FAITH @Home

28TH JUNE 2026: 13TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

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

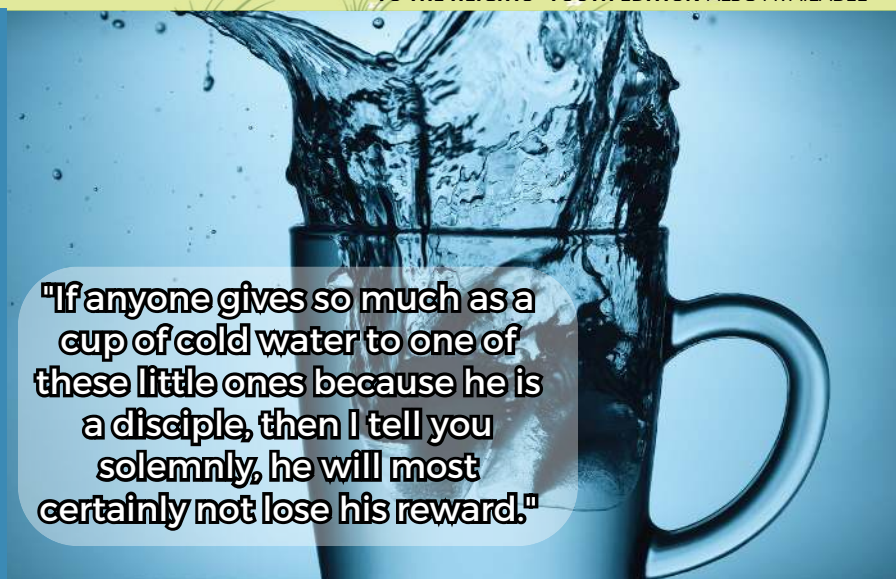
Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:
2 Kings 4:8-11,13-16

Responsorial Psalm:
Psalm 88(89):2-3,16-19

Second Reading:
Romans 6:3-4,8-11

Gospel:
Matthew 10:37-42



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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.

Reflect

In the Gospel today we hear Jesus speaking a lot about hospitality.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Do you feel you have a heart for hospitality? If yes, thank God for that charism and ask him to provide you with the opportunities to use it. If not, ask the Lord what holds you back: is it fear, being out of your comfort zone, bad experiences in the past? Invite him into that situation.
- Pray this week for all those who have welcomed you in your life, all those who made Christ present to you through their love and warmth. Ask for the grace to do the same for others.

Family Prayer

Dear Jesus, grant us loving hearts that are free to invite and welcome as you would. Help us to see you in everyone we meet. Amen

Chat

In today's readings we hear Jesus remind us of the importance of hospitality and being welcoming.

- What are some of the things we do in our family to welcome guests? What are some ways to be a good host?
- Have we ever been guests at someone else's home? What are some ways to be a good guest?
- Jesus wants us to love Him and love others with our whole hearts. Let's pray for the grace to be able to do that as a family!

Family Challenge!

Make a special effort to make everyone who visits your house over the summer especially welcome! It might mean sacrificing a little more of your time to serve them, but remember that when we serve others, we are serving Jesus himself! Remind yourself of that when you have an opportunity to be a host this summer!

CHOOSE CHRIST IN EVERYTHING

Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the instructions and consolations that we have heard Jesus offering to his disciples during the past few weeks. In this passage, Jesus summarizes both the costs of discipleship and its rewards. Once again our understanding of the Gospel is strengthened by considering the context in which it was written and the perspective of Matthew's audience.

The conditions of discipleship outlined in Matthew's Gospel may appear harsh. Yet they underline for us a truth—choosing anything with one's whole heart has consequences. Choosing life with Christ means that every relationship we have must be understood from a new perspective. For many in Matthew's community, this choice brought division to their family.

Matthew also outlines the reward of hospitality offered to Jesus' followers. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the difficulties of discipleship, yet reveals that those who welcome the disciples have also welcomed him.

Today's Gospel also highlights for us the importance of hospitality in the Christian life. To welcome another in Jesus' name is to extend hospitality to Jesus himself. We have many opportunities in our daily life to reach out to others, to be a welcoming presence and a sign of God's love.

taken from ***Loyola Press Sunday Connection***

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JULY

FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS AT THE WORLD CUP!

St Carlo: Eucharistic Miracles App

Explore documented Eucharistic miracles from around the world, drawing from the research and witness of Saint Carlo Acutis. Through stories, images, and historical context, the app seeks to deepen understanding of the Eucharist and encourage reflection on its central place in the life of the Church. Content is presented for educational and devotional purposes, offering users a way to learn, reflect, and, when possible, visit the places where these events occurred. Content used with permission of the Associazione Amici di Carlo Acutis and Antonia Acutis.

App Store

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CARLO'S CORNER

HOSPITALITY

On a scale on 1 - 10 how hospitable do you think you are? When you hear someone is calling to your house, what's your reaction?

What about when someone is coming to stay? Do you invite people to be part of your life, and welcome their presence? Or would you prefer an easier life, with less self-sacrificing for the sake of others? Would you prefer to be the guest, who is served and honoured, rather than the host who has the responsibility of welcome and care?

Maybe you're a combination of both! Jesus makes it pretty clear in today's Gospel that Christians are expected to be people with welcoming and serving hearts. Not only do we serve others through our actions, but our actions towards them are how we treat Christ too.

Maybe that is a little wake-up call in how we treat others: is this how I would treat Jesus himself? Would I put him off, do the bare minimum, look after myself first? Or would I make a special effort to invite him in and welcome him as part of my life?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE:

- Pray intentionally this week for a spirit of hospitality, the gift to be welcoming and loving towards others. In every situation you'd prefer to turn away from and take the easier option, try to see Jesus in that person, and ask yourself how would you treat him?
- Ask God for the graces needed - we're not in this on our own!!

How Catholics Should Connect with Others (Fr Mike Schmitz)

Do Something - Matthew West

To the Heights Youth Resource also available

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- Faith@Home / Let's Dive In (faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie)
- To the Heights (youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie)
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