

THE SANCTITY AND DIGNITY OF LIFE

As we grow and move out into the world we also see that there are certain actions that enhance life and certain actions that undermine it. At a very basic level we know that it is not a good thing to go around killing each other! If we are to flourish, we must cooperate, learn to live positively together, and compromise. Certain actions undermine the strength of a community, and killing is one of the more extreme examples. So, generally speaking, killing is something that ought to be avoided.

But the prohibition on killing has some exceptions. Within the Christian tradition we acknowledge what is called "justified killing". Although the taking of any life, for whatever reason, is deeply regrettable and must always be mourned, we know that at times it may be necessary. That is why killing in self-defence may be legitimate in some circumstances, or why the Christian tradition accepts the idea of justified war and capital punishment.

Our world is becoming more and more violent, it seems. Every day, we hear reports on TV about war and conflict, gang-land killings, human trafficking, murder, and violent personal attacks. For some, life is cheap, and people are just commodities that can be discarded at any moment. The Christian tradition firmly advocates the dignity of every human person, each of us made in the image and likeness of God. That is why popes, such as St John Paul II, have called for societies around the world to work more passionately towards the promotion of a "culture of life." John Paul was thinking primarily of the ways in which life is threatened at its beginning and its end. More recently, Pope Francis reminds us that if we are serious about being "pro-life," then we must take just as seriously problems of homelessness, human trafficking, drug addiction, child malnutrition, child

labour, and all the other ways in which the dignity of the person is undermined.

CELEBRATING LIFE

Protecting the sanctity of life challenges us to understand a culture of life in as broad and complete a way as possible. Our mandate is to go out into the world, and to bring some modicum of comfort to all who suffer. Pope Francis passionately calls us to this way of life in the following terms: "I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets to a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security" (Joy of the Gospel).

Although the fifth commandment is expressed in negative terms ("thou shall not") it calls us to positive action on behalf of those around us. We are asked to refrain from killing, to be sure. But there is more to it than that. We are asked to commit ourselves to a way of life, a way of seeing others that celebrates all that is good in life. We are expected to confront the sinful structures that strip people of their dignity as well as to confront the attitudes and stereotypes that exclude so many around us. All forms of exclusion – social, cultural, ecclesial, economic, political – diminish the dignity of our sisters and brothers who bear within them a reflection of God's image. As James Keenan puts it, "We understand the fifth commandment, then, in a very specific way: we are against killing because it extinguishes, before its time, the human breath that expresses a soul animated by God. We oppose death-dealing practices because we are in awe of the giftedness and promise of life and such practices violate and contradict everything that we hope for" (Commandments of Compassion). ■



Today's readings

Ezekiel 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

The gospels are not simply historical records of Jesus and the circumstances of his time: they are also the Word of God addressed to us and the Church today. They tell us that God's love and mercy are not channelled simply through institutions or systems, but that God is reaching out to people of all types, and in different ways. Neither John the Baptist nor Jesus was accepted by the religious authorities of their day. From our point of view, the chief priests, scribes and elders got it catastrophically wrong. However, in their shoes, would we have done any better? It is easy to ascribe ill will and hypocrisy to the opponents of Jesus: but perhaps they were too imprisoned in their own systems of belief even to imagine that the Lord could operate in a different way.

The Book of Job warns us that we can have a perfectly well worked out system of belief, but that God is still greater than our theology.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

SoulSpace

1 October 2017 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Psalter Week 2

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.



Flowers on quay in Nice after terrorist attack July 2016

“You shall not kill.” (Exodus 20:13)

One of the events that is most celebrated in a family or community's life is the arrival of a new baby. Most of us look with joy and happiness at the young lives that grace our existence. It is a very special moment. This joy reflects something profound within us as human beings. We recognise that life ought to be protected and nurtured, that it is a blessing, and furthermore, that it is sacred. Not everyone will use religious terms such as "sacred", but most people can identify something important in the fostering and safeguarding of new life. This fifth commandment turns our attention to the most fundamental requirements of living well together – respecting the giftedness of life.

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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st October 2017
Day for Life

It takes at least two to make a friendship. God loves us, but there is no relationship between him and us unless we return his love. In this relationship there can be no pretence nor living on the past. Our response to God must continue every day to be real, just as his love for us is a daily reality.

CHOOSE LIFE

"Motherhood is the gift of God to women. How grateful we must be to God for this wonderful gift that brings such joy to the whole world, women and men alike!" Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Letter to the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995

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.

DAY FOR LIFE 2017

Day for Life is celebrated on Sunday, 1st October 2017. As we face the immediate challenge to life here in Ireland, we are drawn to pray, to reflect and to offer practical and emotional support to those in need. We pray especially for those who have lost a child and for those who are concerned about their pregnancy. For prayers and resources see www.dayforlife.org and www.chooselife2017.ie

ELPHIN DIOCESAN PARISH DEV. & RENEWAL GATHERING will take place on Saturday, 7th October in St. Joseph's Hall & Abbey Community College Boyle. This year's focus: "Let's talk family, Let's be family" **All welcome.** For more info see: www.elphindiocese.ie/gathering or brochures in Church porches.

SIXTH CLASS STUDENTS & PARENTS: Elphin Diocese's 3rd annual Confirmation Youth Fest takes place in Boyle on Saturday, 7th October. Representatives from all schools invited. For more info see www.elphindiocese.ie/youthfest A great opportunity for those hoping to receive Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

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 and in Abbey Hotel Roscommon on Wednesday, 11th October. Guest presenter: Canon Niall Ahern. Please attend.

