

FAITH @Home

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13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

1 Kings 9:16, 19-21

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 15 (16): 1-2, 5, 7-11

Second Reading:

Galatians 5:1, 13-18

Gospel:

Luke 9:51-62

"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."



Image: canva.com

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](#).

Check out [this video](#) on the Gospel for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear about Jesus explaining the cost of following Him.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- It can seem like Jesus' answer is pretty harsh here. However He is not saying that our families are not important. Rather He's talking about the importance of putting God first. Being a follower of Jesus isn't easy. It takes real commitment. Reflect in prayer and what you might struggle with when following Jesus. Where in your life do you need more grace to let go and let God? What in your life are you putting in God's place?
- If one particular area is coming up for you as you reflect, bring that especially to Jesus in prayer this week. Ask Him how to be a committed follower of His.

Talk

In today's readings we hear about the radical call to discipleship.

- If you could only choose three foods to eat for the rest of your life, what would they be? What if you could only pick one - what would you choose?
- Every time we choose something, even choosing chicken nuggets rather than pizza, it means saying yes to one thing and no to something else.
- Following Jesus means we have to make a choice too. There are some things that help us to follow Jesus, and some things that make it more difficult. Can you name some choices that make it easy to follow Jesus? What choices make it difficult?

Family Challenge!

As a family this week, choose something that is good for your family to do together.

Also, make a choice that is helpful to following Jesus: e.g. pray morning prayer together, visit the Church, get to confession, say night prayer.

Check out page 3 for a picture to colour from this week's readings!

MISSION: Do you know just how much God loves you? He knows that if you spend time with Him, and do what He wants you to do, it will make you happy! Is there something you can do this week to show God how much He means to you?

Song of the Week!
I'LL FOLLOW JESUS



"All are born as originals, but many die as photocopies."
Bl. Carlo Acutis

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS

Following Jesus means being a nice person, recycling... that's about it really isn't it? Nope! If you read the Gospels, especially a Gospel like this one, you'll quickly see that Jesus places fairly hefty demands on His disciples! Is it all a bit too much? Well, let's consider what's at stake - heaven! So, no, the cost isn't really too heavy at all! Remember too, anything Jesus calls us to do is just what He has done Himself. He paid the ultimate cost, He gave all to His heavenly Father. He prioritised God the Father and His plan always, even unto death. It's not that Jesus is telling us that families are not important, or that we can't say goodbye to people. Rather, He's telling us that following Him requires radical commitment. Some commentaries of this Gospel say that the second man hadn't actually lost his father yet, that the verb used implies a future event where he would bury his still-living father... so he was really putting discipleship on the long finger! We will always find excuses not to follow Jesus, but living a double-life never leads to happiness. Choose Jesus first, put God first: I guarantee you will never regret it! The rewards are out of this world! :)

Follow Fr Mike's 3-Question checklist this week, to see where God actually is on your priority list. Choose one area to really work on, remembering to ask for His Grace to help you first!

- Is God in the Centre of your life? Fr Mike Schmitz)
- Tim Hughes: Everything



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THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Gospel reading begins a long section unique to Luke's Gospel. Jesus begins his journey to Jerusalem, which will end with his ministry in Jerusalem.

Immediately Jesus is met with rejection, as a Samaritan village will not receive him because he is going to Jerusalem. There was animosity between Samaritans who worshiped on Mount Gerazim and Jews who worshiped in Jerusalem. James and John want to call down fire from heaven to destroy the people in the village, but Jesus rebukes them and moves on. There is often the temptation to use violence to achieve right. Jesus has come to break this temptation. He is aware that he must undergo violence himself before he can enter his glory.

The rest of today's reading is about the radical demands of discipleship. The three people who volunteer to become disciples on this journey show that they do not understand the demands Jesus will make of them. Neither care of self, care for the dead, nor care of one's family (as required by the Fourth Commandment) can come before the demands of discipleship. Jesus reminds the first volunteer, who would go wherever Jesus goes, that animals in the wild have more security than do Jesus and his followers. The second, who wants to bury a parent, is reminded that the demands of proclaiming the Kingdom of God take precedence. And the third, who wants to say farewell to his family, is reminded that once you put your hand to the plow you cannot look back or the furrow will be crooked. Such a person is not ready for the Kingdom of God.

Jesus seems harsh here, but he is only asking of his disciples what he asks of himself. Jesus' unconditional commitment to God's saving work will demand of him his life. He knows this, but the disciples do not understand. Jesus does not want anyone to rush into discipleship, because the demands of discipleship require everyone considering it to be aware of the cost, make Jesus and his mission central to his life, and then go forward without looking back.

Adapted from Loyola Press Sunday Connection

Check out "To the Heights" full resource



Family Prayer

*Lord, show us how to put
You first always and
everywhere. Help us to be
true disciples of yours.
Amen*

EVENTS

Good News Faith Camp, Tramore: Catholic Summer Camp for Primary School Children: Music, Action Songs, Arts & Crafts, Games, Prayer and a whole lot of fun! July 4 - 7 in Glór na Mara NS. More info on www.tramoreparish.ie

St Declan's Summer Camp, Ardmore: Catholic Summer Camp for Primary School Children: Music, Action Songs, Arts & Crafts, Games, Prayer and a whole lot of fun! July 18 - 21 in St Declan's NS. More info on <https://www.holyfamilymission.ie/campa-mhuire-mhathair/>

Queen of Peace Retreats: 4-day Medjugorje-style retreat at Glencomeragh Retreat Centre. Thurs 21-Sun 24 July / Thurs 18-Sun 21 Aug / Thurs 1-Sun 4 Sept. Cost: €260. For more info or to book contact info@holyfamilymission.ie or (052) 6133181

Youth 2000 Summer Festival: Ireland's largest Catholic gathering for young people aged 16-35. August 11-14. Donation only. More info on www.youth2000.ie

CHECK IT OUT: GLENCOMERAGH HOUSE RETREAT CENTRE

Holy Family Mission is based in the idyllic and stunningly beautiful setting of Glencomeragh, Co. Waterford. The retreat house facilities are available to groups and individuals who wish to use them. The guest house and architecturally renowned hermitages are also available to book for times of personal retreat. There are also a number of guided retreat options at Glencomeragh House throughout the year, and they can be viewed at www.holyfamilymission.ie



Follow Jesus

