

FAITH @ Home

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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 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 17(18):2-4, 47, 51

Second Reading:

Hebrews 7:23-28

Gospel:

Mark 12:28-34

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.



James Tissot, 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 online [HERE](#).

Pray



In the Gospel today we hear a statement of faith we're familiar with: love God and love your neighbour. Maybe we need to let it sink in a little deeper this week.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do Jesus' words resonate with you personally?
- What does it mean to love God *with all my heart, my mind, my soul and my strength*? Do I feel that my prayer life and the way I live reflects that? Ask Jesus to enlighten you in this.
- Jesus told the Scribe he was not far from the Kingdom of God. Looking at the way I live and act, could Jesus say the same to me? What changes might I need to make?

Family Prayer



Lord Jesus, our family wants to be close to the Kingdom of God. Give us the grace to love You with all our heart, mind, soul and strength this week and always.

Amen

Talk

The scribe questioned Jesus about the greatest of the commandments, not to trick Him, or challenge Him, but because he genuinely wanted to learn, so he could be close to God.

Discuss the following as a family:

- Looking back on the past week, do you feel you were trying to be close to God? Can you give examples?
- Looking forward to the week ahead: how can we practically love Jesus with our hearts, minds, souls and strength?
- Who could our neighbours be, apart from the people who live next door! What ways this week can we try to love them as much as we love ourselves?
- We must also love ourselves, because God loves us! How can we have a loving attitude towards ourselves this week? What kind of things should we not say or not think?

Family Challenge!



Make a decision this week that your home will reflect the Kingdom of God.

Check out [this video](#) for the Feast of All Saints.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

As we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, our Lectionary skips a chapter that helps set the context for today's reading. If we were to read the sections skipped (chapter 11 and part of chapter 12), we would hear about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his cleansing of the Temple, and the questioning of Jesus' authority by the chief priests, scribes, and elders. The context, therefore, for this Gospel is Jesus' growing exposure before the Jewish authorities. Jesus is being questioned and tested by the Jewish authorities, yet the scribe who addresses Jesus in today's Gospel seems to be an admirer; he is not testing Jesus.

The question posed in today's Gospel requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional commandments, numbering into the hundreds. For a devout Jew, adherence to the Mosaic Law is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of these commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law.

Jesus was not the only Jewish religious teacher to connect these two commandments, love of God and love of neighbour. Both of these commandments were central elements of the religious tradition that Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed, these commandments 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 neighbour. Many believe, however, that this connection was heard in a new and fresh way when spoken by Jesus.

The scribe who questions Jesus in today's Gospel engages in a positive dialogue with Jesus. He agrees with Jesus' teaching that the commandments to love God and love neighbour stand above the commandment to offer worship and sacrifice in the Temple. With this dialogue, Jesus appears to close the debate with the Jewish authorities. Mark reports that no one dared to question Jesus further.

Adapted from Loyola Press: Sunday Connection

Check
this
out



A SAINT A DAY: MEREDITH HINDS

Teach your child to walk in faith, act justly, and lead with kindness and humility with this 365-day devotional for kids. A Saint a Day includes fascinating historical stories as it introduces young readers to over 300 saints who did extraordinary things for God. Written for ages 8 to 12, A Saint a Day inspires young readers with remarkable stories of people who made extraordinary choices to love and serve God. As you journey through this yearlong devotional, your children will grow in their understanding of Church history and better understand how they can love and serve God.

Available in Easons or Amazon



CARLO'S CORNER

Heavenly Friends

On November 1st each year the Church celebrates the feast of All Saints - and it's a pretty big deal! On this day we celebrate all those who are in heaven, the recognised saints who are included on the church calendar, and all the holy men and women (and children) of God who lived good and virtuous lives and are now enjoying their eternal rewards.

We believe in the communion of saints (we profess it in our Creed). This means the whole community of God - those on earth, in heaven and in purgatory.

Those in heaven are continually rooting for us, and cheering us on as we continue to run the race here on earth. Their earthly race is finished, but they continue to support us, pray for us, intercede for us and offer inspiration through the way they lived their lives.

What better time of year to reconnect with the saints: all of us are called to sainthood, but we all know it's not easy either.

Take some time this week to think about what we can learn from and receive from our heavenly family and friends. It's such a gift to us if we can develop a solid and real friendship with them!

- ALL SAINTS DAY PREP (FATHER MIKE SCHMITZ)
- LITANY OF SAINTS (MATT MAHER)

To the Heights Youth Resource also available

EVENTS

An Evening with The Chosen in Tramore Parish@ Tramore Parish invites you to see Jesus through the eyes of those who lived with and knew Him. Come along to watch Season Two of The Chosen series with us at Glór na Mara School, Convent Hill, Tramore beginning with tea & coffee from 7.15 to 9pm on Mondays: 11th Nov, 9th Dec, 13th Jan, 10th Feb, 10th March and 14th April.

"Lismore Conversations that Matter": "On the Human Person"

Mondays at 8pm: Oct 21st, Nov 4th, 18th, Dec 2nd. The Heritage Centre Lismore. Donation only. For more info contact philip.cremin@setu.ie

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