

ON NOT BETRAYING ANOTHER'S LOVE

There is a beautiful poem by Raymond Carver called Late Fragment. Although quite brief, it captures the essence of what we search for most in our lives.

"And did you get what you wanted from this life, even so?

I did.

And what did you want?

To call myself beloved, to feel myself beloved on the earth".

The decision to commit oneself in marriage to another person is a serious thing, and not to be undertaken lightly. Within the Christian tradition, marriage is a sacrament, a sign and instrument of God's love and gracious presence among us. Such intimate relationships bring with them a deep vulnerability. We give ourselves to another in a very particular way and allow the other into the most sacred part of our life. We promise ourselves to the other, and there is a deep personal trust in that.

Should that trust be broken, the nature of the relationship is profoundly altered. With any broken promise, we become aware of our vulnerability and fragility: all the more so in our most intimate relationships. The sixth commandment warns us against the casual or reckless betrayal of another's love.

It signals, furthermore, the recognition of all that is good and beautiful in sexual love. It calls us to protect and foster loving relationships, to celebrate them, including the physical expression of our love for another. "The sixth commandment stands ... as a reminder that every time we physically extend ourselves to another we nurture the faithful bonds we share with one another" (James Keenan, *Commandments of Compassion*, 34).

One could even say that this commandment refers

to all our earthly relationships, not just our sexual ones. God is present in every expression of authentic love. All love becomes an opportunity to encounter our God.

WHEN YOU DON'T MEET ALL THE STANDARDS

Contemporary Western society has seen dramatic changes in how people approach and understand sexual relations. Greater numbers of people co-habit or have several sexual partners before marrying. It is far more common now for people to have children before marriage. In *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis addresses many of these realities. The overriding message of this apostolic exhortation is one of compassion and understanding. He asks the Church to meet people where they are at. Life and relationships are difficult, and people's circumstances vary greatly. Pope Francis strongly encourages family life and married love, but warns us that the Church must not be a place of judgment and condemnation. The Church's teachings must not become "stones to throw at a person's life" (n.305).

He says that greater effort should be made to make divorced and remarried couples feel part of the church: "They are not excommunicated, and should not be treated as such, since they remain part" of the church (n.243). Pope Francis is a realist. He reminds us that marriage is a "dynamic process" and that we must learn to cope with the imperfections of others. "Love does not have to be perfect for us to value it", he tells us (n.122 and 113). One of the striking aspects of the document is the Holy Father's attentiveness to those who feel insignificant, or in some way excluded from God's love. God's grace in our lives is not a prize for the virtuous. Instead, God's love sustains us as we struggle and fumble our way through life, loving as best we can, and hoping to feel "beloved on the earth." ■

8 October 2017 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Psalter Week 3

Stou(ace

SERIES: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN A MODERN WORLD

Season colour: GREEN

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



SIXTH
COMMANDMENT
YOU SHALL
NOT COMMIT
ADULTERY

“You shall not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:14)

What keeps us alive? What allows us to endure? The German mystic, Meister Eckhart, said: "I think it is the hope of loving and of being loved". Love, and the positive human relationships that flow from it, are such a central part of our lives that we need only think of those we love to see how diminished our existence would be without them. Love sustains us, affirms us, completes us. It is through love that we encounter God's presence among us. The liturgy acknowledges this when it sings: "Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est" – "Where there is charity and love, there God is." The sixth commandment governs so much more than the legal requirements of marriage. It points to the most fundamental basis of our relationships – the bond of love between human beings, and the call to be faithful to those whom we love and cherish.

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Today's readings

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

exist in relationship with the same Lord and we should seek out and build on what is common to both in a spirit of respect and collaboration. The Catholic Church has in recent years made great strides in appreciating and making available to its members the Hebrew Scriptures which we call the Old Testament. We should be careful to keep in mind the background against which apparently anti-Jewish texts in the New Testament were written.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

The parable of the Vineyard has been presented as God rejecting the People of Israel as a whole and replacing them with the Christian Church. We might remember that Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Peter and the other apostles were all Jews. The responsibility for the death of Jesus lies with the leaders of the people of his time, not with the people in general then or the Jewish people since. We should not suppose that the Christian Church has supplanted the People of Israel: both



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8th October 2017

God cares for his people with great love, he gives them many blessings. We belong to his people, but we must remember that we cannot presume upon God's love and patience - we are expected to produce the fruit of what we have received.

