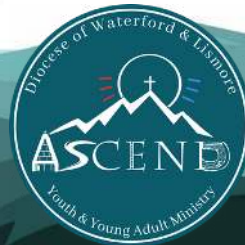




To the Heights



Year C 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

SPOTLIGHT!

A Reflection Day and Hike with the TY girls from Loreto Secondary School Clonmel before Easter at Holy Family Mission. What a wonderful group to work with!



PRAYER INTENTION!

Please pray for our Diocesan Jubilee Family Fun Day on May 18th and for all families in our diocese!

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

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!



PRAY

Here I am Lord, You know me; I want to make the best decision. I want to do what you want me to do Lord. Whichever decision I make, well-intentioned, I need You to bless it. I trust that You'll be there with me Lord. Amen

TUNE!

I'm Listening
Chris McClarney



GROW

"You were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness."

VOCATIONS VIDEO: WATERFORD & LISMORE



GAMECHANGERS!



Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
13th May

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)

HIS WORD & MY LIFE!

JOHN 10:27-30



PUZZLE

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

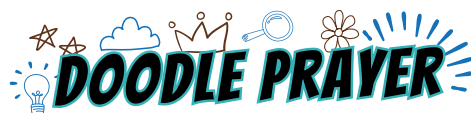
belong
eternal
Father
follow
Good
greater
Jesus
know
life
listen
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| Q | L | F | E | X | K | W | C | Y | D | L | D | X | L | N | S |

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?

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!



I know them and they follow Me.



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

RESPOND!



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.

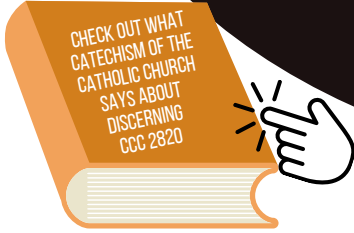
JOHN 10:1-21, 25-30



HEAR AND RESPOND!

YOU ARE PETER, AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH. MT 16:18

God is real,
active and
present in our
world!



WHOSE VOICE DO YOU LOVE TO HEAR THE SOUND OF? WHY IS THAT?

DO YOU FIND IT EASY TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?



WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MARK MARY CFR, "STRUGGLING TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



What does discerning mean?

What is the title of the book that Fr Mark Mary found really helpful?

What does Fr Mark Mary believe 100% that we can discern?

Fr Mark Mary believes we can hear and respond to God because God is so _____, so _____ and so _____ in our world.

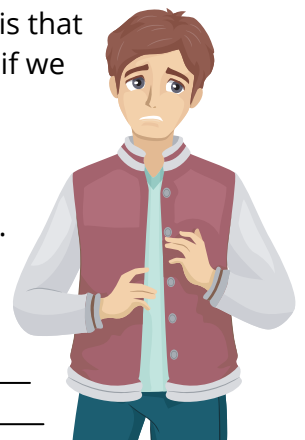
What caused Fr Mark Mary so much worry initially in his Honduras mission?

Fr Mark Mary suggests that one of the problems with how we discern is that we discern as if it is all up to us to make the _____ decision, and if we make the wrong decision, it's all our _____!

The most important thing in discernment is _____!

If we discern with God's help, it means we are just c _____.

Can you sum up Fr Mark Mary's prayer that he prayed to help him make decisions at this mission in your own words?



HEAR AND RESPOND

Fr Mark found that the weight of his burden was gone because he was discerning in the truth of God's goodness, _____ and _____ in his life.

Does this discernment process come automatically? Explain.



READ: JOHN 10:1-21, 25-30

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 them with his own life if necessary, facing down threats like wolves and thieves for their sake. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. That makes baptised Christians, His sheep. He also calls himself the Gate of the sheepfold. The shepherd would lay down at the entrance to the sheepfold to put himself between his sheep and any threat. Jesus showed us he was willing to lay down his life for us on Calvary. 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 voices?

MISSION!

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! TRY USING THE PRAYER BELOW WHEN FACED WITH A DIFFICULT OR CONFUSING DECISION AND TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU.



PRAYER TIME!

PRAYER WHEN DISCERNING:

Here I am Lord, You know me; I want to make the best decision. I want to do what you want me to do Lord. Whichever decision I make, well-intentioned, I need You to bless it. I trust that You'll be there with me Lord. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON HEARING GOD'S VOICE

- Amanda Lindsey Cook: Still
- Keith & Kristyn Getty: Every Promise of Your Word
- Dante Bowe: Voice of God
- Casting Crowns: Voice of Truth
- Kari Jobe: Speak to me
- Chris McClarney: I'm Listening
- Hillsong: Never Walk Alone
- Brian Doersken: Today



6:30 MINS



Four Helpful Rules for Discernment (Fr Mike Schmitz)



What Should I Do? Ascend YM Resource Pack



WHAT IS A VOCATION?



