

FAITH

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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



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Year B 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION BACK IN THE AUTUMN

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 91(92):2-3,13-16

Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Gospel:

Mark 4:26-34

"What can we say the Kingdom of God is like?... It is like a mustard seed."



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 readings for children.

Pray

In the Gospel today we hear about the Kingdom of God through two parables.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Do you ever feel like you want to have deeper faith? This week is a perfect chance for you to help your faith grow. Meditate on the size of a mustard seed and what it can grow and mature into.
- Commit a certain amount of time each day to prayer, and ask the Lord for the grace for that seed of faith in your heart to grow. Maybe it's already growing well but needs pruning through confession or spiritual direction. Maybe it needs more watering through His word and His presence in the Blessed Sacrament. May you need the rays of the "Son" to warm your heart this week. Give Him the time and space to garden in your heart. And be patient...

Talk

The Gospel reminds us that God is at work in us through our prayer and patience and this is what will help build up the Kingdom of God on earth. With those in your home or with a friend, choose a question from below and share with one another:

- Who are some of the people in your life that bring out the best in you? How do they do this and why is it important that we bring out the best in each other?
- When it comes to your faith life, who has inspired you?
- Identify some opportunities from this past week that challenged you to grow as a person. Did you find hard it or easy?
- What is one thing you can implement this week to help you to grow spiritually?

Family Challenge!

No complaining! The challenge this week is to avoid complaining - especially when things don't go according to our plans. Remember God is in control of everything. Don't let little grievances steal your joy. Protect your faith as it grows from little foxes in the vineyard spoiling it (Song of Solomon 2:15)

MUSTARD SEED FAITH

Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "thy kingdom come." We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith.

Adapted from Loyola Press: Sunday Connection

Check
this
out

CAMPA MHIURE MHÁTHAIR FAITH CAMPS

Running in Ardmore and Tramore in July, also in Killarney and Mitchelstown.

Music, Action Songs, Arts & Crafts, Games, Prayer and a whole lot of fun!

More info:

<https://www.holyfamilymission.ie/campa-mhiure-mhathair/>



NURTURE THE SEED

Sometimes we might feel like we are not able to make change in the world. Sometimes we might feel our voice can never be heard, or that we don't have anything worth contributing. Sometimes we might feel we lack the skills and the courage to really make a difference for others and for ourselves.

Today's Gospel reminds us that our apparent smallness, our weakness is not a stumbling block. At our Baptism, a seed of faith was planted in our hearts. That's a seed that needs to be nurtured and watered. Even though the mustard seed is so tiny, it grows into a substantial bush and the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.

If we trust in God, if we try to do His Will in our lives, if we nurture our faith through prayer, and the sacraments, through "pruning" in confession, through choosing to serve God in the little ways each day, our lives can and will make a difference. We might not see the fruits of that ourselves, but that doesn't matter. We're called, as Christians, to build up the Kingdom of God. There's only one way we can do that, and that's to blossom where we are planted, in our own situations, with the people in our lives, with the choices we make each day.

How are you going to nurture the seed of your faith this week?

How to Keep Your Faith Alive and Growing (Fr Mike Schmitz)

Build Your Kingdom Here (Rend Collective)

To the Heights Youth Resource back in August



Family Prayer

O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
I place all my trust in you!



EVENTS

Diocesan Pilgrim Walk: Mount Melleray Sunday 16th June, assemble for prayer with monks at 2pm. More info on www.waterfordlismore.ie/mission2024

40 Hours Adoration - for renewal of the faith of our children, families and nation: Foyer of Charity, Leperstown, Dunmore East X91FC65 - Sat 29th June 6am to 10pm Sun 30th June. Mass Saturday 6am, Sunday 10am. To sign up for an hour or more information: Helen 086 1678027 hellywilliams@gmail.com www.foyerofcharity.ie All are welcome

Youth 2000 Summer Festival: August 15th-18th at Clongowes Wood College, Co Kildare. Ages 16 - 35. Donation only. Faith, fun, fellowship! For more info including bus routes go to www.youth2000.ie

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