

FAITH @ Home

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

26 OCTOBER 2025: 30C ORDINARY TIME



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

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19

Responsorial Psalm:

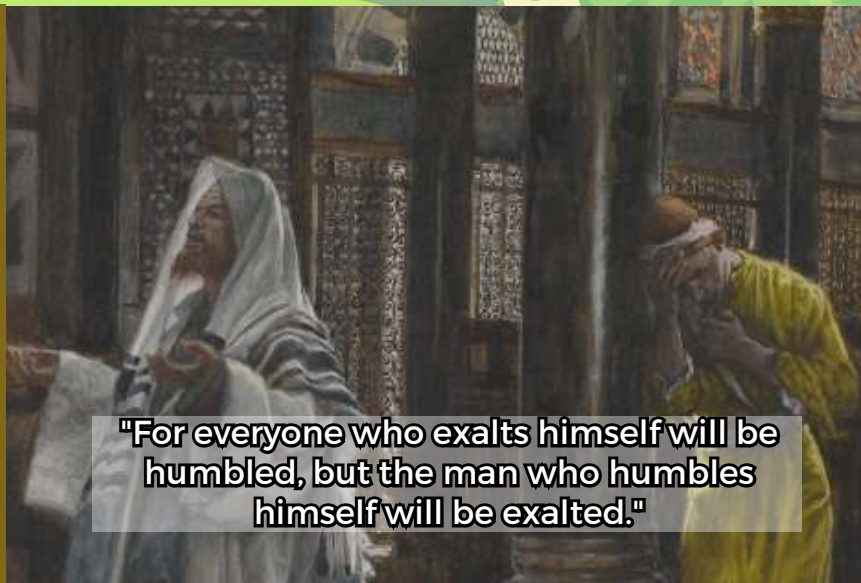
Psalm 33 (34): 2-3, 17-19, 23

Second Reading:

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel:

Luke 18:9-14



"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted."

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 the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Who do you identify more with in this parable, the Pharisee or the Tax Collector, or a bit of both?
- Do you struggle with humility? Have you a healthy awareness of your limitations and where you need to improve in your spiritual life?
- "God, be merciful to me a sinner" - a beautiful and simple prayer to adopt this week.

Family Prayer



*"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."
Thank you Lord for your mercy.
Keep us humble and mindful
of our need for you. Amen*

Talk



In today's readings we hear the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, a lesson in the dangers of being proud and the importance of being humble.

- Do you ever compare yourself to someone else, in your family or in your class? Is it a good thing to compare yourself to others? Is it always a bad thing? When can looking at someone else as a role model be helpful?
- The Pharisee compared himself to the Tax Collector and felt He was doing a great job, but his heart was full of pride and judgment. The Tax Collector was actually really humble and knew He needed God's mercy.
- Jesus knows what goes on in our hearts - that's what is most important for him, and that's what is most important for us to focus on.

Family Challenge!



Pick a saint this week to find out more about and to learn from. The saints are great role models for us. We don't have to be exactly like them, we're called to be who God created us to be. However, we can learn a lot about how to love and serve God and others through their stories.

REMEMBER OUR NEED FOR GOD

The second parable that Jesus tells in Luke 18 addresses attitude in prayer. In contrasting the prayer of the Pharisee with the prayer of the tax collector, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray in humility before God. Jesus again surprises his listeners by showing the tax collector as the example of faith, rather than the Pharisee. Remember that Pharisees were members of a sect of Judaism active in Jesus' time. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for Jewish piety. If anyone would be a model for prayer, a Pharisee was a likely candidate. In contrast, Jesus offers the tax collector as a model for prayer. Tax collectors were collaborators with the Roman authorities in a system that allowed the tax collectors to line their own pockets by charging in excess of the defined taxes. Yet, in this parable, Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a model for the prayer of a disciple. The parable reminds us that when we pray, we must remember our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of ourselves, there is too little room for God's grace to work in us.

Loyola Press Sunday Connection



Come to the Table
of the Lord (Epi)



the
messy family
project®

EMPOWERING MOMS AND DADS TO EMBRACE
THEIR SACRED CALLING

"We believe that being a good parent starts with being a great spouse. But being a good parent or even a great spouse is hard, messy work. And we're not meant to do it alone! So join us on this journey, because we believe that not only is marriage and family life a path to holiness, but it's an incredible adventure!"

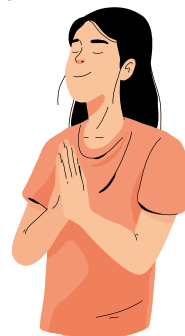


CARLO'S CORNER



WALK AND LIVE IN TRUTH

We might be tempted to laugh at the Pharisee's pompous prayer in today's Gospel. Is he for real? Does he not know how ridiculous he sounds? Yet, I think if we probe a little bit, and



maybe not even too deeply, we can find elements of his words in our own attitude and behaviour at times. Do we ever legitimise or excuse our own behaviour by comparing ourselves to someone we think is worse? "I know my room is messy, but my brother's is way worse...", "Ok, I drink a bit too much, but come one, look at X and how much he drinks every weekend - I'm not that bad!" or "I might lose my temper a bit, but at least I'm not a gossip like X...." Where's the humility in that? Without humility there can be no growth. If we determine where the standard is, or if we set the bar for ourselves, we'll almost always find ourselves above it. Thankfully for us (and for our souls!) God is the one who sets the bar, and He sets it out of love for us, because striving for that standard is how we strive for heaven and eternal happiness with him. Let's try this week to have a humble heart like the tax collector: one who is aware of the Truth of his weakness and his need for God's mercy and walks in that truth.

Fr Mike Schmitz: What true humility really looks like



The Litany of Humility
(Thomas Muglia)



To the Heights Youth Resource also available



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