

FAITH

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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

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24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 50(51): 3-4, 12-13, 17,19

Second Reading:

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel:

Luke 15:1-32

"Rejoice with me, I have found my sheep that was lost."



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 Jesus speak about God seeking out those who are lost.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Have you ever felt far from God in your own life? Was it a set of circumstances gradually put a distance between you and God, or was it because of deliberate choices you made?
- Have you ever had the experience of being found by God and welcomed back into His embrace? Have you ever really felt the mercy and love of God after confession, for example?
- This week, make a special effort to go to Confession. Remember, God is waiting with arms outstretched for you!

Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus explaining how God will do anything to rescue those who are lost and rejoices when they are found!

- Have you ever lost something important? What was it like while you were searching? How did you feel when you found it?
- Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? How did it feel to be the person searching for you, do you think? What was your reaction when you were found?
- Jesus is like the Good Shepherd who searches for us whenever we stray from Him. Let's try to stay close to Him and listen to His voice so we don't get lost and confused about what to do and how to act.

Family Challenge!

Play a game of hide and seek this week, or another game that involves hiding an object! Let it remind you of how God loves you so much He always wants us to be found, snug and secure, in His loving arms!

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

Song of the Week!
THE BAA BAA SONG

Mission: Each morning this week when you wake up, ask Jesus the Good Shepherd to help you to stay close to Him all day long!



"I'd leave 99, leave them all behind to find you."
Audio Adrenaline

OUR CAPACITY TO BE LOVED

GOD ACTIVELY SEEKS US OUT

In chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells three parables about losing, finding, and rejoicing. The outcasts of society, the taxpayers, and the sinners approach Jesus eager to hear what he has to say. In Luke's Gospel, hearing is a sign of conversion. The Pharisees and scribes, still suspicious of Jesus, complain about him associating with sinners. So he tells them these three parables.

In the first story, the parable of The Lost Sheep, the shepherd leaves behind the 99 sheep to search for the 1 lost sheep. When he finds it, the shepherd rejoices not alone as in Matthew's version, but with friends and neighbors. In the same way, God rejoices more over 1 sinner who repents—like the outcasts who have come to hear Jesus—than over the 99 righteous like the Pharisees and scribes.

The second story, about a poor woman who will not stop searching until she finds her lost coin, makes the same point. Why are the Pharisees complaining? They should rejoice when the lost are found.

Finally we come to what is probably the most memorable parable in the Gospels, the story we know as The Prodigal Son. Just as in The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin, this story (found only in Luke) is really about the seeker. The loving father is at the center of this parable. Even though his son runs off with his father's inheritance and squanders the money, the father waits for him, hoping for his return. Upon his son's return, the father, "full of compassion," runs out to embrace and forgive him before the son can utter one word of repentance. At this point the rejoicing begins.

The parable does not end there. Rather, it makes one more point about the older son's reaction. This son who never left, just like the Pharisees and scribes who feel they are righteous, refuses to enter his father's house to join in the rejoicing. He has served his father. He has obeyed him. Perhaps it was not out of love. The father's response teaches us that God's care and compassion extend to the righteous and sinner alike. When we are lost, God doesn't wait for our return. He actively seeks us out. And when the lost are found, how could we not celebrate and rejoice?

Loyola Press Sunday Connection

I remember my friend speaking at his father's funeral, how he and his siblings had once joked with their dad about which of them he loved the most. Their dad looked sincerely at them and replied, "The one who needed it the most, that's the one I loved the most."

We might wonder in today's Gospel about the 99 sheep Jesus left behind to seek out the one that was lost, or why one single coin seemed to be of more value than the others, or whether the presence of the eldest son who never squandered his father's wealth was of less value to the father than the prodigal son's.

God loves each of us immeasurably and uniquely. He cannot possibly love us more. He loves each of us according to our need also. The 99 were secure and safe but the one lost sheep was in danger and needed to be rescued and guided home. The eldest son was always loved and cherished by his father (although his heart may not have been open to that knowledge or experience), but the younger son needed the warmth of his father's embrace, he needed to be restored to the family, and that's why his father celebrated his return. God loves us uniquely and infinitely. We need never doubt that.

Ask Jesus to show you how to increase your capacity to receive His love, like a diver increases his lung capacity the deeper and longer he practices diving. be consistent and honest in your prayer.

- **Fr Mike: Does God love some people more than others?**
- Leaving 99 (Audio Adrenaline)



To the Heights Youth Newsletter will return at the end of August



Family Prayer

Jesus,
may You be first in our
lives and first in our
family today and always.
Amen

EVENTS

Monthly Cherished Evening of Prayer & Fellowship for women aged 18-50, Mon 12th Sept at Holy Family Mission. Rosary @7.30pm, Mass @ 8.00pm followed by tea/coffee and lots of chat! For more info contact Shauna (087) 1378364.

