

FAITH @Home

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



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4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH: THE MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 136 (137):1-6

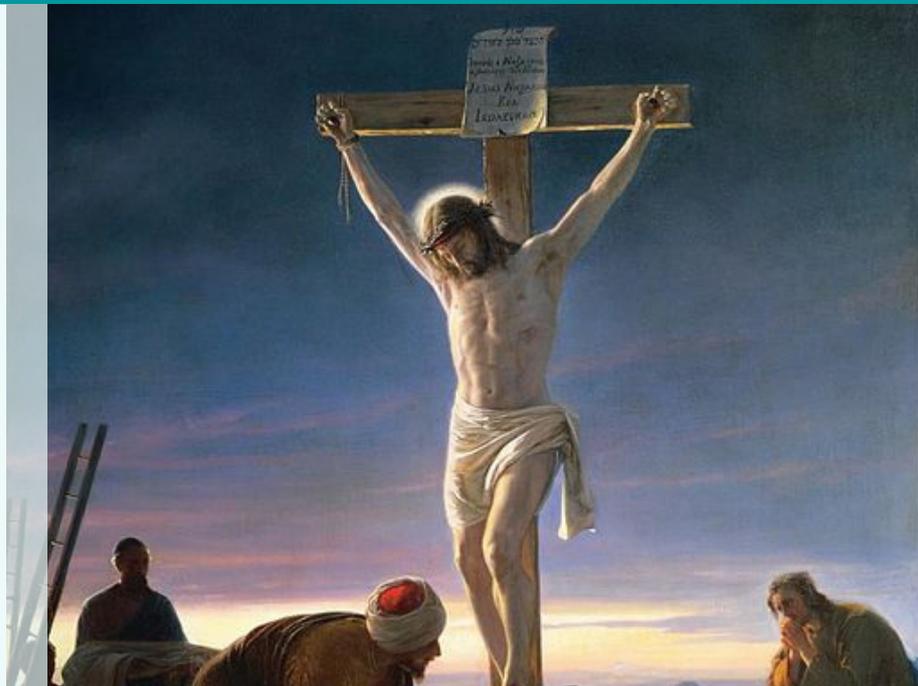
Second Reading:

Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel:

John 3:14-21

"God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that through Him the world might be saved"



Carl Bloch, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Hear

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

This week's Gospel contains one of the best known verses in all of Scripture, John 3:16, which declares that God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son. God's motive for sending Jesus among us is love. In fact, all of God's actions and dealings with us are inspired and motivated by love. This is good news and if we didn't know it before, now is the time to believe it and let it begin to change us!

Family Challenge!

Your challenge this week is to memorise John 3:16. Who will be first in the family to memorise it correctly?!

Talk

Think about how you have experienced God's love in your life.

- How does it make you feel to know that you are loved unconditionally by God?
- Are there times when you find God's love hard to accept or feel?
- What can you do to best experience the presence and love of God in your life?
- What are some of the ways that you can show God's love to others?

Pray

Read the Gospel together as a family. After it is read for the first time, let everyone share what word or phrase struck them. Then, read it a second time. Share what you feel God is saying to you through this Gospel story.

Kids' Corner



Check out page 3 for a picture from today's reading to print and colour!

MISSION! Some people carry a big sign saying "John 3:16" to football matches, to remind others just how much God loves them. Can you think of some fun ways you can remind people at home this week that God loves them? Get creative!

LEARN THE JOHN 3:16 SONG TO REMEMBER THE VERSE!



Please email us at faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie [or click the [subscribe](#) button] if you would like to receive Faith@Home direct to your inbox each week!

"To the Heights" Post-Primary / Youth Version also available: click [SUBSCRIBE](#) / email youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie

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GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

This weekend we celebrate 'Laetare' ('rejoicing') Sunday, where our Lenten penances are allowed a short break, and lighter, rose-coloured vestments are worn by the priest at Mass. The central theme of today is light, and we are reminded that Christ the Light of the World has conquered the darkness of sin and death.

