

# FAITH @ Home

*Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!*

24 AUGUST 2025: ORDINARY TIME 21C

**Diocese of Waterford & Lismore**  
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"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

## Sunday Mass Readings

**First Reading:**

Isaiah 66:18-21

**Responsorial Psalm:**

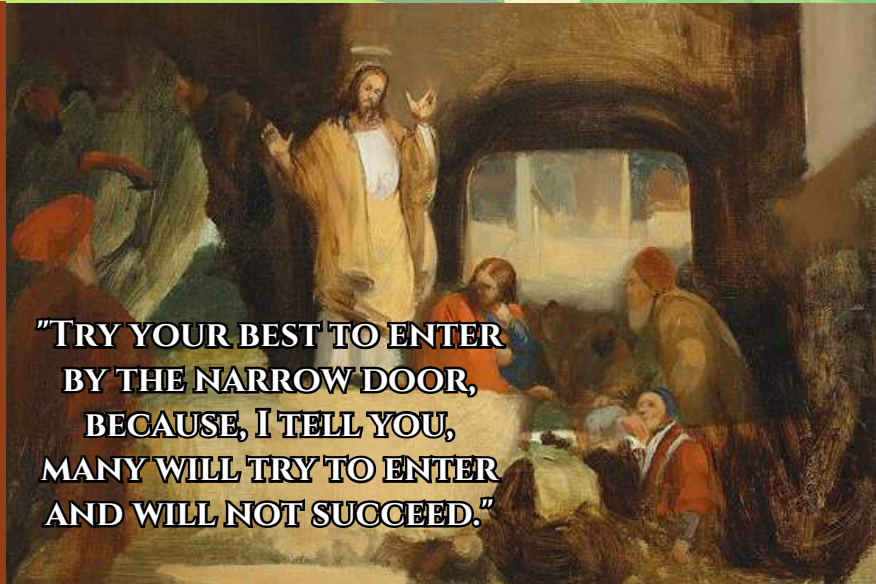
Psalm 116(117)

**Second Reading:**

Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13

**Gospel:**

Luke 13:22-30



**"TRY YOUR BEST TO ENTER  
BY THE NARROW DOOR,  
BECAUSE, I TELL YOU,  
MANY WILL TRY TO ENTER  
AND WILL NOT SUCCEED."**

Richard Parkes Bonington, 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 speak in a strong manner about those who can enter heaven.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Where do you see the narrow door in your own life? What choices have you had to make because of your faith? What choices do you feel you are facing because of your commitment to Jesus? Pray for the grace to face those moments as Jesus asks you to.
- Would Jesus recognise you as a follower of His? Would He be able to say to you, "I know where you are coming from"? Pray this week to grow in love and knowledge of Jesus, to act humbly as a follower of His, despite the cost.

## Family Prayer



*Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of faith. May we never take it for granted, or fail to show our gratitude for all that You have done and continue to do for us. Amen.*

## Talk



In today's readings we hear Jesus teaching His listeners about the kind of attitude we need to reach heaven.

- What kind of things have we celebrated as a family? What kind of achievements?
- Do we ever take people in our family for granted, and overlook them or fail to appreciate them?
- Jesus doesn't want us to take heaven for granted, or to assume that we will be saved. He asks us to love Him with all our hearts and spend our lives living as a follower of His. How can we do that more this week? How can we show Jesus that we want to follow Him and get to heaven some day?

## Family Challenge!



This week make a special effort to show appreciation to your family members and not to take anyone for granted. Thank God for all the ways your family blesses you, and look for ways to show your appreciation too!

## WHO WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?

As this parable opens, Luke reminds us that Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem. He is teaching as he goes. A question from the crowd gives Jesus the chance to make a prophetic statement.

Jesus answers that they must strive in the time remaining to enter through the narrow door because many will be trying to get in but won't be strong enough. He then moves to a parable about another door. (The translation says "gate" then "door," but the same Greek word is used.) Once all those entering the master's house are in and he locks the door, there will be no way for others to get in. Those left outside may knock, but the master will say he doesn't know them. Unlike the Gospel reading from a few weeks ago where Jesus was teaching about prayer, and we were told to knock and the door would be opened, in this parable, the master will not open and say he does not know us. People from the north, south, east, and west will take our place inside. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets will take our place in the Kingdom of God. Those who do not make it through the narrow door will be cast out to where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.

The image of the door is replaced in the final verses of the parable with the image of the heavenly banquet. Two passages from the Book of Isaiah influence the conclusion. Isaiah 43:5-6 speaks of God bringing Israel's descendants back from the east and from the west, the north and the south. And Isaiah 25:6 speaks of the Lord providing a feast of rich foods and choice wines for all peoples on his holy mountain. The answer to the question if only a few will be saved is no. In the end, many will be saved, but many who thought they would be saved will not be saved. The parable is a prophetic warning to repentance in order to enter the kingdom.

*Adapted from Loyola Press Sunday Connection*

## POCKETPRAYERS: FREE CATHOLIC APP



Deepen your faith with PocketPrayers, the leading offline Catholic prayer app trusted by over 30,000 faithful Catholics worldwide. Featuring a beautifully redesigned, distraction-free interface and one of the largest offline Catholic prayer libraries,

PocketPrayers provides daily Catholic prayers, a complete Holy Bible, Rosary tracking, Novenas, and more—accessible anytime, anywhere, without an internet connection.



## CARLO'S CORNER

*What door do I choose?*

Did you ever stop and ask yourself what it is you believe about the afterlife? Is Heaven real? Is Hell real? Who goes there? Who decides? Today's Gospel is a pretty sobering one. We can slip easily into believing that all good people go to heaven, without really even asking ourselves what does "good people" mean anyway? Is not being Hitler and dying enough to get you to heaven? Take a look at what Jesus says in this passage from Luke when He talks about the narrow door, or the narrow gate. Not everyone gets through it. Some people knock on the door but the Master tells them He doesn't know them. Obviously Jesus knows everyone who ever existed and where they come from – but His question here is more about our own acknowledgement of who we are and where we come from. Do we live as actual followers of Jesus? Are we actively striving for that great heavenly banquet? Are we spending time with God now?

Watch Fr Mike's video below and spend some time this week reflecting on the loving heart of God who wants to bring all His children to Him for all eternity, and our responsibility to choose that for ourselves by how we live and act!



Do all good people go to heaven?  
(Fr Mike Schmitz)



The Narrow Way (Steffany Gretzinger)



*To the Heights Youth Resource also available*



### THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

For mutual coexistence: Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

### FEAST OF ST MONICA: 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST PRAYER FOR CHILDREN



Great St. Monica, patroness of fathers and mothers, please take our children, especially those who have turned from the ways of God and His Church, under your protection. Help them always remain faithful to their baptismal vows. Give them strength to walk always in the ways of the Lord, despite the temptations and false values they find in the world today. Grant that they may share with you in the joys of eternal life in God. Amen.

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