

## TELL THE TRUTH

Human relationships are fragile, and can be undermined or even destroyed all too easily. Right relationship is perfected only to the extent that our actions and attitudes build up wholesome bonds with those around us. Telling lies and bearing false witness weakens the foundations of any relationship, for it erodes the trust upon which it is built. As Patrick Hannon explained in a recent article: "There's more than one kind of lie. One might fail the truth by silence at a time when speaking up is called for, or by concealing truth when one's duty is to declare it; and we speak of 'living a lie' when there's a discrepancy between the values people publicly profess and how in fact they conduct their lives." Truthfulness is something to be promoted and prized in our lives. We try to protect it through our civil laws (think of our laws regarding slander and defamation, for example). We expect it from those around us in a host of different ways. We identify truthfulness as both a personal and social good.

But how do we promote it? What measures might we take to help increase the prospect of honesty? One of the things we need is "safe spaces"; that is, space in which ideas, opinions, criticisms, and questions can be voiced without fear of unjust reprisal. This implies respect for others, mutuality, and integrity. This is important since without it, we cannot be sure of honest and open discussions on societal or global issues. We need only think again of the notion of "post-truth" that became a feature of the US election, and the enormity of the consequences of such a reality.

## TRUTH TELLING IN CHURCH

The command not to bear false witness has implications for our Church also. The child abuse scandals have shown all too graphically how a lack of truthfulness, combined with a lack of leadership, can cause enormous human devastation. Truthful acknowledgement of past wrongs is an indispensable part of reconciliation. And unfortunately it would seem that a culture of secrecy within the Church is not yet a thing of the past. What is needed is the courage to stand up for what you believe to be true and right, and to have the freedom to articulate it. So this commandment isn't just about what NOT to do. It's about creating the right environment in which truthfulness can flourish. As James Keenan put it, "We need to recognize the challenge today to speak what we believe. We need to recognize the call for clear leadership to guide all of us in the pursuit of truth. We need to invite one another to speak the truth as we understand it, so that in a loving and respectful context we may together discover and articulate the truth as it really is. That's not an ideal; it is a command" (Commandments of Compassion, 48).

Finally, the command to truthfulness has implications for how we see others. "Thou shall not bear false witness" challenges the simplistic and discriminatory stereotypes that are often so evident in society. Discrimination, in all its guises, is based on prejudice, on false understandings of the human person. All forms of racism, sexism, classism, all homophobic and Islamophobic attitudes, deny the dignity of human beings. We injure and hurt through the caricatures that we construct, and we diminish our own dignity in the process. The Christian call is one of compassion, mercy, inclusivity, justice. Our responsibility, therefore, is to make the Gospel message a reality in our world. ■

# 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.



EIGHTH  
COMMANDMENT

YOU SHALL  
NOT BEAR  
FALSE  
WITNESS  
AGAINST  
YOUR  
NEIGHBOUR



Today's readings

## GOD'S WORD TODAY

Is 45:1-4-6

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Matthew 22:15-21

Our second reading today is from the earliest document of the New Testament.

The apostle Paul is writing to some of the first Christians, and begins by giving thanks to God for the way in which they accepted his preaching of the Gospel and how they are living that out under God by their active faith, practical love and steady hope. His mission to them has borne fruit under the Holy Spirit and now their mission is to continue to live out their faith in action. Paul does not regard faith as something private to the individual but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction. He describes the people of the community in Thessalonica as the people God loves and has chosen. But this choosing also brings responsibility: the responsibility is to be the people of God in the world. That is the mission of the Church, to show to the world the kind of God we believe in. The Bible reveals God as a God first of all of justice, who is angered at the way in which the weaker members of society are exploited by those with power and wealth. Sin is often built into the way in which society functions, and the Bible is much more concerned with this as an offence against God than with what we might regard as individual moral behaviour.

Last year's US Presidential election has raised several interesting questions for our world. In the aftermath of the election, we started to hear about what is being termed the "post-truth era". That is, the manner in which social media can influence our perception of truth and reality. This played no small part in President Trump's victory. Whether we are thinking of this phenomenon or events closer to home such as investigations into policing, the need to promote truthfulness is as urgent a task as ever. The eighth commandment invites us to rethink how we understand the call to honesty, and what its implications may be for our lives and for society.





**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**

By its nature, the Church is missionary. Christ sent her to let her light shine to the whole human race. We cannot leave this task to the professionals. The prophets and the apostles were ordinary lay people when chosen to speak and act in God's name. As the result of our baptism, each of us have a duty to work for the missions in our own special way and in our own particular place.

**CHOOSE LIFE**

*"Dear friends and physicians, you are called to care for life in its initial stage; remind everyone, by word and deed, that this is sacred — at each phase and at every age — that it is always valuable. And not as a matter of faith — no, no — but of reason, as a matter of science! There is no human life more sacred than another, just as there is no human life qualitatively more significant than another". Pope Francis, Address to International Federation Of Catholic Medical Associations, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013.*

**MISSION SUNDAY** Today is Mission Sunday and 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.

**ALTAR SOCIETY CAKE SALE**

The Cathedral Altar Society will be holding their annual Cake Sale after the 10.30a.m. Mass in the **GILLOOLY HALL ON SUNDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER.**



Our Altar Society volunteers work tirelessly throughout the year adorning the Sanctuary with flowers and accessories beautifully. The fruits of their labour help enrich the celebration of Mass as well as numerous other ceremonies in our Cathedral.

