

# FAITH @ Home

17TH MAY 2026: YEAR A: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore  
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*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:

Acts 1:1-11

Responsorial Psalm:

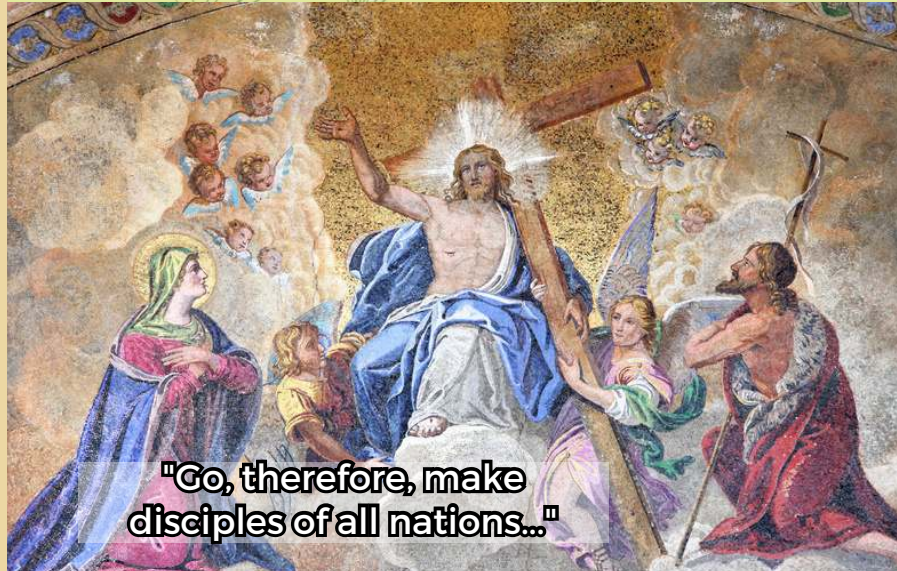
Psalm 46(47): 2-3, 6-9

Second Reading:

Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel:

Matthew 28:16-20



"Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations..."

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](#).

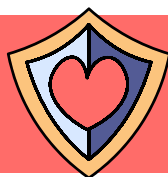
## Reflect



In the Gospel today we hear about Jesus giving His apostles the Great Commission.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Put yourself in the shoes of the Apostles that day: how would you feel hearing the mission Jesus is assigning to you? Excited? Overwhelmed? Curious?
- Do you ever feel ill-equipped to be a witness for Jesus? Do you feel you lack the skills or gifts necessary? Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the gifts He has given you and considering the promise that He will give you everything you need at the appointed time: *"God does not call the equipped - he equips the called!"*

## Family Prayer



*O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore You. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me Your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that You desire of me and to accept all that You permit to happen to me. Let me only know Your Will. Amen*

## Chat



In today's Gospel we hear Jesus telling His apostles to go and make disciples of all nations.

- This is often seen as the beginning of the church, when Jesus asked His apostles to go not just to the Jewish people in the Holy Land, but to all nations, to people everywhere!
- Did you know that the family is called the *domestic church*? That's the first place we should learn about our faith. What have you learned about God and your faith from people in your family? Are there any particular ways your family expresses your faith?
- If you are away from your family, you know they are still with you in some way. Jesus promised to be with His apostles (and us!) always. How can we tune into that?

## Family Challenge!



This week, think about all the people who have helped you to grow in faith. Why not make a list of them all as a family, and write them down, and keep them in a visible place. Pray a daily prayer of thanksgiving for them, asking God to bless them!



# THE GREAT COMMISSION

Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, to Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples in today's Gospel.

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout Scripture, the most important events happen on the mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop (Matthew 17:1-8). Also in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount.

Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf. Matthew 28:9-10). They see Jesus, and both worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to baptize and teach, "to make disciples of all nations." It is a task which Jesus had previously prepared his disciples for; recall that Jesus had sent the twelve apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal (cf. Matthew 10:1-15). However, earlier the Twelve were sent only to the House of Israel; in this Final Commission, the eleven are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to baptize and to teach.

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations found in Scripture for baptism in the name of the Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered "in the name of Jesus."

The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to bring others into the community of disciples through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all eternity.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**

## The Pope's Intention for May



*THAT EVERYONE MIGHT HAVE FOOD  
Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.*

## ROSARY RALLY - CLONMEL

Multicultural / multilingual Rosary Rally in honour of Our Lady of Fatima for World Peace & the Family.

Kickham Plaza, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Saturday 23rd May @ 4pm.

All welcome!

PRAYER IN THE PLAZA Ireland Needs Fatima

### ROSARY RALLY

Multicultural / multilingual Rosary Rally in honour of Our Lady of Fatima

Kickham Plaza, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Saturday 23rd May @ 4pm

for World Peace and the Family

ONE OF OVER 500 ROSARY RALLIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AT THIS TIME

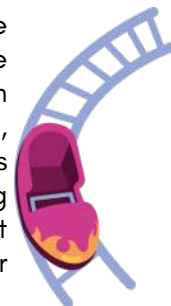
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## CARLO'S CORNER



### BE A WITNESS

Can you imagine the rollercoaster journey the Apostles were on from Jesus' passion and death, to His resurrection, then His Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? It was never crystal clear to them what was coming next: they didn't get a detailed plan - just a mission.



And what a mission it was! To spread the Good News to the far ends of the earth! Some task for such a small group, and yet they achieved it, through the power of the Holy Spirit working within them, filling them with courage, to go and be witnesses: to live like Jesus, to look like Jesus, to love like Jesus so that others could encounter Jesus in and through them.

That's the same mission we have today as Christians. Christians have the greatest news the world has ever known, and the exact news that needs to be shared with those who are depressed, lonely, struggling, frustrated, suffering, grieving - and yet if we don't share it, who will? We don't have to worry about the how: the Holy Spirit will provide the opportunities and the words: God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called! We just need to be ready to enter into the conversation with others, even if we don't have all the answers.

You will be presented with opportunities this week to be a joyful witness to the Christian faith: how will you use them? Will you offer to pray for or with someone? Will you mention the name of Jesus to them? Will you serve humbly and cheerfully? Will you put others before yourself? Will you be willing to listen?



How to share the Gospel (and how not to!)  
Fr Mike Schmitz



Hillsong:  
To the Ends of the Earth



To the Heights Youth Resource also available



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- To the Heights ([youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie))
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