

SoulSpace

SERIES: EASTER JOURNEY

Season colour: **WHITE**

In this new series, Fr George Wadding reflects on the Easter season.

After searching through the Gospels I humbly suggest a sort of (incomplete) compendium of Christ's commandments...

Do not return evil for good. Nothing is achieved by retaliation except darkness on darkness.

Do not judge others. Leave judgement to God who alone can know all the facts.

Do not condemn others. If we are not to judge, all the more are we not to condemn, - lest we be condemned ourselves.

Do not store up treasures for yourselves here on earth, - money, property, goods. They'll be blown away like chaff in the first wind of judgement. That could be tomorrow.

MORE DOS THAN DON'TS

These are some DON'Ts. And then there are also many DOs which we find scattered throughout the pages of the Gospel:

Let the light of your goodness shine before people. If the blind lead the blind they will both perish. You are children of light not children of the dark. Therefore, be a light to show the way for others. Be different!

Love one another, as I have loved you. "I, your Lord and Master, have served you." I have washed your feet. You must always do the same for one another. I loved you even to the extreme of giving my life for you. Can you do the same?

Give generously, of yourself, your time, your skills, your financial resources. And the measure you give will

be the measure you receive.

Clean the inside of the cup and dish. All sin comes from inside a person, from the heart. Hypocrisy is a sin in any religion. It is an especially heinous sin in those Christian shepherds/priests who are supposed to lead the flock. They are like whitened sepulchres, all shiny on the outside but full of rotteness within.

JESUS OUR FOOD

Take this bread and eat it. Take this cup and drink it. Do this in memory of me. Not only did Jesus promise to come and dwell with us through his Spirit, he left us himself in this incredible sacrament to be our nourishment on the road back to the Father. Many good people claim to be Christians but find it very difficult to believe in and receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Even in his own lifetime when he promised the Eucharist, many went away and walked with him no more.

These are just some of the well-known directives of Jesus. They are 'the commandments' he asked his disciples to keep as the practical sign of their love for him. And in return he promised: 'I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever.'

In two weeks' time we will celebrate the anniversary of the coming of that Advocate (Pentecost). Today we are given advance notice so we can prepare ourselves to receive the Spirit by assessing our lives against the standards of Christ's commandments. ❧



Today's readings

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

will be in you.

One of the key documents of the Second Vatican Council is the one on Divine Revelation and its title is "God's Word". It tells us that God's purpose in this self-revealing is to invite human beings into a relationship characterised by friendship. It is not a matter of the revealing of rules and regulations. This revelation is handed on in oral form, until it is committed to fixed written forms, and the handing on is what we call tradition. It is instructive that it is in connection with the Tradition of the Church that the Holy Spirit is most frequently mentioned. It is the Holy Spirit which enables the community to reflect on the Scriptures and to discern their meaning for today.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

The gospel reading invites us to think about how Jesus is present to disciples today. In John's thought, this is through the presence of the Paraclete. In the bible, the Spirit of God is seen usually in terms of power: it is an enabling force which allows a person to carry out his or her appointed task. The Holy Spirit at Pentecost and throughout the Acts of the Apostles is depicted very much in this way. The presence of the Spirit in the Fourth Gospel is much more in the way of an indwelling: Jesus tells the disciples, you know him, he abides in you and he



KEEPING CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS

What's the best way to show our love for Jesus? He tells us in today's gospel: "If you love me you will keep my commandments. And I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate." What commandments is Jesus talking about? Clearly, he is talking not just about the Ten Commandments but also and especially about the things he taught his disciples throughout his public ministry. His commandments are not external, gratuitous impositions. They are the practical manifestations of love, - of Christ's love for us and of our love for Christ and for one another. Jesus was talking about the Spirit-filled life he wanted his followers to live when he returned in Spirit to dwell in them.

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

21st May 2017

We celebrate the coming of Christ's spirit of truth on the Church, the source of the Church's proclamation of the Christian message in the world.

WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY

"In our own day, dominated by stress and rapid technological advances, one of the most important tasks of families is to provide an education in hope. This does not mean preventing children from playing with electronic devices, but rather finding ways to help them develop their critical abilities and not to think that digital speed can apply to everything in life." (Amoris Laetitia, Par 275)

SECOND NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

Pope Francis has personally chosen Ireland to be the host country for the World Meeting of Families from 21st-26th August 2018. Planning for this great national and international celebration of faith is well underway. Hosting this important event requires an enormous amount of planning and funding. In this regard a second collection will be held in our diocese on 27th/28th May. Please use special envelope from your offertory collection box. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated. www.worldmeeting2018.ie

BAPTISMS We welcome into God's family EOGHAN O'NEILL, ERIN MILLS, ISABELLA DIXON, HARRY CLANCY, JAMIE MCLOUGHLIN, THOMAS MCLOUGHLIN and PATRICK WARD who were recently baptised in our Cathedral.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



The children of Gaelscoil will celebrate the Sacrament of First Communion today, Sunday, 21st May at 12 noon.

We join with our parishioners in wishing all our First Communicants and their families and their schools every blessing as they prepare for and receive this sacred Sacrament.

We apologise for any inconvenience as a result of the increased number of cars in the Cathedral Carpark during the ceremony.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK Lord, open my eyes to the revelation of salvation you have gained for us. Amen.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY NEXT, 28th MAY, The Ascension of the Lord
1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11; 2nd Reading: Eph. 1:17-23; Gospel: Matt 28:16-20.

BINGO - GILLOOLY HALL - TONIGHT, SUNDAY 21st May at 9.00 PM
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €1,400.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 14th May

PARISH ENV: €1,611 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,515

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

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

CONFIRMATION

We congratulate St. John's pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation yesterday.

