

# FAITH @ Home

15 DECEMBER 2024 | YEAR C: 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

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

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Responsorial Psalm:

Isaiah 12

Second Reading:

Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel:

Luke 3:10-18

**GAUDETE  
SUNDAY**



James Tissot, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

"...SOMEONE IS COMING, SOMEONE WHO IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I AM..."

## 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 continue to hear about the ministry of John the Baptist, calling people to repentance and conversion of heart.

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 these words resonate with you personally?*
- **Advent is a time of joyful and devout preparation, a time where sometimes our patience is tested:** as we eagerly await Christmas on the one hand, and on the other have to deal with queues and crowds in shops. Every moment of our lives is an opportunity for grace, every time of waiting is an opportunity for growth and conversion of heart. How is the Lord calling you to conversion this Advent? What would John the Baptist recommend to you personally at this time?

## Family Prayer



*Lighting the 3rd Advent Candle: Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Amen

[www.xavier.edu](http://www.xavier.edu)

## Talk



Christmas is getting closer, but we still need to be patient and wait! Being patient is not always easy, but thankfully we have lots to do to keep us busy this Advent preparing to welcome Jesus into our hearts!

Discuss the following as a family:

- Can you remember a time when you had to be really patient and wait for something to happen? Did waiting for it make it even more special when it came?
- Can you think of practical things you can do around the house while you're waiting for something else to happen, to use your time well? Maybe while you're waiting for dinner to be ready, you could put away your toys? Or when queuing in a shop, you could pray for the people in front of you!
- John the Baptist had no problem telling people how they need to change! If he visited your family, what suggestions would he make for you to make room for Jesus this Christmas?

## Family Challenge!



Make a conscious effort this week to remain joyful and patient even when trials come your way! Pray for those who are in queues ahead of you. Look out for those who need help opening doors, and bring a smile to those you meet!

# REPENT - RENEW - REJOICE!

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. John's call to conversion is not a soft or subtle one - he is definite that people must prepare the way for the Lord in their own lives. To do that requires concrete change, and as we know, change is not always easy. Anyone who gardens knows that pruning is necessary for growth - we must make room. As we look around us at this time of year, we see bare, seemingly lifeless branches, yet we know new life will come with the Spring. In our own lives too, pruning - a conversion of heart - is necessary. Our own path to sanctity is as unique and individual as we are. The situation of my life is not the same as anyone else: I have challenges and opportunities for growth that others may not have; I have strengths and weaknesses that others may not face in the same way. Yet this is the path the Lord has chosen for my growth, my renewal. Accepting that reality is an important first step. Making sure there is room for the Lord comes next.

What needs to change? If John the Baptist stood in front of me now, as he did with the soldiers and tax collectors 2000 years ago, what would he say to me? Where are my priorities? What are my temptations? What is blocking the arrival of the Messiah fully into my life?

The third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday, where we focus on joy as we light the pink candle. We rejoice, because the Lord is near! We have a God who redeems us from our sin, who strengthens us in our weaknesses, who provides grace to overcome temptation and to change our hearts, so that we can more perfectly become the best version of ourselves: saints! He did not leave us alone in our struggles, but comes as the Word Incarnate to embrace our humanity to draw us close to His divinity. This is certainly a reason to rejoice!

How has your season of Advent has been going for you? Is your heart joyfully preparing for Christ's coming? Is there something you need to let go of? Is there something you feel drawn to doing? Pray for the grace to let go, to begin anew, to allow the Lord's mighty and glorious deeds to be made manifest in your own life, and to rejoice and give praise to His name for all He has done in your life already!

Check  
this  
out



## CALLED2MISSION.ORG

Called2Mission is a new Catholic website dedicated to exploring the theme of personal vocation, with a special focus on engaging young Catholic adults. The site offers resources, reflections, and practical guidance aimed at helping individuals discover and live out their unique calling within the Church and the world. Called2Mission includes information on discerning one's mission, understanding the role of laity, and the importance of being co-responsible in the Church. It provides an encouraging and insightful space for young Catholics to deepen their understanding of how they can actively contribute to their faith community and society, rooted in a personal sense of purpose and God's call.

[www.called2mission.org](http://www.called2mission.org)



## CARLO'S CORNER

### Make Room!

In this Gospel passage, we hear John the Baptist being asked by many groups of people what they need to do in their own lives to prepare for the Messiah's coming? John gives specific recommendations to each group, to soldiers, to tax collectors and so on. Everyone can live their lives in expectant and joyful preparation. Each of our hearts is unique. Our circumstances vary. For us, the Messiah's arrival happened 2000 years ago, but we still need to prepare for his arrival. What might John the Baptist recommend personally to you? What do you need to say "no" to, in order to make more room for Jesus? As we prepare throughout Advent, there's a growing sense of excitement and expectancy in our readings preparing for Jesus should fill us with excitement! Jesus is offering us hope, peace, joy and love beyond anything we can imagine or what the world can offer. Let's not cram our hearts full of things that don't last, and lose out on His graces!



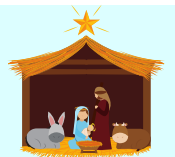
Advent: More than a Chocolate Calendar (Fr Mike)



TUNE: Make Room (Casting Crowns)

*To the Heights Youth Resource also available*

## EVENTS



### Live Crib

Glencomeragh House, Kilsheelan, Co. Tipperary: 15th December, 3 - 6pm. Christmas Carols, Hot Chocolate, prayers in the chapel, a special guest appearance from Santa.

### Live Crib

St Mary's Parish Church, Cahir, on 21st Dec from 4 - 8pm. Music, hot chocolate, adoration, confession.

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