

To the Heights

Year A ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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SPOTLIGHT!



HOLY FAMILY MISSION SUPPORTING THE PRO-LIFE MARCH FOR LIFE IN DUBLIN RECENTLY.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE!

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 and enter into conversation?



Lord, you have asked me to be a witness to you in this world. No one else has the same set of circumstances and people in their lives as I do. No one else can reach people in the same way I can. Send your Holy Spirit to guide and direct my thoughts, words, actions and encounters this week. Amen!

PRAY



HEAR!

Sunday Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

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



For all the young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this year - that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will continue to grow in their hearts and lives!



PRAYER INTENTION FOR THIS WEEK

TUNE!



To the Ends of the Earth Hillsong



GROW

Four Unexpected Ways to Share your Faith with Fr Mark Mary Ames CFR



GAMECHANGERS!

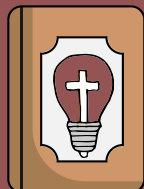
The Italian St Rita is patron of difficult marriages, impossible causes, infertility problems, parenthood and those who suffer from headaches! St Rita of Cascia, pray for us!

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 were the apostles going?
- Why was there only 11 of them?
- How did they react to seeing Jesus?
- Does this story take place before or after Jesus' passion, death and resurrection? How do you know?
- What mandate does Jesus give the apostles?
- Where is His message to be spread?



WATCH!

FR MIKE SCHMITZ



In every age God raises up saints who best exemplify the virtues so needed in their day.

**HIS
WORD &
MY LIFE**



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?



PUZZLE

FIND THE WORDS FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW

- always
- authority
- baptise
- commands
- disciple
- earth
- eleven
- end of time
- Father
- felldown
- Galilee
- go
- heaven
- Jesus
- make
- mountain
- nations
- observe
- Spirit

N	N	E	N	O	G	V	N	R	E	N	U	P	D	B	H
J	V	A	U	T	H	O	R	I	T	Y	Y	C	T	A	V
P	D	R	T	G	Y	B	S	B	A	N	R	Y	G	P	P
U	I	T	W	I	H	M	Q	Y	W	T	W	G	B	T	M
F	R	H	P	E	O	E	U	O	A	T	N	L	C	I	M
E	A	R	U	X	W	N	D	X	H	W	S	U	M	S	R
E	E	T	T	Q	N	L	S	D	R	U	L	F	O	E	D
L	M	S	H	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	A	Q	M	H
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A	F	P	H	Y	H	J	M	T	I	W	E	Z	Z	A	N
G	O	L	L	E	Z	M	A	J	O	V	S	K	Y	O	E
H	D	E	A	Y	A	Z	E	V	W	G	Y	Q	J	T	V
T	N	V	T	N	C	Y	J	K	X	C	Y	G	V	F	E
C	E	B	D	N	A	Z	L	U	A	Y	K	Q	S	X	L
N	A	S	E	V	R	E	S	B	O	M	W	K	Y	S	E

DOODLE PRAYER

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!

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



CLICK HERE FOR SOME RELAXING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
TOP WORSHIP SONGS OF ALL TIME! - INSTRUMENTAL WORSHIP GUITAR | JON SNODGRASS



RESPOND!



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.



HOW TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

SHARE

We don't need to have all the answers. We just need to be ready to ask the questions.



HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL IN A FEW SENTENCES?

WHAT WOULD HOLD YOU BACK FROM SHARING THAT GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS?



WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ "HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL (AND HOW NOT TO!)" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



Fr Mike talks about a young man who feels like he failed to evangelise a friend, who instead felt offended and judged. Why does Fr Mike say this wasn't a case of evangelisation?





Often we can find the idea of evangelisation (sharing the Gospel) difficult because we feel under pressure - in our minds what can that pressure be?

Evangelisation very often does not begin with answers but with _____.

What does Fr Mike describe as one of the most compelling questions to start with?

Why might chatting to someone about a movie be a good starting point when wanting to talk about the purpose and meaning of life?



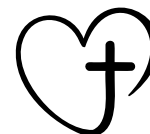
Even if we don't end up getting into a conversation directly about faith, what kind of culture / relationship is important to create through our interactions and questions?

We can still experience fear - fear that we won't know the answers if they start asking us the questions, fear we don't know if we know what to say. That's ok - we seek after the answers! That shouldn't disqualify us from being ready to evangelise however!

"ALWAYS BE READY TO GIVE A R_____ FOR THE FAITH THAT'S W_____ Y_____."
ST PETER

HOW TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

If right now you don't feel ready with answers, that doesn't mean you're not ready to ask the questions, to enter into relationship or to enter into the conversation. You don't need to know all the answers, because you don't have to start with the answers!



If someone asked you what your faith means to you - what would you say, in 2 - 3 sentences? Take longer to reflect on it / write about it if you need to. It's a personal question - and a really important one at that!



READ: ACTS 1:1-11

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MISSION!

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 AND ENTER INTO CONVERSATION?



PRAYER TIME!

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CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON BEING A WITNESS TO CHRIST

- Hillsong: To the Ends of the Earth
- Casting Crowns: Glorious Day
- Casting Crowns: Until the Whole World Hears
- Leeland: Follow You



- Fee: Send me out
- Kari Jobe: We Are
- Bethel Music: For the Sake of the World
- Chris McClarney: Send Me



Why the Ascension Matters (Bishop Barron)



How Do I Know If I've Actually Encountered Jesus? (Fr Mike Schmitz)