The 6th class pupils of Scoil Ursula will be confirmed on Sunday, 28th May at 12 noon and the 6th class pupils of the Gaelscoil will be confirmed on Thursday, 1st June at 11.30am. As we keep these young people in our prayers this week we wish them every blessing as they receive the fullness of this Sacrament.

STATION MASS

If you wish to host a Station Mass in your home for your area please contact your area priest or The Presbytery on 071 9162670.

SLIGO EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CAPITAL 2017

This is a great honor for our town to mark the occasion, we are asking all volunteers in the church community to write their name and group, eg. Eucharistic Minister, Legion of Mary, Volunteer, on a sticky note and post it on the board at the main door of the Cathedral.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG

Elphin Diocesan 3 day-pilgrimage to Lough Derg, Friday, 16th June - Sunday, 18th June. For more details, including bus provision, see www.elphindiocese.ie/lough-derg or contact Justin Harkin at 087 6171526 or justin@elphindiocese.ie

ALTAR SOCIETY New members required. Commitment is one weekend in every 8 weeks. No previous knowledge of flower arranging required as work involves other Altar duties, but if you wish to gain experience at flower arranging this is your chance. Phone Helen Coleman on 9162003.

MASS FOR ADORERS - WEDNESDAY, 31st MAY

All adorers are invited to join in this Celebration of the Eucharist on Wednesday, 31st May at 7.30pm in thanksgiving for God's care. All are most welcome to a cup of tea afterwards in St. Mary's Presbytery.

ELPHIN DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

The Annual Celebration of Marriage will take place on Sunday 2nd July at 3pm in St Patrick's Church, Castlereaa, Co Roscommon celebrating 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th & 60th Anniversaries, followed by a reception at Cuisle, Donamon. For Details of registration please contact Parish Office Castlereaa on 094 9621219 or Cuan Aire Family Life Centre on Mondays or Thursdays on 094 9620057 or cuanairefamilycentre@eircom.net

SAFETALK is a half day training programme that prepares participants to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resources. This training is suitable for everyone over 18 who wants to help prevent suicide and is prepared to become suicide alert. *Note:* safetalk is not recommended for any participant that has been personally bereaved or affected by a suicide in the previous twelve months.

No charge for training to be held on Monday, 22nd May, 2pm - 5pm. Advance booking essential. Contact Belinda Taylor on 071 9135061 or Belinda.Taylor@hse.ie for bookings or more information.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS** THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 24th May "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.

Saturday 27th Confessions 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HEART SUPPORT GROUP meeting will be held in the Sligo Park Hotel on Wednesday, 31st May at 7pm. Speaker: Breda Roberts, Community Occupational Therapist. Topic: Supports to maintain and improve Quality of life.

SLIGO CO FLEADH will be held over the June Bank Holiday weekend - competitions in the Mercy Secondary school. Gig Rig in Stephen Street Carpark. The official opening concert featuring music, song and dance is on Saturday, 27th May at 8pm in the Sligo Park Hotel. Adm:€10. Fáilte roimh gach éinne.

ALL IRELAND ROSARY RALLY at Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo on Saturday, 3rd June. Main Celebrant Bishop Brendan Kelly D.D and Homilist Fr Thady Doyle. 3rd June is also the 25th anniversary of the death of servant of God Fr Patrick Peyton, the Rosary Priest.

BLESSING FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS KNOCK A Blessing and Prayers for Expectant Mothers will take place on Saturday, 3rd June in the Apparition Chapel from 11.45 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.

MASS FOR EXAM STUDENTS KNOCK An Exam Mass for all Junior & Leaving Cert students will be held on Monday, 5th June at 7.30pm in Knock Basilica. Students can also bring their pencil cases to have them blessed! For more information on this event, please contact Andrea Lynch at knockyouthministry@yahoo.ie

VISITING CHOIR IN THE CATHEDRAL for evening Mass at 7.00pm on Sunday, 11th June. Choir is from Tennessee, USA. All most welcome.

MICHAELA FOUNDATION are currently recruiting enthusiastic individuals aged 17+ to volunteer at their Summer Camp for girls in Mercy College, Sligo Town from 17th – 21st July. Those interested in volunteering should visit www.michaelafoundation.com

YOUTH 2000 SUMMER FESTIVAL The annual festival will take place from 17th to 20th August 2017 in the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. This is a donation only Catholic festival for young people aged 16-35. www.youth2000.ie

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Elphin Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 28th August - 2nd September 2017. . Booking forms are available direct from Joe Walsh Tours on 01 2410810. For sick/ assisted pilgrims who wish to travel, please contact Fr. Ray Milton on 090 6661115.

FLOWERS OF MAY DEVOTION

Culmination activity

27th May 2017 - Saturday

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sligo.

5.00pm - Holy Mass with Offering of Flowers and Crowning of the BVM

6.00pm - Procession/ Rosary (Santacruzán) (From Cathedral to St. Mary's grounds to Gillooly Hall)

7.30pm - Program/ Coronation

All are welcome. We invite all Marian Movements and devotees to join.

Anniversary & remembrances



DAY	8.00am	10.30am
MON 22 nd	MICHAEL & MARY LYNCH	Month's Mind SONNY & SEAN HARTE ✠
TUES 23 rd	MICHAEL & SARAH BRADY	THADY ROSE & JIMMY FOLEY
WED 24 th	—	MOLLY CUNNINGHAM
THURS 25 th	JOE & MARY WHITE	MICHAEL & BRIDGET HIGGINS
SAT 27 th	HENRY LYNCH	Month's Mind PADDY SMULLEN ✠