You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You. – St Augustine –



WHAT DO YOU THINK ST AUGUSTINE MEANT BY THIS?

Christians believe that God has a unique plan for each person, a calling, specifically for each one of us. Another word for a calling is vocation. In the past, people only spoke about vocations when referring to priests or religious, like brothers or nuns. Now we understand that vocation is broader than that. You may have a calling to priesthood or religious life. Or you may be called to married life. You may be called to single life. Maybe you're called to be a doctor, or a teacher, or an engineer, or a salesperson, or an office worker. God's ultimate plan for each one of us is that we become saints, that we are holy and fulfil the maximum of his plan for us here on earth so we can enjoy eternal happiness with Him in Heaven. We achieve this by living out whatever calling God has for each of us, by offering up our lives for His greater glory. If you're called to be a teacher, be the best teacher you can be. If your vocation is to be a mom or dad, be the absolute best parent you can be! If your vocation right now is to be a student, be the best student you can be. God calls some people to priesthood or religious life. This is an amazing life of service to others! The idea can be daunting at first, but remember, whatever God is calling us to, that is His plan for the absolute maximum of our happiness!

DO YOU THINK OF YOUR LIFE THIS WAY? IF NOT, WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE IF YOU DID?

THOMAS MERTON VOCATION PRAYER



MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

FOLLOW ON ACTIVITIES:



- Pray for your local priest and don't be afraid to step up and help out where you can in your local parish!!
- If you know any Priests, Religious Brothers or Sisters, ask them to share their vocation story with you! Pray for them in their vocation!
- Watch: "Do we need priests?" on the *Paving the Way Home* YouTube Channel
- Check out *Vocations Ireland* website for information on priestly and religious vocations for men and women.



HOW CAN WE OPEN THAT DOOR?

NOTICE JESUS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR, WHICH IS OVERGROWN WITH WEEDS. THE DOOR REPRESENTS OUR HEARTS. NOTICE THERE IS NO HANDLE ON THE OUTSIDE. HE KNOCKS BUT WE HAVE TO DECIDE TO LET CHRIST IN.



WILLIAM HUNT: "THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"





DIOCESAN VOCATIONS
VIDEO



FISHERS OF MEN

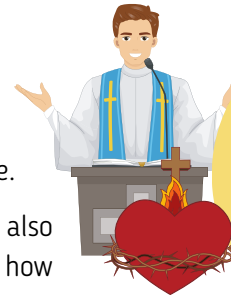
BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO: WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF A PRIEST'S VOCATION / ROLE?



WATCH THE DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE VOCATIONS VIDEO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW

1 How does Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan define a vocation?
A vocation is a _____ from God to live a particular _____ in life.

2 Fr Shane O'Neill comments that as well as God giving us the vocation, he also gives us the _____ by which we discern what that _____ is and how we are to _____ it.



"THE PRIESTHOOD IS
THE LOVE OF THE
HEART OF GOD."
ST JOHN VIANNEY

3 All Christians by virtue of baptism are called to the "**common priesthood**": imitating Jesus as priest, prophet and king. Ordained priests who can administer the sacraments are known as the "**ministerial priesthood**". How does Bishop Alphonsus explain how a priest lives out his ministerial priesthood?



4 What initially discouraged Fr Billy Meehan from considering priesthood?

What did he decide he wanted to be after his Leaving Cert? _____

"YOU WERE NOT
MADE FOR COMFORT;
YOU WERE MADE FOR
GREATNESS!"
BENEDICT XVI

5 Fr Shane describes the essence of the vocation to priesthood as "nothing less than a man laying down his life for Jesus Christ." He explains that a man who serves Jesus as a priest lays down all of his faculties, g_____, a_____ and his entire _____ in service of Jesus and others.

ACTS 1:8
"YOU SHALL BE
MY WITNESSES."



6 What kind of gifts / talents / personality traits could a priest really use in the service of God and others today do you think?

7 According to Fr Shane, where does a priest's power come from?

8 Although taking the first step to answering God's call to priesthood might be daunting, what encouragement do John (seminarian) and Fr Shane offer at the end?



