

FAITH @ Home

26 JANUARY 2025: 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | YEAR C



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:

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 18(19):8-10, 15

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Gospel:

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21



"THIS TEXT IS BEING FULFILLED TODAY EVEN AS YOU LISTEN."

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 the story of Jesus proclaiming the prophetic words from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue.

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?
- Imagine yourself in this scene: can you sense the atmosphere, all eyes turned on Jesus? How would He have read these words? How would your heart have reacted?
- Each of us have received the Holy Spirit at Baptism: pray about how the Lord is calling you to live out your baptismal calling this week - where can you bring the Good News, new sight, liberty - how can you set the downtrodden free? Who comes to mind?

Family Prayer



Holy Spirit, whenever I am blind to the Truth, or feel downtrodden, or a prisoner to my own worries and faults, or I forget the Good News of Christ, or feel far from God, fill my heart again with your anointing and peace, so that I may bring your Good News to others too. Amen

Talk

Today's Gospel is a clear statement by Jesus of His mission, as foretold by the prophets, and the type of Kingdom He wants to build.

- Can you think of people in the world today who need help? Has your family ever done anything to help the poor and needy? Talk about these actions.
- Can you think of a time you received good news that made your whole day better? What news was that? Who told you the news?
- What message does Jesus have for people? Why do we call that the "Good News"? How did Jesus help others in the Gospels? Can you remember any stories that are like the passage Jesus is reading today from the Prophet Isaiah?
- We received the Holy Spirit at baptism - we have been anointed to do these things too. How can we help others hear and see the Good News of Jesus this week?

Family Challenge!



Each day, begin with a prayer to the Holy Spirit to show you how to live out this week's Gospel, and who you can reach out to. Share your stories and encourage each other throughout the week!

ANOINTED BY THE SPIRIT

In last week's Gospel from John, we heard about the first public sign worked by Jesus at the wedding feast at Cana; "He let His glory be seen and His disciples believed in Him."

This Sunday we move to a public announcement by Jesus of His Mission in Luke's Gospel. Jesus has just spent forty days fasting and praying in the desert, having been led there by the Spirit, where He was tempted by Satan before returning to Galilee to begin His public ministry.

Imagine the scene: this enigmatic preacher stepping forward in the synagogue, taking the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah from their hand (Isaiah 61:1-2). As He selected the passage He wished to read, they must have wondered what He would choose that day. Can you hear the steady authority in His voice as He read the words written about Him centuries beforehand? Can you imagine the racing thoughts, the swirling questions, the bated breath? Can you sense the growing excitement and tension of the moment? Then He announces, "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen." All eyes were fixed on Him. An epic moment in Salvation History, but let's not leave it there as a historical event. The question for us today is not how they reacted 2000 years ago, but how I react now? Do I believe this message is for me? Do I believe Jesus wants to set me free today, to fill my life with His good news?

Today we begin Catholic Schools Week 2022 - the theme for the week is 'Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full. What is it for a Catholic to live life to the full? To accept the message of Jesus Christ and to bring it to others, surely. Look again at what the Prophet Isaiah foretold the Messiah would do: "The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."

By virtue of our baptism, we too have been called to this mission, we too have been anointed by the Spirit and are urged forwards, out of our comfort zones, to bring this life-giving, life-changing message to all we meet. Are we willing to step up to our responsibilities as Christians, and share the treasures of our faith with others, in concrete and practical ways?

We are blessed with opportunities to proclaim the Lord through our words and actions each and every day, if we can just recognise them and choose to act. Let's tune our hearts to the Spirit's promptings, to see as Jesus sees, to love as He loves, and to free as He frees.

Check
this
out

LUKE IN 50 DAYS

Uncover the beauty and learn more about the life of Christ in the Gospel of Luke in 50 days with Fr Mike Schmitz, Jeff Cavins and Scott Powell. Listen on the Ascension App or your favourite podcast app!



CARLO'S CORNER

Why God became man

This Gospel passage is just rife with bubbling anticipation and excitement. Jesus' reputation as a wonder-worker has been growing, His wisdom as a teacher has been admired by many, his revolutionary preaching has been stirring up hearts, both for and against him. Then he returns to Galilee, and reads from Isaiah 61, a well-known passage. You can imagine Him pausing dramatically as the crowds' eyes are fixed on Him, and then He announces, "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen." Mic drop (if He had a mic) Jesus was effectively telling His listeners that He was the Chosen One, the Messiah, the One whom the Prophet Isaiah foretold. What a claim to make, absolute blasphemy if He was wrong. We know, however, that He was speaking the truth, because Jesus IS the Way, the Truth and the Life. He was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies. God became man, to show us how to live, how to love, how to die, and how to live forever in heaven, with Him. He modelled a way of life we are still called to practice today. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do this. Let's decide to follow His lead.

Read the words from Isaiah 61:1-2 again. Because we have been anointed by the Spirit at our baptism, we have the same call. How can you put even one aspect of this call into practice in your life this week? Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to what He wants you to do, and then act when you feel His prompting!

▶ Mark Hart on the 4 Reasons God became man."

🎵 In Christ Alone - Keith & Kristyn Getty, Alison Krauss

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



The Bible Project Series: Luke 3 - 9

The second in a five-part series on the Gospel of Luke. We watch Jesus launch his ministry of good news for the poor and how he brought together people from very diverse backgrounds to live together in peace.

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