

RECALLING THE PAIN OF WAR

Remembrance Sunday is not reserved for remembering only the dead combatants of one side in World War I. On this day, we remember all whose lives have been ended or blighted in any way by war, any war. Our memory today includes the big wars that have ravaged our world – two great world wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45, more localised wars in Korea, Vietnam, the Congo or the contemporary Middle East that still send out echoes worldwide, as well as times of civil unrest and the social upheaval that war brings in its wake.

The First World War claimed an estimated 37 million casualties. Eighteen million people lost their lives. Along with eleven million soldiers, mostly young men, from the opposing armies, seven million civilians died. Almost another twenty million were seriously wounded. A generation later, over 60 million people were killed in the Second World War. To put it more starkly: that was an estimated 3% of the total population of the world as estimated at the war's beginning, making it the most costly catastrophe in human history. More than fifty million civilians either died directly as a result of bombing or shooting or the death camps, or as a result of famine and disease brought on by war.

Modern warfare is more costly in human terms than war ever was before. The nature of modern weapons and the use of planes or guided missiles to strike at targets from a distance, means that the loss of civilian lives, even of children and the elderly, is the collateral and unavoidable cost of modern warfare.

Our first duty on Remembrance Sunday is to recall the pain of war, and anguish of those who suffered and continue to suffer from today's wars. Even if we wish to remember the loss of young combatants, we should never forget the human price they and their comrades who survived had to pay.

COMMITTED TO PEACE

Catholic moral theology traditionally acknowledged that on occasions, war might be just. Among the conditions that justified it were that it be undertaken as a last resort and that all other means had been tried. The force used should be proportionate to the wrong to be righted and that has a reasonable chance of success. Civilian casualties were to be avoided as much as possible. When wars were fought with swords and bows and arrows, there was some chance these conditions could be met. Given how modern warfare impacts on the civilian population, a just war seems more and more unlikely.

Twenty years after the end of World War II, Pope Paul VI was the first pope to address the United Nations. To the representatives of the world's nations, he said "No more war. War never again. It is peace, peace which must guide the destinies of peoples and of all humankind."

As followers of Jesus, who declared peace makers children of God, we are called to promote peace in our time. That might entail thinking about the kind of political choices we make – whether, for example, to support a particular party or not or to be ready to pay extra taxes for the sake of world development. ■



Today's readings

Wisdom 6:12-16

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25: 1-13

GOD'S WORD TODAY

As we approach the end of the Church's liturgical year, our reading of Matthew's Gospel at our Sunday Eucharist is also coming to its conclusion. The teaching of Jesus now looks forward to the coming of the Son of Man, represented in the parable by the bridegroom.

This will involve our giving an account of ourselves, so even if we do not think that the Lord will finally come in glory in our lifetime, it will affect us individually sometime. We are warned that we know neither the day nor the hour, so we are advised to Be Ready! Stay Awake!

Stou(Se)pace

12 November 2017 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Psalter Week 4

SERIES: REMEMBERING OUR DEAD

Season colour: GREEN

In this new, short series, Fr Brendan McConvery remembers the dead during the month of November.



A SUNDAY TO REMEMBER

At 11 am on Monday, 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent after more than four years of bombardment. The time and date had been chosen carefully so that there could be no confusion – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Ninety-nine years later, we still remember the day the fighting stopped, but we now usually recall it on the Sunday nearest the original date.



THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12th November 2017
Prisoners' Sunday

The wisdom of God is given to us if we are open to seek it. Having received it, it teaches us to be always open, alert for the approach and the presence of God. With this wisdom God's coming will not catch us unprepared to receive Him.

CHOOSE LIFE

"Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties?"

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* 120

NOVEMBER—MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS Many choose to abstain from alcohol for November and offer this sacrifice up to their deceased loved ones. You can do likewise. Take the Short-Term pledge, visit www.pioneerassociation.ie or call 01 8749464.

CEMETERY ROSARY The Rosary will be recited in Sligo Cemetery on all four Sundays during the month of November at 3.00pm.

SAVE THE 8th VIGIL Join us for a day of prayer, whilst invoking our Irish Saints and Martyrs, such as, St Brigid of Ireland (Patron Saint of Babies) as we unite together to pray especially for the protection of the 8th Amendment. This takes place on Friday, 17th November commencing at 9.00am until Saturday 18th November 2017 until 9.00am, at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel beside the Cathedral. To sign up for your specified hour please text 087 6274621. Thank you for praying for the unborn child.

St. John Paul II in 1979 said "May Ireland never weaken in her witness, before Europe and before the whole world, to the dignity and sacredness of all human life, from conception until death".

CHILDREN'S EUCHARISTIC ADORATION We are delighted to announce a new Children's Spiritual formation program, which takes place in St. Anne's Day Chapel, Sligo every Sunday from 12.00pm until 12.30pm. We are inviting all children from the ages of 5-12 years to come together to adore Jesus who is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. To sign-up for this wonderful program please contact Lisa on 087 6274621.