"DO NOT BE AFRAID.
OPEN WIDE THE DOORS
TO CHRIST!"
- ST JOHN PAUL II

9 After watching the video, what do you think is the most challenging part of being a priest today?

10 After watching the video, what do you think is the most fulfilling part of being a priest today?



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE

Lord Jesus, you have told us that
"The harvest is great, but the labourers are few.
Pray therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send
labourers into his fields." (Lk 10:2)
We ask you, Lord, to send labourers into your
fields, which are awaiting holy priests, heroic
missionaries, dedicated brothers and sisters. We
pray in particular for vocations to Priesthood
and Religious Life in our Diocese of Waterford &
Lismore. Enkindle in the hearts of our young
people the grace and courage to hear and
answer your call. May they respond with
generosity, freedom and joy. May their lives
serve as a witness to the fact that our deepest
joy is to be found in you alone. Grant that
Christian families may encourage and affirm
such vocations, and that they may desire to
give to your Church helpers in proclaiming the
Good News to the world of tomorrow.

Fr John McEneaney was ordained for the
Diocese of Waterford & Lismore on 24th
October 2021. Watch a short video clip on
the Diocesan YouTube Channel [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

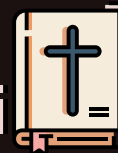
For more on vocations check
<https://vocationsireland.com/>





WHAT SHOULD I DO?

CHECK OUT



JEREMIAH 29:11-14

WHAT IS DISCERNMENT?

Do you find it difficult to make decisions? Do you struggle to know what the right thing to choose is? Are you unsure which door is the one to go through? College? Jobs? Friendships? Relationships? So many big decisions to make! Put simply, discernment is the Holy Spirit enlightening your intellect and will to help you know and choose the truth. There's usually some kind of process involved, although that varies in length. Discernment is not sitting back and thinking, "Sure, God will do everything so I'll just wait for Him to move", nor is it a feeling or the consequence of an arbitrary sign. The Holy Spirit will absolutely help you, but we have to cooperate with His promptings - we can't just wait around and not take any action ourselves. Pray, discern, and then act. Take responsibility for your decisions. Even if you make the wrong decision, the Lord will still be with you and will provide a way for you to get back on the right track.

FR MIKE SCHMITZ: 4 DOORS OF DISCERNMENT

Watch Fr Mike Schmitz' video: "4 Helpful Rules for Discernment" and try to see how you could apply these "doors" to your discernment process. [6:30 minutes]



IS THIS A GOOD DOOR?

Often the answer is yes. Sometimes you have several good options before you. But if you know it will be unhealthy for you or against God's law, then you should not choose it.



IS THIS AN OPEN DOOR?

Is this even possible? Is this a reality? For example, you should not try to get in the NBA if you have no basketball skills.



IS THIS A WISE DOOR?

Knowing who I am and where I've been, my struggles, my strengths and weaknesses, the person I want to be: is this the choice I need to make? Will it lead me closer to Jesus or not?



IS THIS A DOOR THAT I WANT?

Unless you are sure that God is calling you there, if you don't desire it then you don't have to choose it. God has given us so much freedom. He wants us to use our intellect and our will to choose.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (BY ST AUGUSTINE)



Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.



MORE GREAT VIDEO RESOURCES!



HOW TO DISCERN
WHAT GOD HAS
PLANNED FOR YOU



DISCERNMENT 101



THE KEY TO
DISCERNMENT

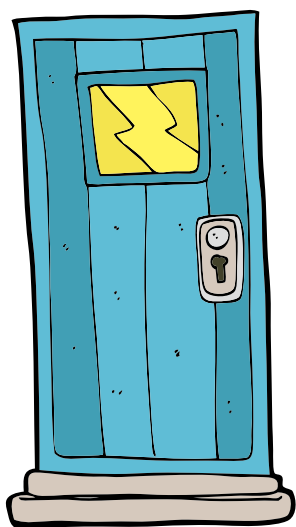


HOW TO DISCERN
PRETTY MUCH
ANYTHING



"GOD I LOOK TO YOU" - FRANCESCA BATTISTELLI





"God has created me
to do Him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission.
I may never know it in this life,
but I shall be told it in the next.
I am a link in a chain,
a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught.
I shall do good; I shall do His work.
I shall be an angel of peace,
a preacher of truth in my own place,
while not intending it if I do
but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him,
whatever I am, I
can never be thrown away...
He knows what He is about."

ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN