

FAITH @ Home

25TH OCTOBER 2026: 30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

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:

Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 18:2-4,47,51

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Gospel:

Matthew 22:34-40

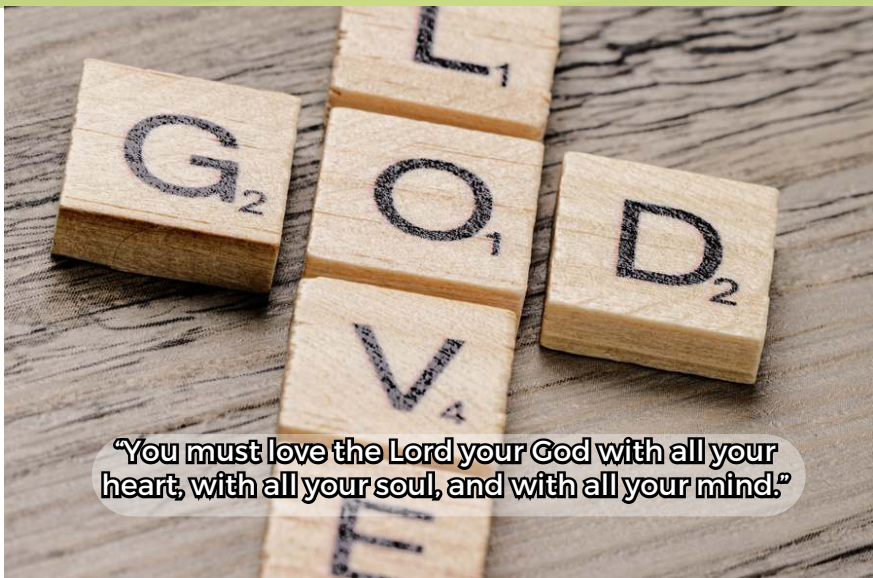


Image: Canva

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](#).



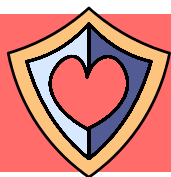
Reflect



In the Gospel today we hear Jesus trying to disconcert Jesus with their questions.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- How do you feel you are personally doing with the Greatest Commandment? Do you love God with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, ALL your mind? Are you striving for this? Are there any areas of your life you're holding back from God and don't want His input into, much less surrendering them completely to Him?
- Pray for the grace to put God first, and from that to have the love in your heart to share with all your meet, including yourself.

Family Prayer



Act of Love: O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbour as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured.

Chat



In today's readings we hear Jesus explain the importance of loving God first, and then our neighbours as ourselves.

- As a family chat about the different ways you should love to each other in the family. What about our neighbours and friends?
- Let each person take some time of quiet to think about 2 ways they can show love to God this week, and 2 ways they can show love to others: feel free to share this afterwards, or leave as a commitment between each person and God alone!

Family Challenge!



This week, make a conscious decision every morning as a family to look for opportunities to love God and love our neighbours. Ask God to make you aware of the opportunities as they present themselves throughout the day, and give you the grace to act as He wants you to act!



THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

This week's Gospel follows close behind the Gospel read last Sunday. It is the last of three questions put to Jesus by Jewish religious leaders who are trying to trick him into saying something that might get him arrested. This reminds us that the context for today's reading is the mounting tension between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem.

The Herodians and the Pharisees asked the first question, which was about taxes. The Sadducees asked the second question, which was about the Resurrection (see Matthew 22:22-33). The third question, considered in today's Gospel, is asked by a Pharisee who asks Jesus about the greatest of the commandments.

The question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Mosaic Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law.

Jesus answers the Pharisees' question with a two-fold summary. Jesus says that all of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love God and love your neighbor. Both of these were central elements of the religious tradition Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed these continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbor.

taken from **Loyola Press Sunday Connection**



POPE'S INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

LEARNING ABOUT LOVE LANGUAGES



CARLO'S CORNER

LOVE LANGUAGES



Do you ever wonder why people can't just think the same way as you do, or act in the same way? Have you ever done something really nice for someone but it's like they don't really appreciate it? Or have you ever wanted someone to just tell you they're proud of you, or that they love you, but they never speak those words of affirmation? Maybe they're trying to tell you in a different way and you haven't seen it. Maybe you think they should know exactly how you're feeling, but you're both speaking a different language, a different love language to be more exact.

People express and receive love in different ways - and knowing this can be helpful in human relationships, but also with God too. The theory of Love Languages was developed by marriage counselor Dr. Gary Chapman, a Baptist pastor, based on his observations and counseling work with couples in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The five love languages are generally understood to be Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Acts of Service, Physical Touch and Gift-giving.

Challenge for this week:

Watch the video from Fr Mark Mary this week explaining the 5 Love Languages and see where you fit in! Think about the people in your family or friend circles - does this help you understand where they are coming from a little more? You can look at doing a free online quiz here:

<https://5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/love-language>



Fr Mark Mary: Speak your neighbour's love language



Lincoln Brewster: Love the Lord



To the Heights Youth Resource also available



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