

FAITH @ Home

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

7 SEPTEMBER 2025: ORDINARY TIME 23C

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore
www.waterfordlismore.ie



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"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Wisdom 9:13-18

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 89(90):3-6, 12-14, 17

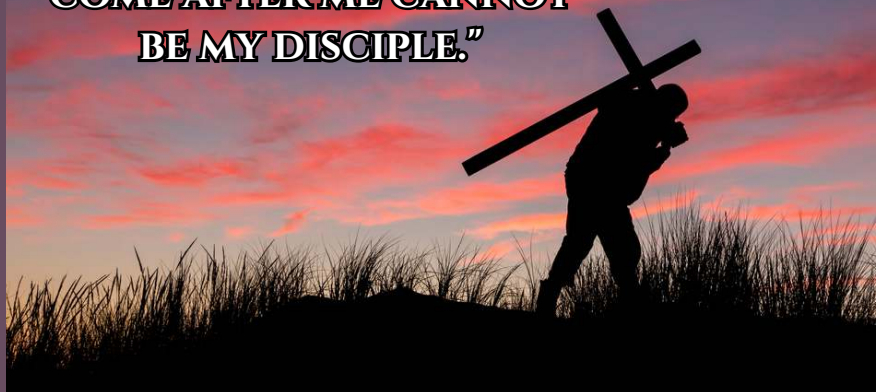
Second Reading:

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Gospel:

Luke 14: 25-33

**"ANYONE WHO DOES NOT
CARRY HIS CROSS AND
COME AFTER ME CANNOT
BE MY DISCIPLE."**



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 speak about the cost of discipleship.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- How do you find the **cost** of discipleship in your own life? What do you feel you are called to give up to be an authentic follower of Christ?
- What are the **rewards** you see in your own life for following Christ? How does your faith and belief in Christ bless your life and those around you? Spent some time in gratitude for the graces you have received.
- Make a **commitment** this week to put Jesus first in your life, and ask Him now for the graces you will need to do that.

Family Prayer



*Jesus, may You be first
in our lives and first
in our family
today and always. Amen*

Talk



In today's readings we hear Jesus what it means to follow Him, and how that can be challenging at times.

- If you could choose how to spend a day doing anything you want, what would you choose? Let everyone come up with a list and then compare them. Chances are you all have different ideas and priorities for what you would choose.
- **Jesus asks us to choose too**, whether we put Him first before everyone and everything else in our life or not. With Jesus in first place, everything else will fall into place too! What are some concrete things we can do this week to make sure Jesus comes first?

Family Challenge!




Put the Put Jesus First poster in a prominent place in your home this week as a reminder to set your priorities correctly! Encourage each other during the week to make the best decisions about how to spend your time.

CHOOSE

In chapter 14 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus is speaking to people gathered at the table about the difficulties of following him. This group of people is suspicious about Jesus, looking to catch him doing something wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables, emphasizing that although there is a right way to be a disciple and enter into the kingdom of his Father, it is a difficult path to follow. Many, even some of the guests at the table, reject the invitation. So Jesus turns to the crowds and speaks to them of discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing can get in the way. When Jesus describes "hating" one's father and mother, he is not talking about feelings. Rather, he is emphasizing very strongly that choosing to be a disciple means that everything else—family, money, your own life—must come second. In Matthew's version of this story (Matthew 10:37), Jesus refers not to "hating" father or mother, but to loving them more than Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that being a disciple is not easy. It means to bear one's own cross. These difficult sayings of Jesus are followed by two brief parables (a person constructing a tower and a king marching into battle) that make an obvious point—don't start what you cannot finish. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else.

Loyola Press Sunday Connection



CARLO'S CORNER



Take up my cross?

Jesus speaks some hard-hitting words in today's Gospel. He leaves us with no doubt as to the demands of discipleship. Just believing in God isn't enough – that belief needs to be matched by our actions and choices we make, by the priorities we set. Is Jesus a priority in my life? Is He **THE** priority? Is Heaven my goal?


The idea of taking up a cross sounds so uncomfortable, and so contrary to the messages we hear in the world today: to relax, take it easy, "You're worth it!", "Do more of what makes you happy!", take the shortcut, do the minimum. Christianity is never about minimum participation... but it's not about minimum rewards either. The cost of discipleship might seem high, but the prize is happiness with our loving Father, beyond anything we can possibly imagine, and for all eternity!

So many inspiring people have gone before us to show us that this kind of life is possible. Jesus said "take up **your** cross", not "**My** Cross". Whatever we have to carry in our lives, whether we chose it or not, is possible to carry through God's grace. If we unite our sufferings with Jesus, they become incredibly powerful, and Jesus can do great things in our hearts and in the lives of others.


Research Fr Emil Kapaun this week, and how much he was willing to do to be a disciple of Christ. [Click here for the resource!](#)

Fr Kapaun (Chris Stefanick)



When All is Said and Done
(Matt Redman)



To the Heights Youth Resource also available

JUBILEE YEAR

DIocese OF WATERFORD & LISMORE




CELEBRATION OF THE CANONISATION OF CARLO ACUTIS & PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

CATHEDRAL OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, BARRONSTRAND STREET, WATERFORD CITY

ALL WELCOME!

MASS AT 12 NOON

CANONISATION CELEBRATION FROM 1 - 2.30PM

- Talk on the newly canonised saints
- Adoration
- Rosary
- Blessing with First Class relic of Carlo Acutis

For more on Carlo & Pier Giorgio: www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry



CHECK OUT THE ASCEND RESOURCES!



Not me, but God!

ST CARLO ACUTIS

RESOURCE PACK FOR YOUTH



ASCENDING YOUTH MINISTRY (DIocese OF WATERFORD & LISMORE)



Verso l'Alto!

ST PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

RESOURCE PACK FOR SCHOOLS GROUPS



ASCENDING YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (DIocese OF WATERFORD & LISMORE)



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025



RESOURCES

MEET SAINT CARLO ACUTIS!







Check out "The INCREDIBLE life of Carlo Acutis" created by three Limerick brothers!



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