

WHAT ARE IDOLS?

It is worth noting at the outset what this commandment is NOT saying. It is not about conforming to a religious belief out of fear of punishment. Faith cannot be imposed. It is an internal response on our part to God, and it must always be that. One person cannot force another to believe: not even God can do that! But there is more at work here, and the first commandment contains a quite positive message if we delve a little deeper.

In his letter, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis warns us of the dangers of creating false idols. Previous popes did the same, many of them through their social encyclicals. They provided a critique of the "signs of the times", of the challenges and opportunities that they saw before them. Pope Francis has added his voice to that social tradition through various documents, speeches and addresses.

One of the concerns that he raises in this letter is the gross economic inequalities that are so prevalent in our societies. He condemns what he calls the "new idolatry of money". "The current financial crisis can make us overlook the fact that it originated in a profound human crisis: the denial of the primacy of the human person! We have created new idols." For the Holy Father, a key problem lies in our relationship with money and material objects. His predecessors warned of the dangers of excessive materialism and consumerism. Francis echoes these sentiments: "One cause of this situation is found in our relationship with money, since we calmly accept its dominion over ourselves and our societies."

That is not to say that money in itself is a bad thing. We need income, employment, good housing, personal security, good education and healthcare, and so much more if we are to live well. We are being warned, however, not to allow money or material objects to become our only focus in life. If that happens, we risk losing sight of the

more important aspects of life and relationships. In other words, money and materialism imprison us. We create false gods, and ultimately these false gods will fail us.

TIME OUT

The growing interest in mindfulness or spirituality courses, yoga and so on should not surprise us. People are looking for space in an otherwise hectic world. They need "time out" from work and industry, and want to reflect more on life's purpose. We must choose carefully then what we decide to worship!

This is what the first commandment is challenging us to do. We are being called to make prudent choices. We are being asked to reject false gods, not out of fear of punishment, but because we can see the false promises of these idols. This requires skill and effort. As the Irish theologian Enda McDonagh says, seeing in others the image of God "constitutes a way of life ... and is constantly in danger of being obscured by the false beauties of gods created in our own image."

WAKE UP

Yahweh, the God of the Old Testament is a God of mercy, compassion, and fidelity. When it comes to right relationship with God we are being asked to make wholesome decisions that enhance our lives. We are being asked to mirror God's fidelity and mercy in our own relationships, and to be authentic people of the covenant. In his book, *Commandments of Compassion*, the American theologian James Keenan remarks: "The first commandment calls us to attention: to wake up to the history of God's intimate saving actions in our own lives. It calls us to see how God has kept us in being, through God's own merciful hand, guiding, directing, healing, and sustaining us at every turn." ■



Today's readings

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus calls Peter Satan. This is because Peter is acting in exactly the same way in which Matthew presents the devil in the scene at the beginning of the gospel narrative which we usually call the Temptations.

There, the devil is trying to divert Jesus from being the Son of God in the true way which will eventually lead to the cross, but to take the easier way of becoming the kind of Messiah whom the people could easily recognise and rally around. There Jesus resists, using more or less the same expression we hear today: Go away, Satan!

In one sense, it would be easy enough for Jesus to resist the suggestions of the devil in that episode: it is clear that he (and we) know who it is that he is dealing with. Here, the text is much more subtle. The devil is acting out of malice: Peter is acting out of love and affection, but the result will be the same, the end of Jesus being truly the Son of the living God.

GOD'S WORD TODAY



SoulSpace

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.



FIRST
COMMANDMENT
**YOU SHALL
HAVE NO
GODS
BEFORE ME**

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:2-3)

There are many ways in which we might consider this first commandment. Is it about the "one true religion"? About worshipping false idols? Or is it about a God of mercy and compassion? Perhaps the latter is what we may think of last – the first two being the more common interpretations. There is, in fact a lot being said in this commandment, and it has much to convey to us in today's world also.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

3rd September 2017

God's call to us is often demanding, may he enlighten our minds as we pray for the grace to follow him, as Jesus did, even to the cross.

WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY

"Parents rely on schools to ensure the basic instruction of their children, but can never completely delegate the moral formation of their children to others." *Amoris Laetitia* 263

THE PRIORY INSTITUTE ONLINE THEOLOGY COURSE

Application deadline 26th September 2017. Call 01 4048124 or email enquiries@prioryinstitute.com. www.prioryinstitute.com

CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (PRIMARY)

Are you a parent of a child in primary school who is doing the Alive O or Grow in Love Religious Education Programme? Would you like to learn more about these programmes for your own faith development and to help you with the Religious Education of your children? If your answer is yes to both of these, you might be interested in the Certificate in Religious Education (Primary) offered by St Angela's College, Sligo. This is a one-year part-time course over eight weekends which allows participants explore issues of faith and life in such a way that they can assist primary school age children grow in their own faith and understanding of Catholic Christianity. For further information contact Maxine Gilmartin at mgilmartin@stangelas.nuigalway.ie or 071 9143580 ext. 552 or visit the St Angela's College website.

BICYCLE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR 16 YEAR OLD BOY

in Globe House to take him to school in Summerhill College. Contact Kathleen on 087 7404398.

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.

THANK YOU

The recent Church Gate Collection for Faith and Light collected €770.72. Thank you for your support.

NORTH WEST HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

on 14th September 2017 Our Parish coffee morning will be held in the Gillooly Hall starting after the 10.30am Mass on 14th September. All welcome.

SUNDAY READINGS for 10th September:

1st Reading: Ezek. 33:7-9; 2nd Reading: Rom. 13:8-10; Gospel: Mt. 18:15-20.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord help me to be a source of support to others by my own desire to serve you with love and devotion. Amen.

BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT,

SUNDAY 3rd September at 9.00pm

TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,150.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 27th August **PARISH ENV: €1,836 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,485**

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

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

NOVENA FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sunday September 3rd at 3.00pm Novena

Monday September 4th at 7.00pm

Feast Day Tuesday September 5th Mass at 7.00pm

With chief celebrant Bishop Kevin Doran



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council and wider parish community I want to sincerely thank Canon Tom Hever for his selfless service and dedication to our Cathedral Parish over the past 12 years. He has been a wonderful witness to the faith and a friend to all of us. We wish him well during his sabbatical and pray that it will be a grace filled time for him. We welcome Fr Declan, who along with Fr Victor and Fr Yashin, will continue to lead the parish community. We assure all our Priests, past and present, of our prayers and support.

Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council

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 Retrouvaille 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@retrouvaille.ie or visit www.retrouvaille.ie.

THE AVALON CENTRE MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAMME

will run on Wednesdays from 6-8pm and on Thursdays from 6.45-8.45pm starting week beginning 18th September and will run for 12 weeks. If you're aged between 10 & 17 years old and interested please contact Madeleine on 071 9161836. Early booking is advisable.

SLIGO ORPHEUS CHOIR OPEN REHEARSAL

Singing in a choir is cheaper than therapy, Healthier than drinking, and more fun than working out. We are looking for new members to join our choir. All abilities are welcome, including complete beginners. Men are particularly welcome. **There are no auditions and nobody has to sing solo.** Come along enjoy a chat and a cuppa. Open rehearsal 5th September at 7.30pm in Ballinode community college. Contact Amy on 087 2168522, Heidi on 086 1020119 or choir on 087 7430684. www.sligoorpheuschoir

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

will be held on Friday, 8th September 2017 from 11am to 1pm at the Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo. (Speeches at 12noon). All proceeds from this event will be donated to RNLI & North West Hospice. Coffee Morning is to mark the retirement of Chief Superintendent Michael Clancy. All welcome.

ICON EXHIBITION

Bishop Kevin Doran will formally open an exhibition of holy icons on 5th September at 6pm 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. All are welcome to attend the opening.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 6th Sept **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Saturday 9th September **Confessions** from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HOLY HILL HERMITAGE will have an Open Sunday on 3rd September. Everyone is welcome for mass at noon followed by tea and a tour.

ST BERNADETTE'S CHAPEL, Rockwood Parade. Mass will be celebrated on Monday, 4th September at 5.15 p.m. All welcome.

HSE RETIRED ASSOCIATION GROUP Monthly meeting takes place in St Michael's Family Life Centre on Thursday, 7th September at 3pm. New members welcome.

SOCIAL DANCING IN GILLOOLY HALL Every Thursday 8pm-9pm. Learn to jive and foxtrot followed by a live band, 9pm-11pm. To book contact Michael on 086 3083976.

BUS TO KNOCK 9th September for Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal staying overnight for Grandparents day Sunday 10th September also on 16th September staying overnight for Padre Pio weekend. Full cost for each weekend €120 or £98 to be paid one week before. Contact 089 2245598 or 074 9320734.


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

GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION – KNOCK Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage 10th September 2017, Knock Shrine at 2.30p.m. 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'.

ANNUAL SLEEP OUT in aid of North West Simon Community is on Friday, 6th October in Sligo – would you sleep out for one night so others don't have to – would you like to make a difference to your local homeless charity– if so please contact Mary on 087 7708865 or mary@northwestsimon.ie

HANDEL'S MESSIAH - KNOCK SHRINE Saturday, 18th November at 7.30pm sees the return of the RTE Concert Orchestra to present Handel's 'iconic' Messiah at Knock Basilica. Conducted by Proinnsias Ó Duinn with soloists, Soprano Claudia Boyle, Alto Anne Marie Gibbons, Tenor Julian Hubbard and Bass Christopher Cull together with Our Lady's Choral Society, Cór Mhaigh Eo and Ballina Chamber Choir. Presented by Liz Nolan, RTE lyric fm. Tickets available now at www.knockmessiah.com and at the *Witness to Hope* office, Knock Shrine and Downtown Records, Castlebar & Westport.

anniversary & remembrances

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 4 th	PETER HEGARTY	—
TUES 5 th	NORA PORTER	MAUREEN CASEY
WED 6 th	WILLIAM & MARGARET CASSIDY	THOMAS HAMILTON
THURS 7 th	SPECIAL INTENTION	PAUL MOYLAN & deceased family members
FRI 8 th	CHRISTINA HESTER	—
SAT 9 th	FINTAN QUIGLEY	Month's Mind TERRY GANNON 

Rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: NOELEEN COOKE, Rosehill and NICOLAS GALLAGHER, Clontarf, Dublin & formerly of Temple Street, Sligo.

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