SUNDAY READINGS for 8th October: 1st Reading: Is. 5:1-7; 2nd Reading: Phil. 4:6-9; Gospel: Matt. 21:33-43.

BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT,
SUNDAY 1st October at 9.00pm
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,350.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES
SUNDAY, 24th September **PARISH ENV: €509 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,347**
CLERGY €3,500

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

FIRST FRIDAY Friday, 6th October, is the First Friday. Mass will be celebrated at 7pm. Confessions will take place before the 8am, 10.30am & 7pm Masses.

MAKING FAITH PRACTICE EXCITING AND LIBERATING

Come and See, Jesus said! Likewise you adults and teenagers are invited to come and see at the Gillooly Hall, Sligo, on the 4 Tuesdays of October (3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th October) from 7.30pm to 9pm, for 4 presentations on the faith by Dermot Layden, which we expect to be very enlightening. Admission is free.

Rosary for children & adults

Thursday, 5th October at 7pm Children, their families and friends are all invited to this special celebration of the rosary in our Cathedral.

MONEY ADVICE & BUDGETING SERVICE Are you struggling to make ends meet? Are you worried about money you owe to money lenders, electric/telephone providers, credit cards, banks and/or mortgage lenders? We can help you. For free and confidential advice, please contact Sligo MABS on 076 1072730 or email us at sligo@mabs.ie or you can call to our office to make an appointment at Carbury House, Fish Quay, Sligo. MABS offer advice, support and information and can negotiate with creditors on your behalf.

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.

SIENA - Young Adult Programme (18 -35). "Become who you are meant to be and set the world on fire". St. Catherine of Siena

If you are at a cross-roads in your life; just finished school, at or just finished third level education, working, unemployed, on a gap year, not satisfied with your career choice or looking for something more ... then the SIENA programme is for you.

Saturday 18th November 2017 – Quest for Happiness: Discover your Talents, Deepest Desires and Legitimate Needs as you embark on discovering God's call in your life and your quest for happiness.

Saturday 27th January 2018 – Understanding Vocation as Relationship: How does God relate to me? How do I discover in this relationship who he wants me to be and what he wants me to do? Where does the Church fit into this?

Saturday 24th February 2018 – Marriage, Sexuality and Creative Celibacy: Why get married? Is Marriage really a vocation? What about sexuality? Why Celibacy and is it possible to live a celibate life constructively and creatively? What about loneliness? See www.elphindiocese.ie/vocations or Contact: Frank McGuinness on 087 9880690.

SLIGO SOCIAL SERVICES is offering a *Befriending Service* to people who are aged 65 and over, residing in their own home in Sligo, experiencing social isolation or loneliness, and wish to increase their social interactions. If you feel the service is relevant and could be helpful to you, please ring the Befriending Service Coordinator at our offices in Charles Street 071 9145682.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS**
THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 4th October **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10.30am Mass.
Thursday 5th October **Children's Rosary** at 7pm
Saturday 7th October **Confessions** from 2.00pm to 4.00 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HOLY HILL HERMITAGE will celebrate the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux on Visiting Sunday, 1st October. Everyone is welcome to Mass at noon, followed by tea and tour.

ST BERNADETTE'S CHAPEL, Rockwood Parade. Mass will be celebrated on Monday 2nd October at 5.15 p.m. All welcome.

SLIGO ACTIVE RETIREMENT members are invited to a meeting of Co. Sligo A.R.A.s in the Presbyterian Hall, Church St. on Wednesday, 4th October at 1pm. If you wish to attend please contact Carmel 087 2692488 for further information.

HSE RETIRED ASSOCIATION GROUP Monthly meeting takes place in St Michael's Family Life Centre on Thursday 5th October at 3pm. New members welcome.

P.T.A.A. SLIGO - Meeting in St. Mary's Presbytery at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 6th October immediately after the 7pm Mass.



CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE Sponsored by the Galilee Community, Boyle, a conference on Climate Change takes place in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon on Saturday 7th October from 10.30am – 4.30pm, €10 per person. To book phone 071 9664101 or galileecommunity@gmail.com

A DAY IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY Calling all Families - Consecrate your families to Our Lady on Saturday, 7th October in Knock Shrine. The day will begin at 2pm with the Rosary, Stations and Main Pilgrimage Mass celebrated by Fr. Brian Mc Kevitt OP. We will then have an evening of music, food and Celebration followed by a Holy Hour from 6- 7pm praying specifically for all our Bishops and their Diocese's. For more information and to book your seat on the FREE Bus from Sligo (donations welcome), please contact Human Life International in Knock on 094 9375993 or email: mail@hliireland.ie Booking essential.

CREATIVE WRITING COURSES at Yeats Memorial Building Sligo. Creative Writing for All starts Oct 10th 10-12pm. Writing Poetry Oct 11th 6.30-8.30pm. Writing the Short Story Oct 12th 6.30-8.30pm. Courses run for 8 weeks. Phone 083 8561559 to register.

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.

anniversary & remembrances

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 2 nd	ANN POWER	—
TUES 3 rd	MARY C & PATRICK J HEALY	JAMES MCCAFFREY
WED 4 th	—	PADDY & KATHLEEN GILROY & deceased family members
THURS 5 th	PADRAIG CONWAY	CELIA & MATHEW BLAIN
FRI 6 th	—	1st Anniversary FLORRIE GILMARTIN 
SAT 7 th	MARTIN GRIFFIN	Month's Mind NOELEN COOKE 



MONTH'S MIND MASS for ANGELA CURRAN (nee HYNES) will be celebrated at the 7.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 7th October.