

## MORALITY

When I studied at Maynooth many years ago, the then Professor of Moral Theology, Pat Hannon, described morality as "the art of right relationship with each other and with the world around us". There are several important things that we can immediately say about that definition. The first thing one notices is that there is no mention of God in that definition, and that is deliberate. For morality is a human thing, and one does not need to belong to any faith tradition to come to understand its requirements. But for the person of faith, a god or gods will rightly play an important part in how they think about morality, relationships, and the world they inhabit. So, allowing for the addition of a faith dimension, and indeed the need for self-care, we could describe morality as "the art of right relationship with God, ourselves, others, and the world around us". The 10 Commandments, each in their own way, capture elements of that definition. Let me explain how.

## ORDERING OF THE COMMANDMENTS

The first thing we notice is the very obvious division in the ordering of the commandments. The first four concern our relationship with God; the remaining six deal with our relationship to those around us. This in turn illustrates a very important connection between faith and practice. We are reminded throughout the Old and New Testaments that the person of faith must also be a person of action. Or to put it another way, it is not enough to profess one's faith in the God of the Old Testament if one also mistreats people, or fails to look after the environment. In fact, one's commitment to God is best realized through our being loving and just in this life. The Prophets condemned the neglect of the most vulnerable in society, and in the New

Testament Jesus most commonly condemned the hypocrites – those who said one thing but did another. And so, these commandments remind us not only of our religious duties, but also of our responsibilities to our neighbour – they help inform us as to how we might live in "right relationship with God, each other, and the world around us". They remind us that our faith is one that pushes us out into the world, to take on its challenges, and to be a positive presence in the here and now.

## PRACTICE

Secondly, if we take Hannon's definition of morality once more, we see that he describes it as an "art". As with any other art we wish to perfect, morality is something that we must work at. We struggle with it, we fail sometimes, we may be unsure or hesitant, we get lazy. And this "art" may suffer because of that. But with practice we can become better at morality to the point where we don't even think about the good that we are doing. This in turn suggests that morality is not about learning off rules and performing good acts per se, as though it is some formal exercise. Rather, morality is about moral growth, virtue, character, and happiness. The commandments certainly identify actions to be avoided, but they also draw attention to the inner workings of the moral person – our intentions and our motives – as we shall see in later articles. In other words, we are not called to merely avoid bad actions, but to become better persons in the world, to grow morally, and to flourish. Thus, although sometimes thought of in negative terms (things not to do), the commandments are in fact about positive living, right relationship with those around us, and personal moral growth.

Over the coming weeks we will look at each of these commandments in turn and consider their ongoing relevance for our world. ■



## Today's readings

Is 22:19-23  
Rm 11:33-36  
Mt 16:13-20

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

Jesus struggled with many things during his ministry, but one of the common threads that run through the parables and gospel scenes is the difficulty people had in identifying him as the Son of God, the Messiah.

Today's gospel is a teaching exercise for the disciples. It is time for Jesus to claim his true identity and he needs his followers to understand. 'Who do people say the Son of God is?' he asks. The answers that come back to him are varied. Some still identify Elijah, Jeremiah or John the Baptist as the Son of God. But Peter is confident today.

He steps forward and is unequivocal in his announcement, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' This statement from Peter is interesting as he has witnessed many of Jesus' acts of healing and miracles. He is convinced that the man he has been following and watching closely is the Son of God. The future direction of the Church will rest on Peter's shoulders and Jesus says, 'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.' Peter will go on to tell the world of the Messiah who brought healing, love and compassion to everyone he met on the way.



27 August 2017 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Psalter Week 1

# SoulSpace

SERIES: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS  
IN A MODERN WORLD

Season colour: GREEN

In this new series, Suzanne Mulligan looks at the commandments and their relevance for our world.



## CONTEMPLATING THE COMMANDMENTS

As is the case with any biblical text, we must approach the 10 Commandments with reverence and respect. But we must also properly try to understand what exactly these texts are saying. For they were written in a particular time and context, they belong to a certain tradition, and they must be understood against the backdrop of such things. And so, before we can apply the commandments to our own world we must first interpret accurately what is being said. Over the coming weeks we will look at each commandment individually, and consider how they remain relevant as we journey through this modern and complex world.

