

AN UNJUST SOCIETY?

Rather than just considering the seventh commandment in terms of material goods falsely taken, we might consider how human dignity is stolen from people. You need only walk through the streets of any city or large town to witness the daily denial of human dignity that has become such a prevalent part of our society. I am talking about homelessness and drug addiction primarily. On my way to work each day, I pass several people "sleeping rough," and it seems to me that this problem has escalated since the economic downturn.

We might also think of the recent controversies regarding the health system, particularly the number of children on waiting lists for life-changing operations. Or of elderly people waiting for hours – or even days – on hospital trolleys. Each in its own way robs the person of the dignity and respect that is due to them.

On a more global level, the connection with social sin is all too clear also. One of the remarkable contributions of Pope Francis has been his encyclical on climate justice, *Laudato Si*. This is the Church's first major document in the area of ecology. Pope Francis uses hard-hitting language in an effort to wake us from our slumber of indifference. There are urgent and immediate demands being placed upon us to change our lifestyles and attitudes. For if we don't, we steal our children's future. "You shall not steal" suddenly takes on an ecological dimension. It becomes a question of intergenerational justice – of what we owe to future generations.

UNJUST STRUCTURES

Global unjust structures steal from people in a myriad of other ways too. Unequal access to basic healthcare robs millions of the possi-

bility of healthy living. Unjust economic systems (both at home and globally) widen the gap between rich and poor. Extreme poverty instils a deep-rooted hopelessness and despair, condemning billions to a life of poverty. Pope Francis, in *The Joy of the Gospel*, says an emphatic "no" to an economy of exclusion: "To sustain a lifestyle which excludes others, or to sustain enthusiasm for that selfish ideal, a globalization of indifference has developed. Almost without being aware of it, we end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own" (n.54).

We can steal from people in other ways. Think of the manner in which people's dignity is being denied to them because of unjust stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes. All forms of bigotry and prejudice – whether because of sexual preference, gender, race, ethnicity, or religious affiliation – are to be confronted. For they erode the dignity due to that person and enhance division and exclusion within society.

This seventh commandment has positive implications for our lives and relationships. It calls us back to "right relationship with each other and the world around us". Part of that is affording people the respect due to them as human persons with an innate dignity. Respecting the property of others is a basic requirement of right living, but much more is expected of us than just that. We are being called to challenge and reform unjust structures that deny people the possibility of living a dignified life, and to confront social attitudes that excludes and harms so many among us. ■



Today's readings

Isaiah 25:6-10

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22:1-14

daily life. This is not to say that we should be anxious or fearful, but that we should do our best and leave judgment to our merciful Lord.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

The parable of the Wedding Feast is another warning to us about taking our place in the Kingdom for granted. In the rite of baptism, the person is given a white robe as a symbol of their new life in the risen Christ and told to bring it unstained into the new life of heaven. But to be a disciple of Jesus is a daily task, a daily acceptance of his invitation to be one of his followers, a daily taking up of our own particular cross. It is not a once and for all decision which will gain us admittance to the messianic banquet, but a living out of Jesus' teachings in our



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.



SEVENTH
COMMANDMENT
YOU
SHALL
NOT
STEAL

“You shall not steal.” (Exodus 20:15)

When one hears the command "do not steal", the obvious ethical implications no doubt spring to mind. We think of the injustice done when something is falsely taken from another. We recognise the importance of respecting the property or goods of those around us. We know that to take what is not ours undermines the stability of our communities. Although this commandment is often thought of in terms of personal conduct and personal sin, there are broader social implications that merit consideration. Personal sin and social sin are intimately connected. We need only think of the social impact of theft: the community at large feels less secure, for example. But there are other ways in which we can interpret the social dimension of this commandment, and we turn to those now.

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TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15th October 2017

God promised his people a future of great blessings where death and mourning would be no more. Christ came to issue God's final invitation to this future. Some rejected it, others accepted it but then made light of it. What have we done with our invitation?

CHOOSE LIFE

"With great affection I urge all future mothers: keep happy and let nothing rob you of the interior joy of motherhood. Your child deserves your happiness. Don't let fears, worries, other people's comments or problems lessen your joy at being God's means of bringing a new life to the world." Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 171

MISSION SUNDAY Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection. Every person in every parish in every country where the Church is present will be celebrating together and sharing what they have, no matter how little. It is the one Sunday in the year when the Mass is celebrated exclusively for missionary activity. Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. It is also the one Sunday in the year when your generosity goes directly to help mission parishes overseas and reach out with Jesus' message of hope and love. World Missions Ireland is the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission. It is responsible for coordinating Mission Sunday in Ireland and, through local bishops, churches, and missionary congregations around the world, ensures that resources are distributed equitably and justly on the basis of need. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked so please give what you can. Thank You.

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.

REQUEST FROM BISHOP KEVIN I am asking people throughout our diocese, even if it has not been your practice up to now, to consider committing to spend one hour each week in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, or to come together with your neighbours or friends to pray the rosary once a week, specifically for the intention of the protection of life and for the needs of women who are experiencing difficulty in pregnancy.

