

AMBITION OR GREED?

To covet what is not ours is a very human thing, and I imagine most of us at some point have wished for more, or for something different. This can, of course, be a motivation towards working harder, being more industrious, and perhaps being able to live in a nicer home or drive a better car as a result. When we see what others around us have, and we desire the same, it can be the impetus we need to "get on" in life. How many times have we heard stories about self-made millionaires, or about people who have defied the odds and "made it" in the world? But we must be careful also. We might spend our entire life being bitter about what we do not have, and end up never appreciating what is ours. James Keenan suggests, therefore, in *Commandments of Compassion*, that we could think of this commandment as either an invitation to frustration, or as an invitation to gratitude.

If we think back to the definition of morality that we used in the first of these articles it becomes clear which interpretation is the more fruitful. If morality is about the "art of right relationship with each other, one's self, and the world around us", then the invitation being extended to us here is an invitation to gratitude, moral growth, and wholesome relationship. Our character can become eroded by the gradual jealousies that enter our dealings with others, to the extent that we may never be able to be grateful either for our own good fortunes or those of others.

REIN YOURSELF IN

We are on a trajectory, moving either in the direction of happiness or frustration. We need to have the personal maturity to call ourselves

to task when we succumb to pointless jealousy. What each of the Ten Commandments tries to do, therefore, is highlight crucial aspects of human co-existence and offer us the wisdom of how we might become happier people. On the other hand, they are not a blue-print for human flourishing, in the sense that they do not provide guarantees that we will always make the right decision. Life is complicated, and morality is murky at times. We must try to grapple with the realities of human failure, as well as moral success, and be willing to be gentle with ourselves and others.

The moral life is a journey, and we need many people to accompany with us in loving support. Equally, we must remember to be a support to those around us, no matter their circumstances and mistakes. In a very powerful interview, the African American poet and novelist Maya Angelou spoke of some of the sufferings, hardships and mistakes that were part of her life. She insisted, though, that rainbows were always present among the clouds. She gave thanks for those rainbows, and calls us all to become rainbows in someone else's cloud. The Irish writer Samuel Beckett put it this way: "Ever Tried. Ever Failed. No Matter. Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better". We live with human failure. It is part of being human. It is how we deal with it that matters, both in ourselves and in others.

The Ten Commandments call us to be people of compassion, authenticity and courage. They are not meant to be opportunities for our condemnation of others. God knows that we will sometimes fail, but His loving mercy remains a constant in our lives. Our task, inspired by the commandments and by the Christian message, is to try again, fail again, but to fail better. ■

notes ends



Today's readings

Malachi 1:14 – 2:2,8-10
1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13
Matthew 23:1-12

GOD'S WORD TODAY

It is often easier to state rules in terms of what people should not do than in terms of what they should. The Ten Commandments are clearer and more definite than the Eight Beatitudes. In a similar way, we can illustrate what a leader should be if we give examples of what such a person should not be or should not do. In today's extract from Matthew's gospel, we hear an attack on the scribes and Pharisees. But rather than concentrating on the negative

picture the evangelist presents of the leaders of the Jewish community, we might think about what he is implying about the leaders of his own Jewish-Christian community, and, by implication, any Christian community. Christian leaders have a position of authority which those in their care should respect: this means that the leaders have a duty to be people of personal integrity, whose lives match their words.

Underlying this is the teaching of Jesus that the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served, and to give his life for all people. Matthew's tirade against the leaders of the synagogue of his day is no less relevant for the leaders of the Church today.



Soul Space

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.



TENTH COMMANDMENT

YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOUR'S GOODS

“Neither shall you desire your neighbour's house, or field, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.” (Deuteronomy 5:21)

As we turn to the final commandment, we notice many similarities to the previous one. Here too, our attention is focused on the internal dealings of the person – what we are thinking, our intentions and motivations, our desires, and our growth in moral character. The seventh commandment forbids us from unjustly taking what is not ours; here we are asked to question the manner in which we respond to the good fortune of others. It is not enough to refrain from stealing if we resent what others have.

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THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5th November 2017

God is full of mercy: he waits patiently for our conversion. No matter how much we may have failed him, he still calls us and encourages us towards goodness.

CHOOSE LIFE

"Some people argue that the right to life of the unborn should be a matter of personal choice on the part of the mother. Others argue that, while they are opposed to abortion as a general principle, they believe that there are some children to whom the right to life does not apply either because they have been diagnosed with a serious medical condition or because they have been conceived as a result of rape. We wish to state our firmly held belief, based on reason as well as faith, that there is no such thing as a human life without value". Irish Catholic Bishops, Two Lives One Love

NOVEMBER—MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS Many choose to abstain from alcohol for November and offer this sacrifice up to their deceased loved ones. You can do likewise. Take the Short-Term pledge, visit www.pioneerassociation.ie or call 01 8749464.

CEMETERY ROSARY The Rosary will be recited in Sligo Cemetery on all four Sundays during the month of November at 3.00pm beginning today, Sunday, 5th November.

SAVE THE 8th VIGIL Join us for a day of prayer, whilst invoking our Irish Saints and Martyrs, such as, St Brigid of Ireland (Patron Saint of Babies) as we unite together to pray especially for the protection of the 8th Amendment. This takes place on Friday, 17th November commencing at 9.00am until Saturday 18th November 2017 until 9.00am, at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel beside the Cathedral. To sign up for your specified hour please text 087 6274621. Thank you for praying for the unborn child.

St. John Paul II in 1979 said "May Ireland never weaken in her witness, before Europe and before the whole world, to the dignity and sacredness of all human life, from conception until death".

