

SORRY HISTORY

We may be tempted to think that Pope Francis is condemning extremist Muslim violence. No doubt, this is in part what the Holy Father is referring to. But it is not an exclusively "Muslim problem". Although fuelled by political motives, we have seen how in our own country, Christian men and women used horrific violence against each other. We have seen popes bless armies on their way to war. Europe has had its tragic history of Christian religious violence. One need think only of the Thirty Years War, for example, or the burning of "heretics" in the name of God. That is to say nothing of the Christians who went on crusade to the Middle East, or of the conquistadors, and of the violence that was used for the "glory of God". So we in the Christian world have been guilty of distorting God's name for our own earthly ends, just as some from other faith traditions have done.

When we look back on these periods in history, and on how our sacred books were misused, we rightly see this as an abuse of sacred texts. This remains an ongoing problem in our world today. Whether one is speaking about Christian or Jewish or Muslim fundamentalists, religious motives are often cited as justification for violence, oppression, and marginalization. Pope Francis rightly condemns this as the misuse of God's name, for when we act like this, we fail God. The God of the Old Testament is a God of mercy and compassion, an inclusive God, a faithful God, and an infinitely forgiving God.

MISUSING THE NAME

We can misuse God's name in other ways, however. We distort it when we use God as an excuse to dominate others, to control or manipulate them, or when we judge and exclude others on religious grounds. Pope Francis alludes to this again, when in the Joy of the Gospel, he warns us not to turn the confessional into a "torture chamber." When the Christian faith becomes an opportunity to burden or shame others, when it becomes an opportunity to exclude rather than welcome, we have once more distorted God's name. This can happen in subtle ways that we might not even realize. We have a constant obligation to be vigilant in terms of our actions and attitudes. Faith, the sacraments, and indeed God, are not prizes for the virtuous. The God of Jesus Christ provides a constant reminder that we are to be people of hospitality, compassion, and gentleness.

This commandment also challenges us not to be flippant or casual with God. As James Keenan explains, "Taking a person's name in vain is nothing other than an attempt at discrediting or dismissing another as not worthy of respect" (Commandments of Compassion, 8). We can invoke a name to ridicule or to undermine, be it God's name or the name of those around us.

To quote Keenan once more, "The second commandment wonderfully reminds us that uttering another's name discloses the speaker's estimation of the one named. From the beginning of our journey in faith, God has invited us to be attentive to the way we voice the Lord's name. Today the same commandment urges us in our ordinary human intercourse to get into the habit of expressing the Lord's name with loving reverence, for our benefit and for our culture's." ■



Today's readings

Ezekiel 33:7-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

An unhealthy and unpleasant aspect of the Roman Catholic Church is the practice, and in some cases encouraging, of anonymous reporting of individuals to higher authorities rather than confronting the individual in question. For over one hundred years certain people have taken it upon themselves to decide whether a writer or liturgical celebrant is outside the bounds of what they consider orthodox Catholic opinion or practice and to write to the bishop or a Roman Curial body informing them, but without telling the person concerned. Sometimes this information is taken at face value and acted upon without what most people would consider due and fair process or natural justice.

Our Gospel passage today is telling us that within the Christian community any matter which affects the life of the disciples of Jesus should be dealt with in an open, what we would call nowadays transparent, way. The person should be informed of the charge against them and given the chance to either explain or apologise straightaway, but not ostracised from the community without being given the chance to do so.

The word used of such a person is brother (and so it also means sister). Matthew is saying that there is a real bond between members of the Church: if this bond is broken, it is like losing a member of the family. If we try to put it right, then the Lord promises to be with us.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Stou(Se)pace

10 September 2017 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Year A**

Psalter Week 3

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.



SECOND
COMMANDMENT
**MISUSE
OF GOD'S
NAME**

“You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.” (Exodus 20:7)

On January 9th Pope Francis condemned fundamentalist attacks around the world. In an address to the Vatican Diplomatic Corps, he said: “one can never kill in God's name. We are dealing with homicidal madness which misuses God's name in order to disseminate death, in a play for domination and power”. To invoke any god in order to justify violence and harm is a distortion of God's image and a manipulation of faith. This second commandment calls us again towards an authentic relationship with God, and its corresponding implications for right relationship with those around us.



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10th September 2017

Like the prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles of the New there are still people appointed by God to watch over us, to warn us when we are going wrong and to pray to the Father on our behalf. We owe them attention, because with their mission and authority their words of advice come to us from God.

WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY

“The strength of the family “lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love. For all a family’s problems, it can always grow, beginning with love.” Amoris Laetitia 53

THANK YOU TO ALL

Dear Parishioners,

I wish to thank each and every one of you for your expressions of gratitude and appreciation to me on my departure from the parish. I would also like to thank you for your generosity, best wishes and kindness. As it would be impossible for me to thank each and every person who sent a card, a note of good wishes and telephoned I hope that all of you will accept this short note as an expression of my sincere appreciation.

Be assured that you will be in my thoughts and prayers at all times.

FR. TOM

THURSDAY NEXT

NORTH WEST HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING



Our Parish coffee morning will be held in the Gillooly Hall starting after the 10.30am Mass on Thursday, 14th September. All welcome.