CHOOSE LIFE

"God's love does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother's womb and the child or young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness (Gn 1:26) in each one."
Pope Benedict XVI, Pontifical Academy for Life, 27th February 2006

REQUEST FROM BISHOP KEVIN I am asking people throughout our diocese, even if it has not been your practice up to now, to consider committing to spend one hour each week in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, or to come together with your neighbours or friends to pray the rosary once a week, specifically for the intention of the protection of life and for the needs of women who are experiencing difficulty in pregnancy.

CAR PARK UPGRADING In keeping with Health and safety standards upgrading work has commenced on the car park in our Cathedral. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. Thank you for your understanding.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST (Eucharistic Ministers) & MINISTERS OF THE WORD (Readers): Elphin Diocese is hosting a renewal evening (8 -10 pm) for all in Sligo Park Hotel on Tuesday, 10th October. Guest presenter: Canon Niall Ahern. Please attend.

24 HOUR SILENT 'SAVE THE 8TH VIGIL' for the protection of the 8th Amendment will take place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel beside the Cathedral, on Friday, 13th October (Feast day of Our Lady of Fatima) from 9.00am until 9.00am on Saturday, 14th October. To sign up for your hour please contact **087 6274621** with your specified time or simply sign the sheet on the Blessed Sacrament Chapel door. Join us for this important time of prayer as we unite our prayer with all the Saints and Martyrs of Ireland. Thank you as always for giving your time so generously for this important cause.

PUBLIC ROSARY in Honour of the 100th Anniversary of Fatima, the 6th & Final Apparition, where the Amazing Miracle of the Sun was witnessed by 70,000 people. Please Come & Join us in Wine street car park at 12noon on Friday, 13th October to Pray for Family & Life & for Ireland & to Honour the Blessed Mother. All most welcome.

SUNDAY READINGS for 15th October: 1st Reading: Is. 25:6-10; 2nd Reading: Phil. 4:12-14. 19-20; Gospel: Matt. 22:1-14.

BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT, SUNDAY 8th October at 9.00pm
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,400.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 24th September **PARISH ENV: €1,900 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,440**

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

✉ email us at info@sligocathedral.ie We welcome your comments.

PARISH OFFICE at St. Mary's Presbytery ☎ 071 9162670

Please note that the parish office is open to the public at the following times: Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 4pm & Friday 9.30am - 2pm.

REMINDER THAT THE PRESENTATIONS ON FAITH PRACTICE

continue in the Gillooly Hall for the next 3 Tuesdays (10th, 17th and 24th October) from 7.30pm to 9pm each evening. All adults and teenagers are most welcome.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR at Carraroe Community Centre, Sligo on each Friday from 6th October to 17th November 2017 for a 7 week period. Start time 8.00pm each Friday night. Please contact 085 7765294 or 087 6998397.

MARY & MERCY IRELAND TOUR Experience the **Time of Mercy!**

Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC will speak in the North West region on **Monday, 9th October in Basilica of Our Lady of Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo at 7.00pm.** Fr. Michael is an American author and regular speaker on EWTN and is touring Ireland in preparation for the 33 Day Consecration to Mary. The night will include two talks: Personal Testimony: Now is the time for Mercy & St. Maximilian Kolbe: Mary's instrument of Mercy and will end with benediction by Archbishop Neary. Free materials will be given out on the night. Please come along & join us. All are most welcome.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018 Sign up to volunteer for the World Meeting of Families 2018 in areas like logistics, event services, liturgy, media, meet & greet, translation services and much more www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer

PARISH HEART SCREENING OFFER Pulsewave Ireland Heart & Artery screening on Thursday 19th October in The Sligo City Hotel, appointments available from 11am to 8pm daily Call 087 7151623 to make an appointment spaces are limited. Normal cost of screening is €50 per person , Parish offer €30 per person. We can access the risk of heart attack or stroke with a simple non invasive test. The Screening is medically approved and each person will receive a detailed printout which they may discuss with their own GP.