ANNUAL MASS for deceased members of Retired Nurses Association Sligo/Leitrim Branch will take place in St John's Hospital Chapel on Thursday, 16th November at 7pm. All members and families welcome.

THANK YOU—ALTAR SOCIETY CAKE SALE

Our sincere thanks to all who were so generous in their support of the recent cake sale, €960 was raised. All funds raised will be used to enhance our Cathedral for liturgical celebrations for the coming year. Thank you also to all members of the Altar Society for their hard work, loyalty and dedication and the sponsors for their generosity.

COFFEE MORNING in aid of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Sligo Day Care Centre to be held in the Mayor's Parlour, City Hall on Friday, 10th November 2017 from 10.00am to 1.00pm hosted by the Mayor of Sligo Municipal District Councillor Hubert Keaney. You are cordially invited to attend.

SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES

SUNDAY, 29th October **PARISH ENV: €1,633 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,495**

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

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

CHILDREN'S EUCHARISTIC ADORATION We are delighted to announce a new Children's Spiritual formation program, which takes place in St. Anne's Day Chapel, Sligo every Sunday from 12.00pm until 12.30pm. We are inviting all children from the ages of 5-12 years to come together to adore Jesus who is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. To sign-up for this wonderful program please contact Lisa on 087 6274621.

The Children's Adoration was an initiative by St. John Paul II who stated that "we cannot overlook the role of children in the Church, but must speak of them with great affection. They are heavens smile entrusted to earth. They are the true gems of the family, of society and the Church's delight. They are Jesus' favourite's".

ANAM CARA the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Thursday, 16th November at 7.30pm in the Family Centre, Chapel Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. As Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for teas, coffees, etc, please RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Wednesday, 15th November or call the Information Line on 085 2888 888.

SEARCH FOR CENTENARIANS Are you or do you know of anyone who is 100 years old or more? In association with Athlone IT, we are currently examining the health of Irish centenarians. If you were born in 1918 or before or know of someone who fits the bill please get in touch! There are only approx. 450 people at this age and we are looking to learn from them. Contact Alison on 085 7515678 or email alimaryfagan@gmail.com.

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 19th October 2017 until 25th 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.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR at Carraroe Community Centre, Sligo on each Friday until Friday, 17th 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

SUNDAY READINGS for 12th November: 1st Reading: Wis. 6:12-16; 2nd Reading: 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Gospel: Matt. 25:1-13.

**BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT,
SUNDAY 5th November at 9.00pm**
TONIGHT'S JACKPOT €2,600.

Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Upcoming **EVENTS**
THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 8th November "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.
Saturday 11th November Confessions from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

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

ANNUAL CHURCH GATE COLLECTION in aid of North West Simon Community this weekend, 4th & 5th November at St. Mary's Cathedral. Please support the homeless charity.

HOLY HILL HERMITAGE Fr. Matt Blake OCD will be attending for Visiting Sunday today, Sunday, 5th November. We will have Mass at noon, followed by tea and tour for anyone who is interested.

ST BERNADETTE'S CHAPEL, Rockwood Parade. Mass will be celebrated on Monday, 6th November at 5.15 p.m. All welcome.

EVENING OF REFLECTION for Ministers of the Word will be held in the Cathedral on Thursday, 9th November at 7.30pm. Please all attend.

SLIGO FR. FLANAGAN PRAYER GROUP Next Meeting will take place in St. Mary's Presbytery on Tuesday, 14th November at 8pm. New members are particularly welcome.

PRAYER SERVICE in remembrance of all deceased children will be held in the outpatient department (LEVEL 3) of Sligo University Hospital on Wednesday, 22nd November at 7.30pm. Further enquiries to: Paediatric/ Neonatal Units, Sligo University Hospital 071 9174634/ 9174452.

ARTS EXHIBITION IT Sligo 3rd year performing Arts present Live Art 2017. A 23 piece exhibition performed and created by actors and designers in training. On Tuesday, 14th November at 6.30pm The Factory space, lower Quay St, Rathquarter will host this event. With free admission to the event it's surely one of Sligo's must see events this month. Support the Arts.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT MAKING A WILL, FAIR DEAL AND OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE OVER 50'S?

Sligo Lend a Hand is hosting a conference "Thy WILL be done" providing information and advice on making your will and documenting other end of life choices followed by entertainment and of course a cup of tea at the Clayton Hotel on Wednesday, 8th Nov at 7pm. There will also be information from the Road Safety Authority and Homecare Pharmacy with a demonstration of how a personal alarm works. Transport can be arranged if there are large numbers travelling. Admission is €5 and early booking is advisable. Contact 087 1776386 or 086 6000757 or email sligolendahand@hotmail.com

anniversary & remembrances

| DAY | 8.00 a.m. Mass | 10.30 a.m. Mass |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| TUES 7 th | Special Intention ANNIE, MICHAEL & LARRY MCMORROW (RIP) ✠ | NORA GILMARTIN |
| WED 8 th | — | JOHN & NORA GALLAGHER |
| THURS 9 th | JACK MCLOUGHLIN | FRANK MCGLONE |
| FRI 10 th | FRED & KATE MCEWING | — |
| SAT 11 th | — | Month's Mind ✠ DELIA DOWDALL |

✠ **MONTH'S MIND MASS** for DANNY HAYES will be celebrated at the 7.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 11th November.

rest in peace Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: TOMMY HARRIGAN, St Brigids Place and JIMMY MOONEY, Avondale.
May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.