



# To the Heights



Year A FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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## SPOTLIGHT!



MICHAEL BUBLÉ OPENS UP ABOUT HIS FAITH AT A VATICAN PRESS CONFERENCE. POPE LEO XIV INVITED BUBLÉ TO SING AT THE JUBILEE CONCERT WITH THE POOR LAST WEEK!



## HEAR!

### Sunday Gospel

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

If you don't have a Bible handy, click here to access Sunday Mass Readings!



## TUNE!



The Blessing  
Elevation Worship



## GROW



A SPOKEN WORD  
POEM ABOUT WHY WE  
REALLY CELEBRATE  
CHRISTMAS



WATCH NOW

## WEEKLY CHALLENGE!

Pursue holiness at home!

Consider taking Fr Mike's advice this week: ask your family what is one area you need to grow in? Where are they negatively impacted by your behaviour? Our families can see our hearts and our actions and can be a great examination of conscience!

## PRAYER INTENTION!

For all families, especially those who are facing difficulties at this time.



FR MIKE SCHMITZ



## WATCH!

THE TRUE  
TEST OF  
VIRTUE



Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen!

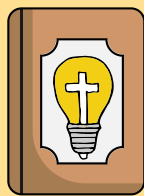
## GAMECHANGERS!

MARY  
MOTHER OF GOD  
THEOTOKOS

1st January



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!



## REFLECT

- Where does this Gospel story take place?
- What has happened just previous to this story?
- Why was Jesus in danger?
- How did Joseph know this?
- What was particularly significant about Joseph and his family, Jewish people, returning to Egypt? (Think of the story of the Passover...)
- How long did the Holy Family have to remain in Egypt?
- How was prophecy fulfilled in this part of Jesus' life?



## PRAY

Heavenly Father, you know my family, better than I know them. You know each person, their hearts, their wounds, their deepest longings. I ask you to bless my family: teach us to be loving, forgiving, joyful and serving. Amen



[www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry)



[AscendWaterfordLismoreYM](https://www.facebook.com/AscendWaterfordLismoreYM)



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[Ascend Youth Ministry](https://www.youtube.com/AscendYouthMinistry)

## HIS WORD & MY LIFE!



## 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.

Families can be tricky, can't they? Sometimes we can't wait to get home to spend time with our families, and then the little annoyances, or quirks, or responsibilities start weighing on us, and we can feel ourselves losing our patience! Family has a way of revealing things to us that we might be happier not to admit at times.

The Holy Family of Nazareth was different - that's why they're called holy.... but Mary and Joseph were human too.. They experienced anxiety when they lost Jesus in Jerusalem for three full days; they couldn't understand the bigger picture when mysterious things happened in their lives - but they trusted in God and His ways. They trusted in their Son and His ways.

The Holy Family didn't exactly have it easy either: Jesus was born in poverty and laid in a manger, hardly what Joseph would have liked for his family. Herod tried to slaughter Him. They spent their first years of family life as refugees in a hostile Egypt. When they finally moved back to Nazareth, they had to work hard to earn a living, with none of the modern comfortable conveniences we have, no material security; and all things pointing towards Jesus' passion and death. But they had each other, and the Christ Child was at the centre. There's a simple lesson for us all in that. Pray for your family today, whatever your relationship is like.



## FIND THE WORDS FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL IN THE WORDSEARCH!

## PUZZLE

angel  
appeared  
Archelaus  
child  
Egypt  
Galilee  
Herod  
Israel  
Joseph  
kill  
Mary  
mother  
Nazarene  
Nazareth  
prophet  
region  
settled  
stay  
wise men



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!



## DOODLE PRAYER

"Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt..."



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