Donations of cakes, buns and jams and your support of the cake sale on the day will be much appreciated especially as this Cake Sale provides the sole opportunity to raise sufficient funds to help defray the cost of maintaining the Altar and its environs.

Please contact Helen on 9162003 for details.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES**

SUNDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> October **PARISH ENV: €2,035 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,385**

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

✉ email us at [info@sligocathedral.ie](mailto:info@sligocathedral.ie) We welcome your comments.

**SLIGO CLUSTER TOGETHER** invite you to a *celebration of Church Volunteers* here in our Cathedral on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. We invite all volunteers in our parish; Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir members, Altar Servers, Altar Society members, Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament - everyone who is involved in our Cathedral Parish. We will be joined by members of all the Christian Churches in Sligo town. Tea afterwards in the Presbyterian Church Hall.

**CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRELAND** The Gillooly Hall, Sligo, will be the venue, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October, at 7.30pm, for an evening meeting entitled "THE CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRELAND", with a particular focus on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:irelandconstitution@gmail.com) or visit [facebook.com/crisisofdemocracyireland/](https://facebook.com/crisisofdemocracyireland/)

**MEDJUGORJE RETREAT WEEKEND** in Knock, Co. Mayo from Friday evening, 27<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday afternoon, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017. There will be Holy Mass, Adoration Talks & Testimonies. Speakers: Fr. Brendan Walsh S.A.C. & Fra. Svetozar Kraljević. For further information Tel: Bernie 086 8196653 or email: [medjugorcouncilofireland@gmail.com](mailto:medjugorcouncilofireland@gmail.com) or [www.medjugorcouncil.ie](http://www.medjugorcouncil.ie)

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR** at Carraroe Community Centre, Sligo on each Friday from 6<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 for a 7 week period. Start time 8.00pm each Friday night. Please contact 085 7765294 or 087 6998397.

**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](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer)

**YOUTH 2000 CONNAUGHT RETREAT** will take place in Scoil Muire gan Smal, Roscommon Town from Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.youth2000.ie) or contact 01 6753690 (on-line booking recommended). Donation only.

**SUNDAY READINGS for 29<sup>th</sup> October:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exod. 22:20-26; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Thess. 1:5-10; Gospel: Mt. 22:34-40.

**BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT,**  
**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.00pm**  
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,500.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

**CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

*Upcoming* **EVENTS**

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October **"Wednesday Tea"** after 10.30am Mass.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October **Confessions** from 2.00pm to 4.00 p.m.

**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.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**CONCERT OF GRATITUDE** Canticle of Creation on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 3pm in the Franciscan Friary, Rossnowlagh. Admission free. All are welcome.  
**URSULINE NETWORK** - Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October in the Convent (opposite Cathedral entrance) at 7.00pm. New members welcome.

**NORTH WEST STROKE GROUP** next meeting Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm at the Irish Wheelchair Association premises in Abbeyville, Sligo.

**AREA REPRESENTATIVES MEETING** on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm in St. Mary's Presbytery. Please attend.



**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.

**FREE COMPUTER COURSE** (Yeats Country Tourism with I.T.) MSLETB (Fás) – FETAC (Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Education Training Board Quality Qualifications of Ireland). Starting October 2017 for 36 weeks, 9.00a.m. - 4.15p.m. Teeling Centre, Collooney, Co. Sligo. Visit: [www.collooneycrl.com](http://www.collooneycrl.com) For information call: 087 2414355. This is a FETAC Level 4 Course - an opportunity to return to further education, acquire computer skills, get work placement and have a better chance of getting a job.

**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL** have informed us that with the onset of the winter months all burials must be scheduled so as to arrive at Sligo Cemetery no later than 3pm. They advise us that these times will come into effect from 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 until 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and they say they must insist on this in the interest of the Health and Safety of the cemetery personnel. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**LEITRIM WARMER HOMES** Are offering FREE ATTIC & CAVITY INSULATION to home owners with homes built before 2006. To avail of this you MUST be in receipt of Fuel Allowance OR Family Income Support OR One Parent Family Payment OR Job Seekers Allowance for over SIX months with a child under 7 years old. Contact **Warmer Homes Team** on 071 9640771.

**anniversary & remembrances**

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 23 <sup>rd</sup>	—	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</b> MONICA O'BRIEN 
TUES 24 <sup>th</sup>	MICHAEL & MARGARET NELSON	PALMER & DOWNS FAMILY
WED 25 <sup>th</sup>	—	TESS & MARC CUSHMAN
THURS 26 <sup>th</sup>	—	DANNY CASEY
SAT 28 <sup>th</sup>	—	<b>Month's Mind</b> PATRICIA CURRID 

**rest in peace** Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of:  
UNA MURRAY, Larkhill Road and DANNY HAYES, Finisklin Road.  
*May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*