The Children's Adoration was an initiative by St. John Paul II who stated that "we cannot overlook the role of children in the Church, but must speak of them with great affection. They are heavens smile entrusted to earth. They are the true gems of the family, of society and the Church's delight. They are Jesus' favourite's".

BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT,
SUNDAY 12th November at 9.00pm

TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,650.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 5th November **PARISH ENV: €3,247 PL/STAND. ORD: €2,032**

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR IN ST. MARY'S PARISH

A Christmas Fair will be held in the Gillooly Hall on Saturday, 9th December 2017. Anyone who is interested in having a stall in the Christmas Fair is asked to contact the Parish Office on 071 9162670. We are also looking for Volunteers to work on the day and donations of unused decorations for the Hall. Please contact the Parish Office if you can assist with any of this.

Thank you.

ROSARY BY THE COAST As part of a national prayer initiative, you are invited to join with thousands of others who will pray the Rosary around the coast of Ireland for the protection of life. Meet at any of the following locations in Sligo on Sunday 26th November at 2pm: Strandhill - Meeting at the canon; Rosses Point - Meeting at statue of the Lady by the Shore; Streedagh Beach; Mullaghmore Beach - Meeting at Star of the Sea Retreat Centre at 2.15pm. For more info and other locations see www.coastalrosaryireland.ie

ANAM CARA the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Thursday, 16th November at 7.30pm in the Family Centre, Chapel Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. As Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for teas, coffees, etc, please RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Wednesday, 15th November or call the Information Line on 085 2888 888.

SEARCH FOR CENTENARIANS Are you or do you know of anyone who is 100 years old or more? In association with Athlone IT, we are currently examining the health of Irish centenarians. If you were born in 1918 or before or know of someone who fits the bill please get in touch! There are only approx. 450 people at this age and we are looking to learn from them. Contact Alison on 085 7515678 or email alimaryfagan@gmail.com.

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL have informed us that with the onset of the winter months all burials must be scheduled so as to arrive at Sligo Cemetery no later than 3pm. They advise us that these times will come into effect from 19th October 2017 until 25th March 2018 and they say they must insist on this in the interest of the Health and Safety of the cemetery personnel. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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

SUNDAY READINGS for 19th November: 1st Reading: Prov. 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31; 2nd Reading: 1 Thess. 5:1-6; Gospel: Matt. 25:14-30.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS**
THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 15th November **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10.30am Mass.
Saturday 18th November **Confessions** from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY Next meeting will take place tomorrow, Monday, 13th November, immediately after the 10.30am Mass in the Upper Room of the Cathedral Sacristy. Please join us for a few minutes to pray for Vocations. New members welcome.

SLIGO ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION Monthly meeting at 2.30pm in the Presbyterian Hall, Church St. on Tuesday, 14th November. New members welcome.

EVENING OF REFLECTION for Eucharistic Ministers will be held in the conference room of the *Gillooly Hall* on day, Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm. Please all attend.

SLIGO FR. FLANAGAN PRAYER GROUP Next Meeting will take place in St. Mary's Presbytery on Tuesday, 14th November at 8pm. New members are particularly welcome.

PRAYER SERVICE in remembrance of all deceased children will be held in the outpatient department (LEVEL 3) of Sligo University Hospital on Wednesday, 22nd November at 7.30pm. Further enquiries to: Paediatric/ Neonatal Units, Sligo University Hospital 071 9174634/ 9174452.

ARTS EXHIBITION IT Sligo 3rd year performing Arts present Live Art 2017. A 23 piece exhibition performed and created by actors and designers in training. On Tuesday, 14th November at 6.30pm The Factory space, lower Quay St, Rathquarter will host this event. With free admission to the event it's surely one of Sligo's must see events this month. Support the Arts.

ANNUAL MASS for deceased members of Retired Nurses Association Sligo/ Leitrim Branch will take place in St John's Hospital Chapel on Thursday, 16th November at 7pm. All members and families welcome.



DATE FOR DIARY

Please reserve Sunday, 17th December for our Carol Service which will be at 8.15pm in the Cathedral.

anniversary & remembrances



DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 13 th	ORLA O'REILLY	—
TUES 14 th	KATE & JOHN LYONS & deceased family members	SR. ITA CLEARY (Recently deceased)
WED 15 th	PATRICK HEALY	HARRY & JOSEPHINE KENNY
THURS 16 th	DENIS & HELEN HARRINGTON	WALTER & ANNIE HENRY
FRI 17 th	EITHNE SHEALS	—
SAT 18 th	1st Anniversary ROSELEEN COMMINS ☩	Month's Mind DAVID FOX ☩

rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: ROSALEEN SCANLON, St. Bridgid's Place; SCOTT FREDERICKS-WHERLY, Arklow, Co. Wicklow and Sligo Town and MATTHEW (HUGH) BLAIN, Nazareth Village.

May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.