

# Stou( )space

SERIES: NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Season colour: GREEN

In this series, Gerard Moloney CSsR offers tips for being a better Christian in 2018.

Scholars believe the oldest New Testament document in our possession is St Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. He wrote it about the year 50 AD, twenty years before Mark's gospel, which was the first gospel to be written. And it is striking that the very first sentiments expressed in this earliest letter are words of thanksgiving. "We thank God for you all," Paul writes, mentioning in particular their faith, love and hope.

It's a theme that runs throughout the letter. Paul tells the church in Thessalonica to thank God always. "Give thanks in all circumstances," he tells them. No matter what our circumstances in life, we have always something to give thanks for because of the blessings we have received in Christ. Thanking God is a fundamental attitude of Christians.

## THREE LITTLE WORDS BEGINNING WITH A

As we embark on a new year, I suggest three ways in which we can give thanks, three words to help us remember to be thankful. Each begins with the letter A.

The first is **acknowledgement**. This reminds us of the importance of saying thanks. We need to say thanks, to verbally express thanks, when we need to. Very often we can forget to say thanks. I know I can. A prayer of petition is far more likely to come from my lips than a prayer of thanksgiving. It's the same in my dealings with others. I can criticise or give out far more often and readily than remembering to say a simple thank you for help given or a kindness done. Thankfulness is acknowledging what God and others do for us, and letting them know.

The second A is **appreciation**; having an attitude of gratitude. In our busyness, or complacency, when things

are going well, there is a danger that we take what we have for granted, not really appreciating all that God has done for us. I know that it was a lot like that in my case before I began to experience chronic pain. Only after being laid low, and experiencing the kindness and loving concern of so many people, did it occur to me how lucky I have been all my life in my family, friends, and Redemptorist brothers. How lucky I am that I can stay in bed or take a day off when my pain is bad, when so many others with chronic pain do not have that luxury. Thankfulness is appreciating all we have been given.

The third A is **action**. Show thanks by doing good. Show appreciation for our blessings by doing good. We see evidence of that in the response of missionaries and aid workers, who offer life and hope in broken places like Darfur and Syria. It is evident in the example of those who work for charities like the Simon Community and the St Vincent de Paul. It is evident in the response of all who seek somehow to bring Good News to a wounded world.

That's what having a sense of thankfulness does – it leads us beyond ourselves to others, to do good, to act for justice, to care for those in need. Conscious of what we have been given, we want to share our blessings, our gifts, our good fortune, with others. Thankfulness, quite simply, is love in action.

And this is what we do every time we celebrate Mass. Eucharist comes from the Greek word *Eucharistia*, which means to give thanks. So the Mass is literally a celebration of thanks. We acknowledge everything for which we must say thanks; we deepen our appreciation of all that God has done for us and given to us; which leads to concrete action. We go from church to world in love and service.

**Acknowledgment; Appreciation; Action** – three key ways to express our thanks to God for all God's blessings this year and every year. ❦



## 3 WAYS TO SAY THANKS

It's easy to forget the many blessings God has given us, especially when things are going well. We all have reasons to thank God, even in the difficult times. An attitude of gratitude is a good resolution to have for the new year.

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### Today's readings

1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19  
1 Corinthians  
6:13-15, 17-20  
John 1: 35-42

### GOD'S WORD TODAY

John's version of the gathering of the first disciples is different from what we find in the other Gospels. John emphasises that they exercise free choice in deciding to go after Jesus. The first two disciples follow Jesus of their own free will, deserting John the Baptist after he had pointed Jesus out as 'the Lamb of God'. A lamb was regarded as a sacred animal in Israel: one was offered every morning and every evening daily as a sacrifice in the Jerusalem Temple, and a special offering was made on behalf of every family at Passover. Jesus will die just at the same time as the Passover Lamb is sacrificed in the Temple and his

crucified body will have some of the characteristics of the lamb – his bones are not broken but he sheds his blood, just as the lamb's blood protected the Israelites. One disciple is nameless: the other is Andrew, who then recruits his brother Simon whose name Jesus immediately changes to Peter.



**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**World Day of Migrants and Refugees  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

This Sunday marks the World Day for Migrants and Refugees. A resource pack is available on <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/World-Day2018for-Migrants-screen-res.pdf>

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
Begins Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

The call of God comes in different ways. To Samuel it came by night, mysterious, uncertain. To Andrew it came as an invitation from Jesus "Come and see". Whatever our vocation (and we all have one) our response must always be "Speak Lord. Your servant is listening."

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3 2018**

There will be a special celebration to mark the opening of the week at **12noon Mass**, Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>. This annual celebration gives us all the opportunity to be more aware of the unique contribution that our Catholic schools make to Irish life. This year's theme is 'Called to be a family of families'. During this week we invite you to take time to reflect on the service that Catholic schools give to children, parents, families and communities. We ask you to consider how best you can offer support to the service that your child's Catholic school provides in so many different ways.

**SAINT BRIGID'S CROSSES** Reeds are gathered with work underway on the preparation of St. Brigid's Crosses for her feast Day, 1<sup>st</sup> February. Those able to help should contact the Sisters of the Presentation on 071 9160740. All volunteers most welcome.

**CONSECRATED LIFE-WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS**

Consecrated life is called to embody the Good News, in following Christ, dead and risen, making its own the "mode of living & acting as the Incarnate Word of Jesus to the Father and to the brethren".

**DAY FOR CONSECRATE LIFE-FRIDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY  
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD-CANDLEMAS DAY**

Inspired by the words of the canticle "a light to the revelation of the Gentiles" by the 11<sup>th</sup> century the custom had developed in the West of blessing candles to be used in the Church for the year ahead on this day. We would be most grateful for any contributions to help defray the cost of candles for our Cathedral. The blessing of candles will take place at 10.30 am Mass.

**FIRST FRIDAY is 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY** Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm. Confessions will take place before the 8.00am, 10.30am and 7.00pm Masses.

**FEAST OF ST BLAISE-BLESSING OF THE THROATS** To mark the Feast of St. Blaise the Blessing of the throats will take place after all Masses on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

**SUNDAY READINGS for 21<sup>st</sup> January:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jonah 3:1-5. 10; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Gospel: Mk. 1:14-20.

**BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT**

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00pm** With a JACKPOT of €3,000 Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES**

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> January PARISH ENV: €2,677 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,755

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.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018**

Theme: "That all may be free."

Church Unity Week commences on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January and will continue until Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January. During this time we are asked to pray in a special way for unity among all Christians.

**INTERDENOMINATIONAL SERVICE**

**CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SLIGO  
THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 - 8.00 P.M.**

Bishop Kevin Doran will lead this service.

Homilist: Rev. Canon Patrick Bamber, Calry Parish Church, Sligo.

All are welcome to attend.

**TWO LIVES, ONE LOVE – INFORMATION EVENING WITH**

**BISHOP KEVIN** An hour with Bishop Kevin to explore the LIFE question and to consider how best we can exercise our responsibility as Catholics to respect life and to support women. Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30pm, Percy French Hotel, Strokestown. This is the first of six meetings Bishop Kevin will hold over the coming months. Details of other dates and venues will follow.

**CHOOSE LIFE**

"A unique responsibility belongs to health-care personnel: doctors, pharmacists, nurses, chaplains, men and women religious, administrators and volunteers. Their profession calls for them to be guardians and servants of human life".

Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, 89



*Visit Our  
Christmas Crib*



*Come and pray with us at our Christmas Crib:*

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger, may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to Him, who is *God-with-us* and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

**WEDDINGS** