

HONOURING PARENTS

We often think of this fourth commandment in terms of "obeying" rather than "honouring" our parents. It's peculiar that it is so often understood in that way, for to obey is a very different thing than to honour. This may be connected in some way to our moral and personal development. We learn from a very early age to obey our parents, and this kind of obedience is important for learning many other things. It is a necessary first step towards seeing the wisdom our parents wish to impart to us. We are given clear instruction initially, and we do certain things simply because we are told. But with time and as we mature, we start to see WHY our parents insist on various rules – we can see the moral validity of their instructions.

Honouring comes later. It comes about through integrating the wisdom and insight of those who went before us and making it our own. As we grow, we become better able to see the wisdom that has been handed on, and we give thanks for it.

LEARNING THE STORY

The American philosopher Michael Sandel describes humans as "story-telling beings". This is a wonderful insight, because if we stop to think about ourselves, our place, our people, we find our lives surrounded by stories. We ARE part of a narrative. Stories, traditions, games, music, and rituals all form part of our identity, and they are handed down to us by our community. Someone once said that morality is caught as much as it is taught. We learn from our people not just how to get by, but how to live well, how to celebrate who we are, and what that all means in the first place.

In Ireland, we talk about our seandaoine – the "old people". Perhaps a nicer way of putting it is to speak of the wise men and women of our place. Honouring our elders, our seandaoine, means that we respect THEIR narratives. We see where they have travelled to, and from where they came, we recognise their lived experiences, we listen, and we take the time to learn from them. This is part of how we honour them. But we also give thanks for the sacrifices that they made for us, and we do not take for granted their presence in our lives. The late John O'Donohue, theologian and poet, reminds us that: "One of the fascinating things about old people is the way that they stay around the well of memory... Memory is a particularly intimate and sacramental human phenomenon and there is a great depth and density to everyone" (Walking in the Pastures of Wonder).

It is hard, certainly, to see those we love as "old people", to acknowledge the changes that time brings to their lives and to our relationships with them. Honouring our parents calls us to make time to listen to them, to hear their stories, to let them impart their insights and memories to us so that we can carry this forward in their name. Honouring is about fidelity to those relationships that are so immediate and fundamental to us. It is about celebrating the beauty and peace that, we hope, will come with age.

Let's finish with John O'Donohue's blessing for old age:

**"May you have great dignity,
And a sense of how free you are,
Above all, may you be given the wonderful gift
Of meeting the eternal light that is within you.
May you be blessed
And may you find a wonderful love
In yourself and for yourself".** ❧

SoulSpace

24 September 2017 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Psalter Week 1

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.



FOURTH
COMMANDMENT
**HONOUR
YOUR
FATHER
AND
YOUR
MOTHER**



Today's readings

Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20-24:27
Matthew 20:1-16

usually referred to as tax collectors and sinners, but who gather round Jesus to hear his message. In our own Christian communities today we can find an attitude that those who have kept the rules all their lives should somehow be given a greater reward than those who have come to the Church later in life. On a human level, this is understandable: but God is beyond our comprehension. This is not a way of avoiding the question: it is simply a well-accepted theological fact. It may well be that, in the end, it is better for us to rely on God being generous and merciful than on God acting by strict justice.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

Matthew gives another parable about the Lord, this time about the divine generosity. It is about how the Lord responds to people's needs, not to any supposed merit on their part.

Underlying the parable is the theme of the Last Judgment. There is also the tension throughout the gospel narratives between the religiously correct people and Jesus who associates with those who are regarded as beyond the pale,

“Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.” (Exodus 20:12)

As we move from the first three commandments, concentrating as they do on our relationship with God, the remaining seven alter our focus slightly. They are concerned with our earthly relationships. That is not to say that this divide is absolute, or that our earthly relationships have nothing to do with our faith commitment to God. In fact, they flow naturally from one another. The strength of our commitment to God is seen through our day-to-day dealings with those around us, and profession of discipleship inevitably seeks answers as to how to live well together. These remaining commandments seek to help answer such questions. They help us to see more clearly what "right relationship with each other and with the world around us" looks like.

[continued on back page]



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

24th September 2017

Our human horizons are so limited! So often we calculate the cost of our generosity - giving only to the DESERVING - afraid that our 'goodness' may be wasted. Our God is not limited. He takes the risk of his love being wasted and it is only because of such love that we can have hope.

CHOOSE LIFE

"The family has a special role to play throughout the life of its members, from birth to death. It is truly "the sanctuary of life: the place in which life-the gift of God-can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth". Consequently the role of the family in building a culture of life is decisive and irreplaceable". Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, 92

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 1st October: 1st Reading: Ezek. 18:25-28; 2nd Reading: Phil. 2:1-11; Gospel: Matt. 21:28-32.

BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT, SUNDAY 24th September at 9.00pm
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,300.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES
SUNDAY, 17th September **PARISH ENV: €1,673 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,345**
THANK YOU for your contribution.
ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY ☎ 071 9162670 SACRISTY ☎ 071 9161261
✉ email us at info@sligocathedral.ie We welcome your comments.

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.

ANNUAL FR. FLANAGAN MASS / GET-TOGETHER will take place in Ballymoe today, 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. Leaflets at back of cathedral.

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.

ARTHRITIS IRELAND are having an information evening in Sligo Park Hotel on Thursday, 28th September at 7.30pm. Guest speaker: Orthopaedic Surgeon, Mr William Gaine, followed by Q & A session. Admission free. Contact 089 4303112 for information. All welcome.

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 27th Sept **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10.30am Mass.
Saturday 30th Sept **Confessions** from 2.00pm to 4.00 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

GERMAN BEGINNERS AND INTERMEDIATE CLASSES at Mercy College Sligo 6.30 pm Tuesdays (from 12th September) for 10 weeks. Tel 086 7384925 for info.

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

HEART SUPPORT GROUP meeting will be held in the Sligo Park Hotel on Wednesday, 27th September at 7pm. Speaker: Dr Abaza Moamen, Topic: Living well with heart failure.

URSULINE NETWORK - Next meeting on Wednesday, 27th September in the Convent (opposite Cathedral entrance) at 7.00pm. New members welcome.

NORTH WEST STROKE GROUP next meeting Wednesday, 27th September at 8pm at the Irish Wheelchair Association premises in Abbeyville, Sligo.

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




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.

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.

2 Chronicles 7:14. A **WEEKEND OF "PRAYER FOR OUR LAND" CONFERENCE** in Knock, Co. Mayo on 20th– 22nd October. Please come and join us to pray for conversion in our families, parishes, government and land. Includes: Prayer, Praise, Worship, Teaching, Music, Testimony, Confession, Holy Mass & Healing. Speakers: Fr. John Keane, Noel Byrne, Aidan Byrne, Fr. Lawrence CFR, of Moyross. Contact: Patricia 087 9130909 or Theresa 086 3241269.

ANNIVERSARY & REMEMBRANCES

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 25 th	EDDIE O'REILLY	—
TUES 26 th	—	Recently Deceased AGNES MCGOLDRICK 
WED 27 th	—	Recently Deceased ANN GARRETT & SR. MARY JONES 
THURS 28 th	MARY & LAURENCE MCGLYNN	VINNIE MCGUINN
SAT 30 th	—	Month's Mind MICHAEL GARRETT 

Rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: SR. MARY JONES M.M.M., Drogheda, sister of Bishop Jones and NOREEN CAWLEY, Rathedmond. *May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*