TALK ON ADORATION on Thursday, 14th September at 7.30pm in Gillooly Hall. All welcome.

PLEASE RESERVE SATURDAY, 7TH OCTOBER for our *annual Diocesan Gathering* in Boyle. More details later.

BAPTISMS We welcome into God’s family AISLING MULDERRIG and DAIRE BURKE who were recently baptised in our Cathedral.

SUNDAY READINGS for 17th September: 1st Reading: Eccles. (Sir) 27:30-28:7; 2nd Reading: Rom. 14:7-9; Gospel: Matt. 18:21-35.

BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT, SUNDAY 10th September at 9.00pm

TONIGHT’S JACKPOT €2,200.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 3rd September **PARISH ENV: €2,376 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,515**
THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

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

CEMETERY SUNDAY

This Sunday, 10th September is cemetery Sunday and Mass will be held at 3pm in Sligo Cemetery. All welcome.

RETOUVAILLE - A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you hurt, frustrated or angry with your spouse? Does talking about it only make it worse? The Retrouvaile programme can help marriages at all stages. Next programme starts 6th – 8th October 2017. For information contact Tony & Anne (01) 495 3536, Mike & Anne (01) 450 0922, text or call 086 413 5440, or email info@retrouvaile.ie or visit www.retrouvaile.ie.

LEGION OF MARY – celebrating its 96th year this year! Frank Duff, founder, held the very first meeting on 7th Sept 1921 in Dublin. The Legion of Mary has survived to this day, and continues in its role as a worldwide, lay apostolic organisation at the service of the Church. We hope to recruit new members, and invite you to look around the Cathedral at Banners and literature to find out more about this powerful witness of outreach in our Parish, under the guidance of Our Blessed Mother. Members will be here to meet with you and answer any questions you may have, or please call 086 8383725. Thank You.

ANNUAL FR. FLANAGAN MASS / GET-TOGETHER will take place in Ballymoe on Sunday 24th September, starting with Mass at 10.30am, when the chief celebrant will be Bishop Kevin Doran. All are cordially invited thereto. In addition to the usual proceedings after the Mass, you will have the opportunity to view the beautiful Fr. Flanagan Visitors’ Garden opened not too long ago in Ballymoe.

9th NOVENA OF HOPE in honour of St. Therese of Lisieux for the World Meeting of Families at St. Therese’s Church, Ballintogher, Co. Sligo. Sunday, 24th September to Tuesday, 3rd October 2017 Mass at 7.30pm each evening. Please see leaflets at the back of the cathedral for details.

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.

THANK YOU Bishop Kevin wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the people of the diocese who contributed almost €85,000 to the recent Trócaire East Africa appeal and almost €19,000 to the World Meeting of Families collection.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 13th Sept **“Wednesday Tea”** after 10.30am Mass.

Thursday 14th Sept. **Coffee Morning** in Gillooly Hall after 10.30 am Mass.

Thursday 14th Sept. **Talk on Adoration** at 7.30pm in Gillooly Hall.

Saturday 16th September **Confessions** from 2.00pm. to 4.00 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION – KNOCK Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage today Sunday, 10th September 2017, Knock Shrine at 2.30pm. 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'.

ST. JOSEPH’S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY The monthly meeting will be held in the Cathedral after the 10.30 a.m. Mass on Monday, 11th September. New members are invited.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION - monthly meeting at 2pm on Tuesday, 12th September in the Presbyterian Hall. New members welcome.

BUS TO KNOCK 16th September staying overnight for Padre Pio weekend. Full cost for weekend €120 or £98 to be paid one week before. Contact 089 2245598 or 074 9320734.

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION in aid of the Pro Life Campaign on 16th & 17th September. Please give generously to support the right to life of the unborn.

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 or ewa@moveireland.ie

ICON EXHIBITION Bishop Kevin Doran opened an exhibition of holy icons on 5th September in the Hyde Bridge Gallery, Yeats Memorial Building, Hyde Bridge, Sligo. The exhibition will run until the 26th September and is part of the Association of Iconographers of Ireland’s 25th Anniversary.

CATHOLIC TALK-RADIO STATION IN IRELAND RADIO MARIA IRELAND is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station, located in Dublin with 6,000 monthly listeners in Ireland and around the world, spreading the Gospel message of Joy, Hope and Charity with a mixture of Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies – all commercial free. RADIO MARIA IRELAND is available to download FREE by App “RADIO MARIA WORLD FAMILY” on mobile devices, FREE streaming on www.radiomaria.ie by clicking “LISTEN LIVE” or can be listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 4373277.

anniversary & remembrances



DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 11 th	DERMOT, MOLLY & MALCOM KEAVENEY	—
TUES 12 th	—	SPECIAL INTENTION
WED 13 th	MICHAEL PETER CONLON	PATRICK & BREEGE CASSIDY
THURS 14 th	LIAM CAWLEY	ELIZABETH COLLINS
FRI 15 th	JEANNIE & MARGARET FOY	SPECIAL INTENTION
SAT 16 th	JIM MC DONNELL	Month’s mind KATHLEEN FOX

rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: DONAL HEALY, Strandhill Rd and ANN GARRETT, USA, sister of Bishop emeritus Christopher Jones. *May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*