Today's readings are about light and darkness, i.e. good and evil, and the consequences of both. Our first reading from Second Chronicles recounts the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BC, and most of the city's inhabitants were taken off to exile to Babylon for over fifty years. Seen through the eyes of faith, the Jewish people realised they were facing the consequences of sin, of their many acts of betrayal of God's love that had led to this corrective punishment. They had chosen darkness (idolatry and materialism) over the light of God's love. God allowed them to suffer the loss of their homeland and temple so as to come back to him with renewed and humbled hearts. That's what Lent is about; we bring to God our sins and past mistakes and regrets, and we allow God to heal and forgive us, as he desires to, as our loving Father.

Jesus makes this point in today's gospel, that those who live by the truth enter into the light of God's love, who sent his only Son to redeem us. At our Baptism, we were filled with the light of God's presence and grace. This Lent, is there anything in us that is blocking that light from shining within us, perhaps any selfish habits that have crept in, negativity, selfishness etc? May our Lenten repentance fill us more and more with God's light, so that at Easter we may truly shine out with the glory of the Risen Lord.

By Fr Shane O'Neill

CHECK IT OUT: KNOCK SHRINE



On the evening of the 21st August 1879, a heavenly apparition occurred at the gable wall of the Parish Church in Knock, Co, Mayo when Our Lady appeared, accompanied by St Joseph and St John the Evangelist. Unique to the Knock apparition was the appearance of the Lamb of God, standing on an altar, before a cross and surrounded by angels.

With current restrictions it is difficult for people to visit the shrine, but you can still visit virtually through their livestream, purchase Mass cards, light a candle, place a petition and access the online shop!

KNOCK

EVENTS

Quo Vadis

Lenten Series for young adults aged 18 - 35 who are seeking purpose and meaning in their lives. Every Sunday from 7 - 8pm until 28th March. [Click here to register](#) or email youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie



"The Message of the Good News - God's Unconditional Love"

Sr Antoinette Dilworth leads a short Lenten Reflection: Thursdays on the Diocesan Facebook Live at 7pm

Family Resources for St Patrick's Day
Livestreamed Mass @10am and online resources to help families celebrate our national saint. Check out www.holyfamilymission.ie



Family Prayer

God,

Thank you for Your great love in sending Your Son Jesus to show us how to live, and to die for our sins so that we can enjoy eternal happiness with You. May we never take this great gift for granted. May this Lent be a time of renewal in our family, so that we grow to love you more and more every day.

Amen.



Carlo's Corner

WHY DOES GOD LOVE ME?

"God doesn't need you to be perfect. He just wants you to be His." Fr Mike Schmitz



John 3:16 - it's a quote we see randomly at football and hurling matches, usually on big yellow signs, but often we don't know what it means:

"For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life."

Let that sink in for a minute... read it again but put your name in instead of "the world".

That means God not only loves you (because He IS Love after all), but he **likes** you! He **delights** in you, even with all your quirky ways and imperfections! You don't have to pretend with Him, just be His child. He's a loving Dad who just wants you to want to spend time with Him, to talk to Him, to hear what He has to say, and He wants with in heaven with Him for all eternity so much that He gave the ultimate sacrifice, His Son Jesus. He's worth listening to. This week, remind yourself constantly of John 3:16 - write it out somewhere you'll see it every day... and trust that it's true, and it's for YOU!

Check out:

[Fr Mike: Why God Loves You](#)

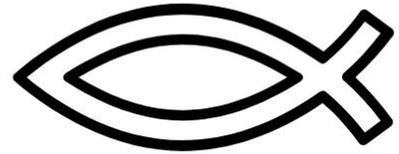
[Lifeteen: The Day I realised God likes me](#)

[Good Good Father \(Chris Tomlin\)](#)



JOHN 3:16

For God



SO LOVED THE WORLD

that he gave

HIS ONE AND ONLY SON,

that whoever

BELIEVES IN HIM

SHALL NOT PERISH

BUT HAVE

ETERNAL LIFE.

