hearing this news, Simon Peter leads the way again, jumping from the boat and swimming to shore. The other disciples follow in the boat, dragging the fish.

The disciples have brought to shore a tremendous catch of fish that Jesus has directed them to find. But once on the shore, they see that Jesus has already prepared fish and bread on a charcoal fire. Jesus directs the disciples to bring their catch of fish as well. Jesus is host at the meal that follows, feeding the disciples the bread and fish. In this detail we see allusions to the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes told in John 6.

There are also allusions in the Gospel to our gathering for the celebration of the Mass. In the Eucharist, we too are fed by Jesus in the bread and wine that have become his very Body and Blood. We also find in this story insight about the Presentation of the Gifts at Mass. The gifts we bring to the altar, bread and wine, are made from gifts that God gave first to us: grain and grapes, the fruit of the earth. God has no need of anything further. Yet God accepts the offering we bring—bread and wine, "the work of human hands"—and transforms our offering into the gift of his very presence.

After the meal, Jesus directs himself to Simon Peter. The community of John's Gospel probably looked down on Peter because of his denial of Jesus. This dialogue with Simon Peter is a reversal of Peter's three denials. Peter is forgiven. Having been restored to friendship with Jesus, Simon Peter is sent on a mission. "Feed my lambs . . . Tend my sheep . . . Feed my sheep." These commands indicate that Peter is to be as Jesus, even unto sacrificing for the flock. As Jesus has fed Peter in this meal and as Jesus feeds us in the Eucharist, so he also sends us to follow him, asking that we offer our lives in service and sacrifice.

*Adapted from Loyola Sunday Connection*




### CARLO'S CORNER


Hearing God's Voice


In today's Gospel Jesus was drawing on a well-known image at the time of a shepherd calling his sheep. We might not have the same familiarity with what He means, but even today in Israel you will find different flocks pasturing together in a sheep fold or scattered throughout the hills, but when their own shepherd calls them they respond to him and follow. It's incredible to see! How can they know his particular voice? They know their shepherd because they trust him; he provides for them, cares for them, keeps them safe from harm. In fact, he protects him with his own life if necessary, facing down threats like wolves and thieves for their sake. Jesus is the Good Shepherd - He doesn't give Himself that title in this Gospel passage, but elsewhere. That makes us, as baptised Christians, His sheep. But a really important question for us to ask is not just "do we listen to His voice?" but rather, since we have free will, "do we want to listen to His voice?" Do we believe that Jesus knows what is best for us? Do we trust that He will always provide? Do we turn to Him for help and advice? Are we drowning out His voice with other noise or voice?

This week's video from Fr Mark Mary helps us to know how to listen and to know what God is asking us to do. We call that discernment. We can discern the little things as well as the big. Try to put this into practice, starting this week!





Struggling to hear God's voice  
(Fr Mark Mary)






Every Promise of Your Word (K & K Getty)

To the Heights Youth Resource also available

JUBILEE YEAR



## PRAYER IN THE PLAZA ROSARY RALLY

Multicultural / multilingual Rosary Rally  
in honour of Our Lady of Fatima




📍 Kickham Plaza,  
Barracks, Clonmel,  
Co. Tipperary

📅 Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May  
@ 4pm

for World Peace &  
a Renewal of Hope  
in this  
Jubilee Year  
of Hope!



ONE OF OVER 700 ROSARY  
RALLIES ACROSS THE  
COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

More info: [www.waterfordlismore.ie/jubilee2025](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/jubilee2025)  
or contact Jimmy at 086259775


## Check it out!

Going from strength to strength each year, the Rosary Rally is a key event in the calendar each May. Come along and give public witness to the faith in the multicultural/multilingual Rosary Rally in honour of Our Lady of Fatima and pray for peace and hope for the world!

WATCH NOW



Understanding the Rosary: Fr Patrick Cahill



Watch Fr Patrick explain the rosary in simple terms as we celebrate the month of Our Lady!

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