WARMER HOMES SCHEME – Get Your Home Insulated for Free

"Clár ICH wishes to invite applications for the Warmer Homes Scheme. **Criteria set down by SEAI:** - Covering most of Mayo & Sligo areas. 1. Owner occupied, non-Local Authority Homes (Proof is required) 2. Constructed before 2006. **The Owner must be in receipt of one of the following: (1) Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme, (2) Job Seekers Allowance for over 6 months and with children under 7 years of age.** (Letter from the Dept only, receipt not acceptable, **(3) Family Income Support, (4) One Parent Family Payment.** Further details and for an application form please contact the Warmer Homes Scheme Team at **094 9371830 or 094 9373455.**

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 11th October **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10.30am Mass.
Friday 13th October Save the 8th Vigil in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel from 9am to 9am on Saturday 14th.
Saturday 14th October **Confessions** from 2.00pm to 4.00 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY Next meeting will take place tomorrow, Monday, 9th October, immediately after the 10.30am Mass in the Upper Room of the Cathedral Sacristy. New members welcome.

SLIGO ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION Monthly meeting at 2pm in the Presbyterian Hall, Church Street on Tuesday, 10th October. New members welcome.

INFORMATION EVENING FOR MEN Dealing with Incontinence Post Surgery will be held at Sligo Cancer Support Centre on Tuesday, 10th October at 7pm. Everyone welcome! Please contact: 071 9170399 for more information.



MERCY COLLEGE SLIGO PARENT'S ASSOCIATION are holding a fundraiser "The Kube" in The Sligo Park Hotel on Saturday, 14th October at 8p.m. It promises to be a fun & exciting night. Tickets €10 available from Mercy College (Tel. 086 0231252); Centra, Castle Street, and Kellys Barbers, Teeling Street.

AN ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION OF CHURCH VOLUNTEERISM in the Sligo area will take place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday 26th October at 7.30 pm. The Service is being organised by Sligo Parishes Cluster Committee and Sligo Churches Together. It seeks to embrace Volunteers from all eight Churches from the Cluster, from the four Church of Ireland Churches, from the Methodist, Presbyterian and Redeemed Churches and will include all our friends of other nationalities who reside here. All who volunteer in anyway with Church are invited, and a Reception will be held in the Presbyterian Hall afterwards. Please do join us on the night – all are most welcome.

VOLUNTEER FOR CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL IRELAND CHI is one of Ireland's leading children's charities providing play and fun for sick children in hospital around the country for over 45 years. We are currently appealing for volunteers, to volunteer in University Hospital Sligo. **Information and Interview** evening will take place on **Tuesday, 16th October at 6pm in Sligo.** If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer with CHI please RSVP to info@childreninhospital.ie / 01 2903510. (We ask that you do not contact the hospital directly.)

DAY OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER AND HEALING: This very special day will include Prayers of healing, Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, concluding with a Mass of Family healing in St. John's Church, Carraroe, Sligo, commencing at 3.00pm on Saturday, 14th October 2017. Intercessory prayers unite our hearts to the people we love and it renews our hope and faith. We look forward to seeing you all there.

ANNIVERSARY & REMEMBRANCES

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 9 th	PATRICIA SHERIDAN	MARGARET FOY & deceased Foy & McHugh family members
TUES 10 th	JOE CLARKE	MARTIN MCLOUGHLIN
WED 11 th	—	Month's Mind MARGARET HARTE 
THURS 12 th	ANNIE CAWLEY	PATRICK & ROSE HELEN DOLAN
FRI 13 th	MICHAEL KANE	EILEEN DOLAN, BEATRICE O'CONNOR & CHRISTY & ANN SMALL
SAT 14 th	—	Month's Mind NICLOAS GALLAGHER 

Rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of: GABRIELLE DIAMOND, Oakfield Park. *May God grant her eternal rest and comfort and console her bereaved family and friends.*