

FAITH @ Home

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

14 DECEMBER 2025: YEAR A: 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 135:1-6,10

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 145(146): 6-10

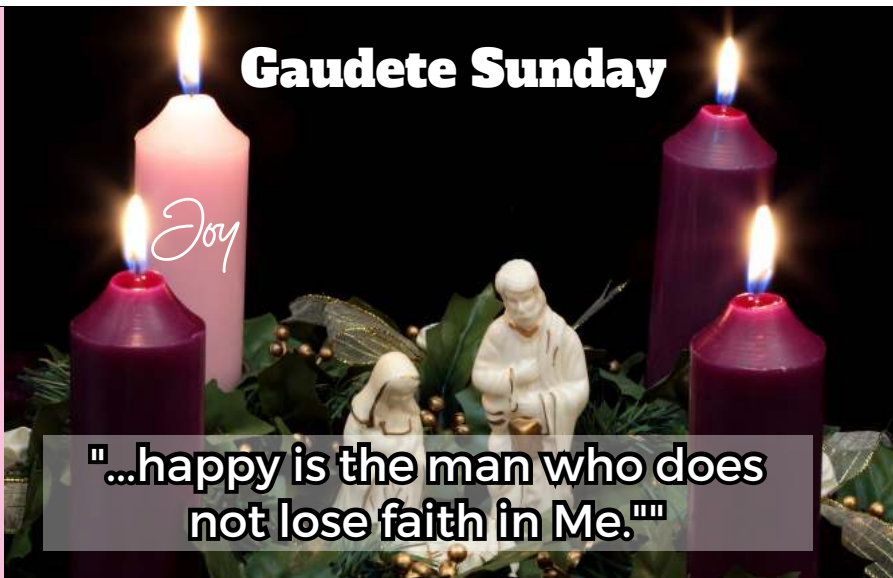
Second Reading:

James 5:7-10

Gospel:

Matthew 11:2-11

Gaudete Sunday



"...happy is the man who does not lose faith in Me."

image: canva

Hear



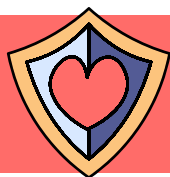
Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [HERE](#).

Reflect



- In the Gospel today we hear Jesus speak to followers of John the Baptist, with a message for John who is now in prison.
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Is our idea of Jesus the same as the reality He presents in the Gospel? Do I pray with an expectant faith in Jesus? Do I recognise signs of Him at work in my life already?
- Do I find myself bogged down with the problems of life and on the news? Do I consciously look for caring acts and generous hearts, signs of God's Kingdom? Do I speak about these things to others to build up an atmosphere of joy and hope?

Family Prayer



Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

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Chat



In today's readings we hear Jesus speak about his cousin John to some of John's followers.

Discuss the following as a family:

- This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday and we light the pink candle as a symbol of joy! What gives our family joy? How do we bring joy to others?
- Sometimes when we listen to the news, all we hear are sad stories, stories of war and violence, of unemployment and difficulties. Let's pray for those who are struggling, that they will find joy in their lives too. Let's thank God for all the things we've mentioned that bring us joy!

Family Challenge!



Together as a family, look through the newspaper or news articles online for signs of hope that God is at work in our world, or share stories of what you have seen family, friends and neighbours do that show us God's love is real and active in our world!



REJOICE!

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

Loyola Press Sunday Connection



HOW CAN I
PREPARE MYSELF
for Advent?




SOME GUIDANCE
FROM BISHOP
PHONSIE ON
CELEBRATING
ADVENT WELL

CATHOLIC ALL YEAR BLOG

What would your life look like if you lived out the traditions of the Catholic Liturgical Year?

Catholic All-Year teaches families how to bring liturgical seasons and celebrations into their homes. With free Downloads as well as paid subscriptions, there is a wealth of fun and faith-filled activities for every season of the liturgical year here!





CARLO'S CORNER


BRING OUT THE JOY!

How are you Christmas preparations going for you? Shopping done? Outfits planned? Events in the diary? Decorations up? Or is it all still a muddle?


Does it even feel like you're approaching Christmas yet? Sometimes it all gets so busy doesn't it, and other things like exams and visits and more mundane jobs get in the way of excitement and joy. Maybe it's even stressful, or a lonely time of year for you if you have lost someone you dearly loved.


Today is Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday we're called to pause and reflect on joy in the Advent season – because Christmas is the season of Joy. Joy Incarnate was born at Christmas time, and that's a good thing to remember in the midst of a dark and dreary month of December! It's a hard thing to remember though when we see so much suffering around us in our own communities and in the world at large. But today we can hit the pause button and take a good look around us to choose to find the joy!

In today's Gospel Jesus asked John the Baptist's disciples to look for signs of His Kingdom – to see the Good News already present through His actions. We can do the same thing in our own world. Make a conscious effort this week to notice goodness and kindness around you, and to bring that joy to others too! Make your heart a joyful place for Jesus this Christmas time.




Advent: More than a Chocolate Calendar
(Fr Mike Schmitz)





Make Room
(Casting Crowns)



To the Heights Youth Resource also available



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Click the Subscribe Button OR go to www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources

- Faith@Home / Let's Dive In (faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie)
- To the Heights (youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie)
- Check it Out! Diocesan Events Bulletin (events@waterfordlismore.ie)

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