

# FAITH @ Home

23 FEBRUARY 2025: 7TH 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:

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 11-13, 22-23

### Responsorial Psalm:

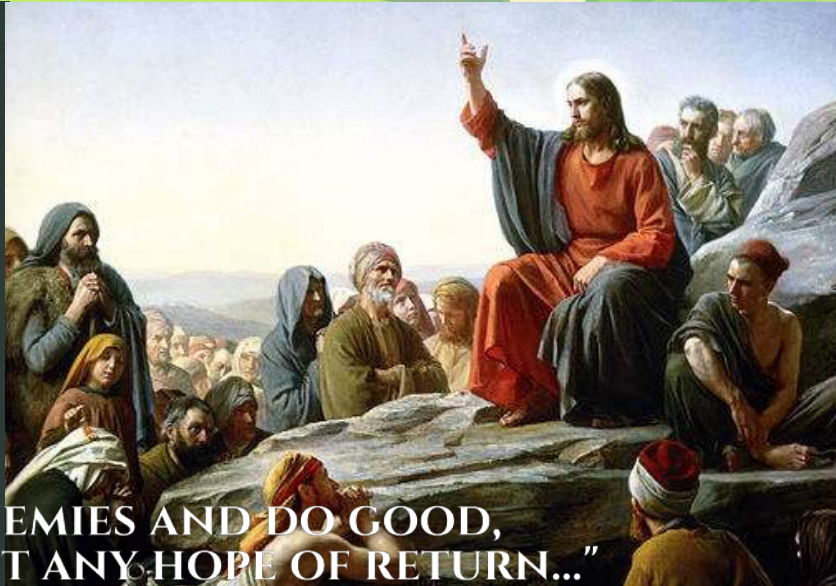
Psalm 102 (103):1-4, 10, 12-13

### Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

### Gospel:

Luke 6:27-38



**"LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND DO GOOD,  
AND LEND WITHOUT ANY HOPE OF RETURN..."**

Carl Bloch, 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 Jesus continuing his Sermon on the Plain to His disciples. 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?
- Is there any particular command spoken by Jesus here that you find particularly challenging? Stay with this in prayer, asking the Lord for His guidance on why you might struggle with this particularly. Is there any area where you feel drawn to change?
- Is there anyone in your life you find it difficult to treat well, to do good to, or even to forgive? Make a commitment to pray for that person this week, and ask Holy Spirit to give you the grace to do it, and even the desire to do it if that's what you struggle with.

## Family Prayer



*Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, teach me true generosity. Teach me to serve you as you deserve. to give without counting the cost, to fight heedless of wounds, to labour without seeking rest, to sacrifice myself without thought of any reward, save the knowledge that I have done your will. Amen.*

## Talk

Today's Gospel teaches us a lot about what it means to be a follower of His, and about how we are expected to treat others.

- What kind of things are we expected to do as members of this family? What kind of responsibilities do we have around the house? What happens if someone does not carry out their chores or responsibilities?
- Can you remember a time when someone went the extra mile when helping another person in the family, when they did more than was expected of them? How did that make people feel?
- Jesus is calling us to love those we find difficult to love, to treat others well, to pray for others. We need His help to do this because it's not easy! Can you think of situations where it is hard to love others?

## Family Challenge!



How can you live out this Gospel as a family this week? Make a special effort to go the extra mile at home and at school, to not just do the minimum when helping people, but to ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" in every situation!

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Today's gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' disciples. This is in contrast to the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds.

These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged.

There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the Beatitudes. Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the law and the prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing.

Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is the terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behaviour of his followers with the behaviour of "sinners." In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behaviour desired with the behaviour of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasizing God's mercy.

In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.

From [Loyola Press - Sunday Connection](#) (click here)

Check  
this  
out

## BEACON EVENTS APP

*There's a myriad of amazing initiatives and great Catholic events on in Ireland, that you may not have even heard of! The aim of this app is to make those events discoverable to you, so that they can easily be shared with others, build communities, and allow like-minded Catholics to meet each other and form lasting friendships centred on the faith. You can tailor your search using filters, and tags, to find events based on what you're into, where you want to go or when you want to go.*



## CARLO'S CORNER

*Is forgiveness too hard?*

This Gospel passage is a continuation of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain (or on the Mount depending on which Gospel you are reading). He holds up for us an incredibly high standard of living - the Christian standard: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. This is tough, really tough! Is it impossible? By human standards, yes, but by God's grace, thankfully no. Jesus calls us to love and view others as He does if we want to call ourselves a follower of His. Jesus calls us to give and not count the cost, or as we looked at in Fr Mike's video, to count the cost and still forgive.

This passage directly follows the Beatitudes, the path to joy Jesus promises us. Lack of forgiveness can enslave us, hold our hearts hostage, eat away at our joy and our ability to love. This is not living life to the full. This is not a path to joy. Jesus also knows we're weak and frail. He modelled for us how to live this way by His own life and death. He promises us all the help that we need. If we wait until we feel like doing any of this, that feeling may never come. Love is a decision, forgiveness is a decision. If you are struggling to forgive, make a decision to set your heart free, by God's grace.

Are there people in your life that you struggle to forgive? People who have wronged you and hurt you? People who owe you a debt, who have cost you something in your life? If you feel like you can start the process of forgiveness, follow Fr Mike's advice. If you struggle with that, begin by praying for the grace to want to forgive them, and commit to that prayer.

VIDEO: "Forgiveness" (Fr Mike Schmitz)

TUNE: Forgiveness (Matthew West)

*To the Heights Youth Resource also available*



## THE CHOSEN

## (THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT)

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