

# FAITH @ Home

18TH JANUARY 2026: YEAR A: 2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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Month of the  
Holy Name of  
*Jesus*

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

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 39(40): 2,4,7-10

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel:

John 1:29-34

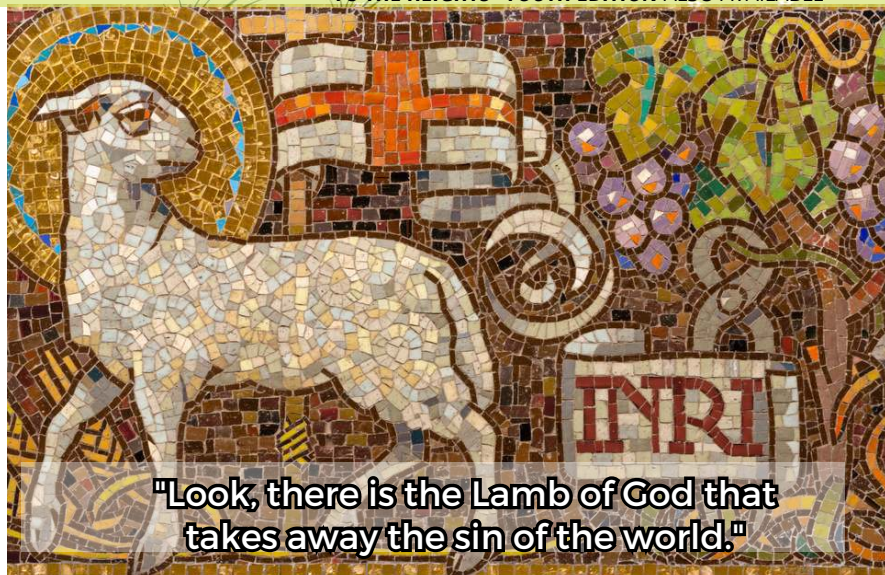


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## Hear



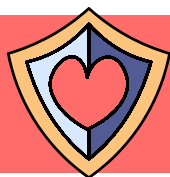
Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one?  
No worries, you can find this week's readings online [HERE](#).

## Reflect



- In the Gospel today we hear John the Baptist call Jesus the "Lamb of God" - let's pray about that phrase today.
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Jesus is called "Lamb of God" here - why do you think this is? What other titles for Jesus do you know of? How do they help you to understand who Jesus is?
- Lambs are gentle creatures: stay with this image and ask Jesus to show you how He has worked gently in your life so far? How have you felt the grace of His sacrifice as Lamb of God, the grace won on Calvary, in your life?
- Make a more conscious effort at Mass this week to pray the "Lamb of God" prayer more reverently.

## Family Prayer



*Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world have mercy on us!*

*Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace!*

## Chat



In today's readings we hear John speaking about Jesus the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

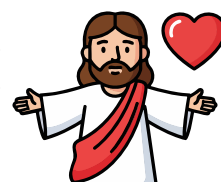
Discuss the following as a family:

- What kind of signposts are near our house? What do they tell us / point us to?
- How is John the Baptist a sign for Jesus? What does he tell us about Jesus?
- Why was Jesus called the Lamb of God? Look it up if you're not sure!
- Why do you think the Holy Spirit appears in the form of a dove over Jesus? What does a dove symbolise?
- When do we hear the words "Lamb of God" at Mass? Listen carefully next time you go to Mass!

## Family Challenge!



John gave witness to Jesus by how he lived his life. How can your family be a signpost to Jesus for others by your words and actions?



# BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him. John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel. John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

Adapted from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

## CHECK IT OUT: ABIDING TOGETHER PODCASTS



Abiding Together is a weekly podcast hosted by Michelle Benzinger, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, and Heather Khym, providing a place of connection, rest and encouragement for people who are on the journey of living out their passion and purpose in Jesus Christ. With book studies, podcasts for liturgical seasons, Apostolic Letters and series, these podcasts are full of inspirational wisdom and encouragement, particularly for Catholic women who want to go deeper in their faith.



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## CARLO'S CORNER

### CLARITY

Clarity can be a tricky thing, and yet when we don't have clarity, it leads to frustration and lack of peace. Jesus had total clarity about his goals in life. He knew what



His mission was: to reconcile us to the Father, to show us how to live and to win eternal salvation for us. All His decisions, all His words and actions were oriented towards that goal, and He never lost sight of the Father's face or heart at any stage, even during His passion and death.

John the Baptist had very clear goals too. He knew He wasn't the Messiah. His goal in life was to prepare the way for the Messiah, to announce His coming, to prepare for it by calling people to repentance. All his decisions (quirky as some of them may have been, like wearing camel skin and eating locusts!) were oriented towards that goal.

Are we as clear about our goals? Do we know where we're headed and how to get there? Do we know who God has created us to be, and are we actively seeking to become that person? God's plan for us is the maximum of our happiness: let's make a start, a small step today towards realising His vision in our lives!

Ask yourself the questions Fr Mike posed at the end of this video: "God, what is your vision for my life?" "What are the decisions I need to make? What obstacles do I need to remove from my life?" "What is one positive step I can take today to help me achieve that vision?"



**DEVELOPING A CLEAR VISION IN LIFE**  
(FR MIKE SCHMITZ)



**I REFUSE**  
(JOSH WILSON)



*To the Heights Youth Resource also available*

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