

# 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 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

1 Kings 17:10

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 145 (146): 7- 10

Second Reading:

Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel:

Mark 12:38-44

*"...she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on."*



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](#).



## Pray



In the Gospel today we are presented with a simple and familiar story, and yet the message is so challenging. Take some time to reflect on the key message of this week's Gospel. Think about the following:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do Jesus' words resonate with you personally?
- Think about your attitude towards your possessions: am I too focused on shopping, on acquiring more and more material wealth? Do I need all these things?
- Jesus warned His disciples about those who made a big show of their charitable actions. Am I guilty of this sometimes? Do I like other people to see the good I do, rather than acting out of love, in a hidden way?
- Ask Jesus to help to purify your intentions and make your heart more loving and generous.

## Family Prayer



*Loving Father, we know that You see our hearts. Give us hearts like the Poor Widow in the Gospel, undivided hearts for You alone, trusting that you will provide for everything else we need. Amen*

## Talk



In today's Gospel we hear the story of the poor widow who gave a tiny offering, but one that was worth so much more in the eyes of God.

Discuss the following as a family:

- Can you think of a time when you were generous and shared with others?
- What about a time when you had a chance to share with someone else, but you didn't want to? Maybe you had some sweets, or a toy, or the TV remote and you didn't want to share with others? How could you have acted differently?
- The rich men in the Gospel gave lots of money compared to the poor widow, but her offering pleased Jesus more. What can we learn from that about our actions and intentions?
- Sometimes the most precious thing we have to give someone else is our time. Do you find it difficult to give up your free time to help someone else?

## Family Challenge!



Ask your Guardian Angel to make you aware of opportunities to be generous and kind to others this week. They'll definitely remind you!

## THE HEART OF THE MATTER

It is not always easy to fade into the background, is it? Our human hearts can crave affirmation, praise and recognition. It's tempting to be generous and kind when others are looking, so we will be rewarded by approving words of acknowledgement. We can also crave security and control over our lives, something that the pandemic has shown us is not always possible.

As Jesus taught us in last week's Gospel, the greatest commandment is to love God first, then our neighbour as ourselves. Here in today's Gospel, we see this principle in action, and also ignored. Widows, at the time of Jesus, were in an extremely vulnerable position. There was no social welfare, no state benefits. A woman without her husband's wealth and protection was in a vulnerable position. Care of the widow, the orphan, the sojourner was commanded by God in Deuteronomy, yet the scribes in today's Gospel ignored this law. Wordly honour, the appearance of holiness and eloquent speech was of greater concern than caring for the needy. They prayed impressively, but not interiorly. They gave much, materially, but not from their hearts. In stark contrast, this poor lady gave materially a tiny sum, yet it was all that she had, and given out of genuine love and reverence for God. "People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

It is easy to gloss over and romanticise that part of the story, to praise her generous heart and leave it at that. Jesus draws our attention to her for a reason, however. His Words and actions should always challenge us. Can we see ourselves acting as that woman did? Are we willing to give God everything we have, trusting that God will provide for all our needs? That's a dramatic gesture, and incredibly challenging. How about trusting in God to provide for all our needs, material or otherwise? Do I trust God only when things are going well, or do I praise Him in the storms of life too? Do I believe that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) Let's allow the Widow to inspire our prayer, reflection and action this week. Maybe we are not called to sign our life-savings over to God, but we certainly are called to a child-like trust in a loving Father. He is the only One whose opinion we need to be mindful of.

Check  
this  
out

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## CARLO'S CORNER

### What am I willing to give?

Today's Gospel is so encouraging because it shows the attention Jesus pays not just to small acts, but more so to the intention behind them. Others that day would have seen (and heard) the wealthy drop their large tithes noisily and publicly into the collection box. Few saw the humble widow approach and drop her small coin in, and fewer still, most likely only Jesus, knew that she had given ALL that she had, that her offering was more pure, more pleasing to God, more genuine.

Today's Gospel is also incredibly challenging! What is it that God is asking of me? How or what can I give to support the church? It could be the collection at Mass, church charities here at home and throughout the world. Am I willing to sacrifice the price of a weekly coffee, a chocolate bar, new shoes, upgrading my phone, so that I can give with a generous heart?

What about my time? Can I get involved in my local church in some way? Maybe you have the Pope John Paul II Awards in your parish? If not, there are plenty of ways to get involved in your church, but you might need to actually offer your time. Genuine offering from the heart can often hurt a little, it requires sacrifice. It doesn't matter if others don't see your efforts. In fact, it's better that they don't! What matters is the Lord sees your heart! Take some time this week to reflect on what you offer to God.

• [WHY WE TITHE \(JACKIE ANGEL\)](#)

• [BETTER \(PAT BARRETT\)](#)

To the Heights Youth Resource also available

## EVENTS

### **Eucharistic Adoration:**

Every Wednesday starting on 30th October, 4 - 4.30pm in St Saviour's Church, Ballybeg, Waterford. (Poor of Jesus Christ)

### **Little Nellie of Holy God Presentation:**

Thursday 28th November, St John's Church, Parnell Street, Waterford. Mass at 6.30pm followed by talk by John Donovan at 7.15pm. Display of items associated with Little Nellie also.

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