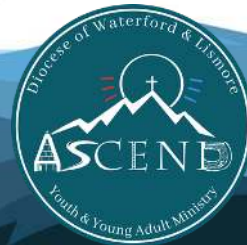




To the Heights



Year A 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Download from www.waterfordlismore.ie/resources or subscribe to receive by email!

SPOTLIGHT!

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore
Medjugorje 2026
Pope John Paul II Pilgrimage

WATCH THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE THIS YEAR WITH POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD PARTICIPANTS!



HEAR!

Sunday Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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



Christian Wilhelm Ernst Dietrich, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

FOR THE CARE OF WATER

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



TUNE!



Blessings

Laura Story



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Are there situations in your life that are causing you frustration? Is some of that frustration caused by unmet expectations, expectations that are not based on reality, or on what was promised to you, or on situations that you encounter or how others behave? Can you pick one situation or relationship to work this week: to acknowledge the reality and escape frustration?



PRAY



Jesus, you know that my heart is made for love, for greatness and for adventure. Keep me grounded in reality too, so that I may not drive myself mad with expectations that are not rooted in reality. Help me to see the truth about me and others, and to live out of that truth, putting my hope and trust in you. Amen.



GROW

LEARN MORE ABOUT PADRE PIO!

Check out our resource to find out more about this great Catholic saint and mystic!



GAMECHANGERS!

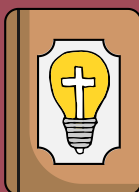
ST PIO OF PIETRELcina

(PADRE PIO!)

20TH SEPTEMBER



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

- What does Jesus compare the Kingdom of Heaven to in this parable?
- What did the landowner agree to pay the workers who started at daybreak?
- How many more times did he go out to hire workers?
- How much did those who were hired last earn?
- How did the first-hired workers react?
- Is this an understandable reaction?
- How did the owner justify his decision to them?
- What do you think Jesus meant by this parable?

FR MIKE SCHMITZ



www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry



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

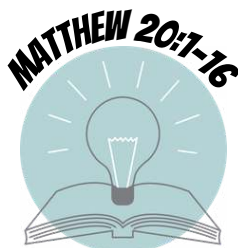


[ascendwaterfordlismore.ym](https://www.instagram.com/ascendwaterfordlismore.ym)



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

HIS WORD & MY LIFE



When we read the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, it can be easy to side with those who worked a full day and feel hard done by by the vineyard owner when they receive only one denarius, the exact same as those who started working much, much later in the day!

Yet, when we re-examine the story, we realise that they agreed to work for one denarius, they received exactly what they were promised, no less; exactly what they agreed was a fair wage before they began working. Instead they are annoyed by the generosity of the vineyard owner who pays one denarius to everyone who worked for him that day, even though they had no right to expect more for themselves, or less for others.

Their expectations as they queued up to receive their wages did not meet reality and they experienced frustration! Are we ever guilty of feeling like that towards God, forgetting that He is abundantly generous and merciful, but we don't earn that mercy or generosity - it is offered freely to everyone!

Let's practice an attitude of gratitude instead, acknowledging the reality of what others have generously done for us, and how God has radically blessed us, and being thankful, rather than being resentful or frustrated!



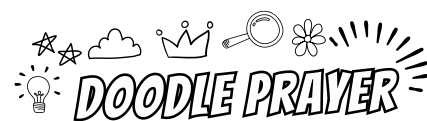
PUZZLE

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

bailiff
choose
denarius
disciples
eleventh hour
envious
fair
first
generous
grumbled
heat
heaven
Jesus
kingdom
landowner
last
ninth
one hour
parable
third
vineyard
wages
workers

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

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!



"the last will be first,
and the first, last."



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.

FRUSTRATED? TRY A REALITY CHECK

There are no 'ifs' in God's Kingdom. His timing is perfect. His Will is our hiding place. Lord Jesus, keep me in Your Will! Don't let me go mad by poking about outside it. **Corrie ten Boom** (Holocaust Survivor)

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN YOU WERE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE WHAT YOU EXPECTED TO HAPPEN DIDN'T HAPPEN?



HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A REALIST, A PESSIMIST AND AN OPTIMIST?

Optimist _____

Pessimist _____

Realist _____

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ "EXPECTATIONS VS. REALITY" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



Explain why Fr Mike's first job caused him frustration:



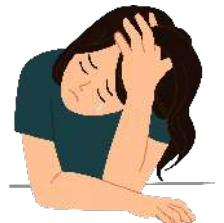
CLOSED

- What were his expectations?
- What was the reality of the situation?

According to Fr Mike we have two approaches in situations like this:

- 1 Hold onto the _____ and retain _____.
- 2 Acknowledge the _____, adjust my expectations to fit reality, and escape _____.

Can you think of situations in your own life where you made the first choice, but the second choice would have been a better option? Explain:



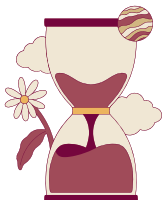
Fr Mike explains how we can sometimes apply that attitude to God too: we can expect things of God (or others) that maybe God never promised you He would do, or say, or be for us. How might this negatively affect our relationship with God?

How can we apply **Approach 2** to our relationship with God, do you think?

FRUSTRATED? TRY A REALITY CHECK

What difference do you think it would make in your own life if you simply acknowledged reality and based your expectations of others, of God, or of situations off of reality?

What would change in your life? What would change in your attitude? (*Obviously this is not the same as not having dreams and goals for your life: we are supposed to be the best version of ourselves!*)





READ: MATTHEW 20:1-16

When we read the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, it can be easy to side with those who worked a full day and feel hard done by by the vineyard owner when they receive only one denarius, the exact same as those who started working much, much later in the day! Yet, when we re-examine the story, we realise that they agreed to work for one denarius, they received exactly what they were promised, no less; exactly what they agreed was a fair wage before they began working. Instead they are annoyed by the generosity of the vineyard owner who pays one denarius to everyone who worked for him that day, even though they had no right to expect more for themselves, or less for others. Their expectations as they queued up to receive their wages did not meet reality and they experienced frustration! Are we ever guilty of feeling like that towards God, forgetting that He is abundantly generous and merciful, but we don't earn that mercy or generosity - it is offered freely to everyone! Let's practice an attitude of gratitude instead, acknowledging the reality of what others have generously done for us, and how God has radically blessed us, and being thankful, rather than being resentful or frustrated!



MISSION!

ARE THERE SITUATIONS IN YOUR LIFE THAT ARE CAUSING YOU FRUSTRATION? IS SOME OF THAT FRUSTRATION CAUSED BY UNMET EXPECTATIONS, EXPECTATIONS THAT ARE NOT BASED ON REALITY, OR ON WHAT WAS PROMISED TO YOU, OR ON SITUATIONS THAT YOU ENCOUNTER OR HOW OTHERS BEHAVE? CAN YOU PICK ONE SITUATION OR RELATIONSHIP TO WORK THIS WEEK: TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REALITY AND ESCAPE FRUSTRATION?



PRAYER TIME!

Jesus, you know that my heart is made for love, for greatness and for adventure. Keep me grounded in reality too, so that I may not drive myself mad with expectations that are not rooted in reality. Help me to see the truth about me and others, and to live out of that truth, putting my hope and trust in you. Amen.



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON GOD'S PROMISES / GENEROSITY

- Laura Story: Blessings
- Lauren Daigle: Trust in You
- Andrew Ripp: For The Love Of God
- Jon Reddick: I Believe It (The Life Of Jesus)



- Leeland: Way Maker
- Bethel Music: Goodness of God
- Elevation Worship: Your Promises
- Chris Tomlin: Good Good Father

"The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds."



Fr Patrick Cahill: The 11th Hour