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**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**27<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

The key to St. Peter's authority in the church is also the rock on which the church is built ... his recognition, in faith, that Jesus is the anointed Son of the living God. It is this faith which establishes the Church and which will always keep it in being.

**WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY**

"Faith is God's gift, received in baptism, and not our own work, yet parents are the means that God uses for it to grow and develop." *Amoris Laetitia* 287

**FIRST FRIDAY** Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, is the First Friday. Mass will be celebrated at 7pm. Confessions will take place before the 8am, 10.30am & 7pm Masses.

**SAINT PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP, FRIDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER** starts at 6.30pm, immediately before First Friday evening Mass (Mass follows at 7.00pm).

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We join with our parishioners in congratulating Fr. Declan Boyce S.P.S. on his appointment as Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish. We pray every blessing on him in his new position.

**BAPTISMS** We welcome into God's family COULTER MUNN, OLIVE MARIE MELLETT, EMMA UNA GLEESON and NATHAN JOHN MCDONAGH who were recently baptised in our Cathedral.

**SUMMER AREA MASSES - A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

Thornhill: Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> August at 8pm.  
If you wish to host an Area Mass for your area please contact your area priest or The Presbytery on 071 9162670.

**CHARITY COFFEE MORNING** will be held on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 from 11am to 1pm at the Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo. (Speeches at 12noon). All proceeds from this event will be donated to RNLI & North West Hospice. Coffee Morning is to mark the retirement of Chief Superintendent Michael Clancy. All welcome.

**CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS CONFERENCE** (ages 18-40) will take place in All Hallows College, Dublin on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017. The event "DARE TO BELIEVE" promises to be a rewarding opportunity to engage/explore your faith in the company of other young Catholics. Non-Residential €50 Residential €80 (all meals included). Call Keith 086 8899123 or Lucy 087 9959803 or email [deusetpatria@gmail.com](mailto:deusetpatria@gmail.com) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/DeusPatria](http://www.facebook.com/DeusPatria)

**SUNDAY READINGS for 3<sup>rd</sup> September:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jer. 20:7-9; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Rom. 12:1-2; Gospel: Matt. 16:21-27  
**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK** Patience attains all that it strives for. We who have God lack nothing: God alone suffices. Amen.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES**

SUNDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> August **PARISH ENV: €1481 PL/STAND. ORD: €1667**

15<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August **PARISH ENV: €2982 PL/STAND. ORD: €2264**

THANK YOU for your contribution.

**ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY ☎ 071 9162670 SACRISTY ☎ 071 9161261**

✉ email us at [info@sligocathedral.ie](mailto:info@sligocathedral.ie) We welcome your comments.

**NOVENA FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA**

**CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**Monday 28th August-Thursday August 31<sup>st</sup> 7:00 P.M.**

**Friday September 1<sup>st</sup> Mass at 7:00 P.M.**

with Novena to follow.

**Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4.00pm Novena**

**Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3.00pm Novena**

**Monday September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm**

**Feast Day Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup> Mass at 7.00pm**

With chief celebrant Bishop Kevin Doran



**GOOD BYE AND FAREWELL**

Dear Parishioners, Bishop Kevin announced on Tuesday my moving on from the Cathedral to take effect at the end of this month. I have ministered here now for 12 years having been appointed in August 2005. I feel the time has come for me to move on and allow for new vision and new leadership. The Bishop has announced the appointment of Fr. Declan Boyce as the new Administrator. I wish him well and all God's blessing. He has a good team to help him with our two new priests Frs. Yashin and Victor and Fr. Andrew Chaplin to the Polish Community. With your support the seeds of God's word and love will continue to be sown with great earnestness. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your support to me over the years and your commitment to God and His Church in this part of His vineyard. Everyday that I have ministered here has been filled with many graces and blessings. I will never forget my 12 years and I feel I have been enriched as a person and priest because of them. I thank Bishop Christy for the faith and trust he placed in me when he appointed me Administrator and I thank Bishop Kevin for endorsing that faith and trust when he came by continuing my appointment. I thank both of them for all the encouragement and support they gave me during my time in the Cathedral, something I deeply appreciate. I have requested a sabbatical year and I am very grateful to Bishop Kevin for facilitating that. During the year please be assured that all of you the parishioners of this Parish will be very much in my thoughts and prayers.