"Get used to Different" - Weekend Retreat based on "The Chosen" TV Series: Sept 30th - Oct 2nd. Glencomeragh Retreat Centre. Full Board Accommodation €195. To book (052) 6133181 or email info@hollyfamilymission.ie / For more info on the retreat 087 4042784 / www.waterfordlismore.ie

The Chosen: Zoom Series, Season 2: TUESDAY nights, 8 - 9.15pm, 4 - 29 October - www.waterfordlismore.ie for more information or [click here to sign up](#)

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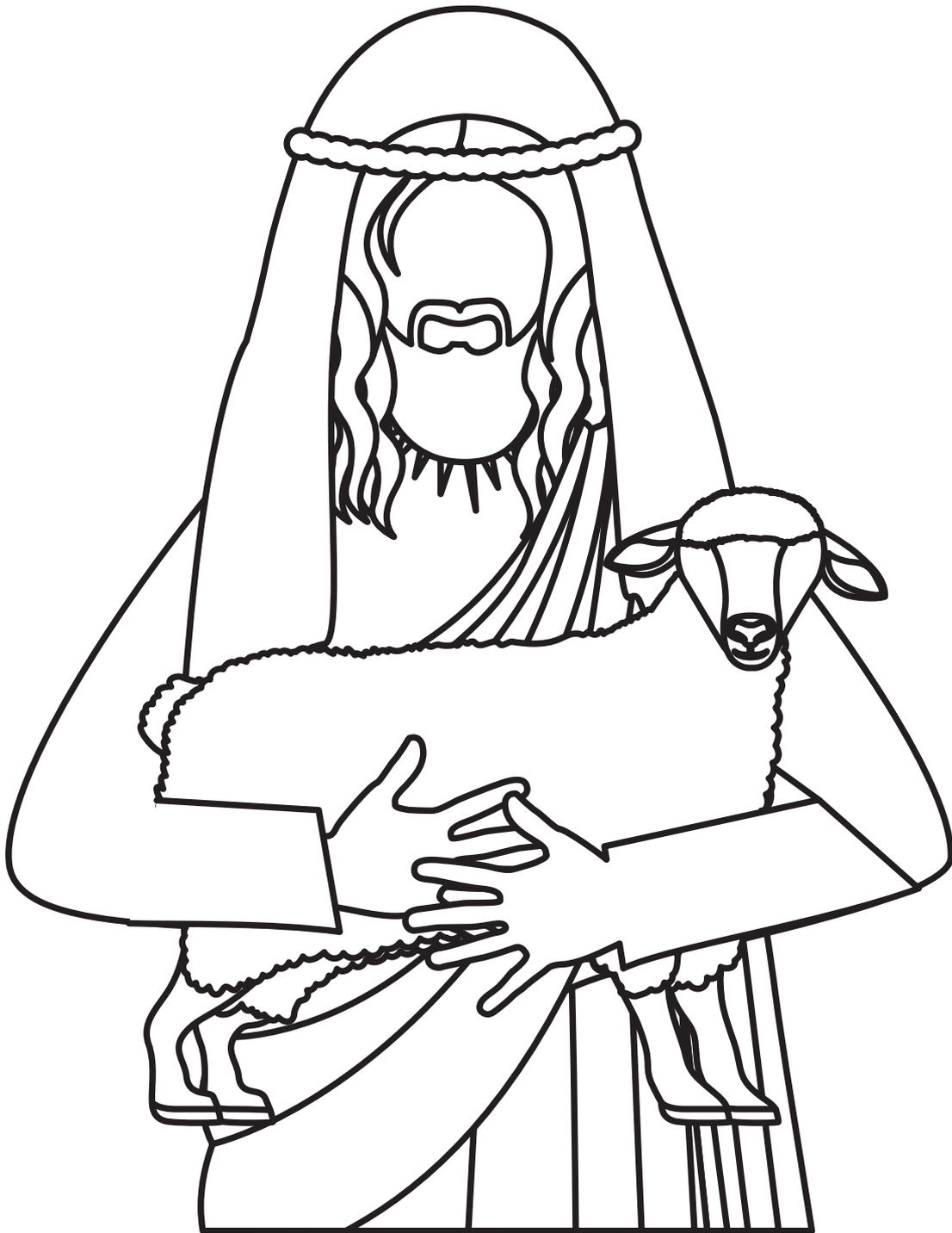
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WEEKLY
WEEKLY
FORTNIGHTLY



"Rejoice with me, I have found
my sheep that was lost."



**COLOUR THE IMAGE AND DRAW THE EXPRESSION ON THE FACE OF THE SHEPHERD
TO SHOW HOW HAPPY HE IS TO HAVE FOUND HIS SHEEP!**