SUNDAY READINGS for 22nd October: 1st Reading: Is. 45:1. 4-6; 2nd Reading: 1 Thess. 1:1-5; Gospel: Matt. 22: 15-21.

BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT, SUNDAY 15th October at 9.00pm
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,450.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES
SUNDAY, 8th October **PARISH ENV: € 2000 PL/STAND. ORD: €1485**
THANK YOU for your contribution.
ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY ☎ 071 9162670 SACRISTY ☎ 071 9161261
✉ email us at info@sligocathedral.ie We welcome your comments.

PARISH OFFICE at St. Mary's Presbytery ☎ 071 9162670

Please note that the parish office is open to the public at the following times: Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 4pm & Friday 9.30am - 2pm.

CAR PARK UPGRADING In keeping with Health and safety standards upgrading work is still ongoing on the car park in our Cathedral and should be completed shortly. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. Thank you for your understanding.

CONCERT OF GRATITUDE Canticle of Creation on Sunday 22nd October at 3pm in the Franciscan Friary, Rossnowlagh. Admission free. All are welcome.

CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRELAND The Gillooly Hall, Sligo, will be the venue, on Friday 27th October, at 7.30pm, for an evening meeting entitled "THE CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRELAND", with a particular focus on the 8th amendment. John Waters will be joined by Lila Rose of Live Action USA. Bishop Kevin will also share some thoughts on the submission of the Irish Bishops to the Citizen's Assembly. You may register by emailing irelandconstitution@gmail.com or visit [facebook.com/crisisofdemocracyireland/](https://www.facebook.com/crisisofdemocracyireland/)

YOUTH 2000 CONNAUGHT RETREAT will take place in Scoil Muire gan Smal, Roscommon Town from Friday, 27th October to Sunday 29th October. It is an opportunity for young people (16-35yrs) to take some time out of their regular routine and have an experience like no other! There promises to be an action packed programme consisting of workshops, testimonies, music, drama, prayer, talks and chill-out time. For more information visit www.youth2000.ie or contact 01 6753690 (on-line booking recommended).

PARISH HEART SCREENING OFFER Pulsewave Ireland Heart & Artery screening on Thursday 19th October in The Sligo City Hotel, appointments available from 11am to 8pm daily Call 087 7151623 to make an appointment spaces are limited. Normal cost of screening is €50 per person, Parish offer €30 per person. We can access the risk of heart attack or stroke with a simple non invasive test. The Screening is medically approved and each person will receive a detailed printout which they may discuss with their own GP.

WARMER HOMES SCHEME – Get Your Home Insulated for Free
"Clár ICH wishes to invite applications for the Warmer Homes Scheme. **Criteria set down by SEAI:** - Covering most of Mayo & Sligo areas. 1. Owner occupied, non-Local Authority Homes (Proof is required) 2. Constructed before 2006. **The Owner must be in receipt of one of the following: (1) Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme, (2) Job Seekers Allowance for over 6 months and with children under 7 years of age.** (Letter from the Dept only, receipt not acceptable, **(3) Family Income Support, (4) One Parent Family Payment.** Further details and for an application form please contact the Warmer Homes Scheme Team at **094 9371830 or 094 9373455.**

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 18th October **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10.30am Mass.
Saturday 21st October **Confessions** from 2.00pm to 4.00 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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.

INDIA FEST 2017 in aid of North West Hospice on Saturday 21st October 2017 from 3pm–6pm in the Knocknarea Arena, IT Sligo. Early booking advisable, Tickets: Adult €20, Student €15, Child €8, available at Hawk's Well Theatre, Sligo and North West Hospice, Wine Street Car Park. For more information visit www.sligoindians.com

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.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018 Sign up to volunteer for the World Meeting of Families 2018 in areas like logistics, event services, liturgy, media, meet & greet, translation services and much more www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer

VOLUNTEER FOR CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL IRELAND CHI is one of Ireland's leading children's charities providing play and fun for sick children in hospital around the country for over 45 years. We are currently appealing for volunteers, to volunteer in University Hospital Sligo. **Information and Interview** evening will take place on **Tuesday, 16th October at 6pm** in **Sligo**. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer with CHI please RSVP to info@childreninhospital.ie / 01 2903510. (We ask that you do not contact the hospital directly.)

anniversary & remembrances

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 16 th	Birthday Remembrance NORA MCHALE ☩	—
WED 18 th	MARTIN & BRIDIE MCKEONE	1st Anniversary MARY FOLEY ☩
THURS 19 th	DECEASED MEMBERS OF DERRIG, FINN & SWEENEY FAMILIES	—
FRI 20 th	BESSIE GILLEN	1st Anniversary PATSY NAIRN ☩
SAT 21 st	CLAIRE GARVEY	Month's Mind NOREEN CAWLEY ☩

☩ **MONTH'S MIND MASS** for DONAL HEALY will be celebrated at the 7.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 21st October.

rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of:
JOHN CONNOLLY, Knappaghmore, Strandhill Road and DAVID FOX, Treacy Avenue.

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