In grateful thanks to you all  
Fr. Tom

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

This Monday, Bishop Kevin will lead over 500 pilgrims on the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. We pray that all pilgrims have a blessed and fruitful pilgrimage.

**ICON EXHIBITION**

Bishop Kevin Doran will formally open an exhibition of holy icons on 5<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in the Hyde Bridge Gallery, Yeats Memorial Building, Hyde Bridge, Sligo. The exhibition will run until the 26<sup>th</sup> September and is part of the Association of Iconographers of Ireland's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. All are welcome to attend the opening.

**CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

*Upcoming* **EVENTS**

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September **Confessions** from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**CHURCH GATE COLLECTION** in aid of Sligo Mental Health Association will be held this weekend, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August. Please support.

**SOCIAL DANCING IN GILLOOLY HALL** Every Thursday 8pm-9pm. Learn to jive and foxtrot followed by a live band, 9pm-11pm. To book contact Michael on 086 3083976.

**P.T.A.A. SLIGO** - Meeting in St. Mary's Presbytery at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> September immediately after the 7pm Mass.

**HOLY HILL HERMITAGE** will have an Open Sunday on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Everyone is welcome for mass at noon followed by tea and a tour.

**BUS TO KNOCK** 9<sup>th</sup> September for Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal staying overnight for Grandparents day Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September also on 16<sup>th</sup> September staying overnight for Padre Pio weekend. Full cost for each weekend €120 or £98 to be paid one week before. Contact 089 2245598 or 074 9320734.

**MIDLAND MOVE** is currently taking referrals for the upcoming programme for men who are abusive in their intimate relationships. For further information please contact: Cyril at 086 1720564 or 096 472174, email us at [cyril.acsc@gmail.com](mailto:cyril.acsc@gmail.com) or [ewa@moveireland.ie](mailto:ewa@moveireland.ie)

**GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION – KNOCK** Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Knock Shrine at 2.30p.m. Everybody welcome to honour & thank Grandparents alive & dead for all they have done for us down through the ages. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin - Ballina School Choir - Dana sings 'Our Lady of Knock'.

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH - KNOCK SHRINE** Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm sees the return of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra to present Handel's 'iconic' Messiah at Knock Basilica. Conducted by Proinsias Ó Duinn with soloists, Soprano Claudia Boyle, Alto Anne Marie Gibbons, Tenor Julian Hubbard and Bass Christopher Cull together with Our Lady's Choral Society, Cór Mhaigh Eo and Ballina Chamber Choir. Presented by Liz Nolan, RTE lyric fm. Tickets available now at [www.knockmessiah.com](http://www.knockmessiah.com) and at the *Witness to Hope* office Knock Shrine and Downtown Records Castlebar & Westport.

**BICYCLE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR 16 YEAR OLD BOY** in Globe House to take him to school in Summerhill College. Contact Kathleen on 087 7404398.

**BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT, SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> August at 9.00pm**

TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,100.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

**anniversary & Remembrances**

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 28 <sup>th</sup>	NOEL KELLY	—
TUES 29 <sup>th</sup>	SPECIAL INTENTION	MICHAEL & CATHERINE O'DONNELL
WED 30 <sup>th</sup>	—	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</b> LOUIS DYKES & EILEEN DYKES ✝
THURS 31 <sup>st</sup>	—	JAMES, CHRISTINA & MARGARET MULLIGAN
FRI 1 <sup>st</sup>	CHRISTY & ANNE NELSON	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</b> CHARLIE JOSEPH WARD (newborn baby) ✝
SAT 2 <sup>nd</sup>	MICHAEL CAWLEY	<b>Month's Mind</b> ANN WALL ✝

**Rest in peace** Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of: RITA SWEENEY (nee FINAN), Melbourne, Australia and late of Treacy Ave. & Cranmore, Sligo. *May God grant her eternal rest and comfort and console her bereaved family and friends.*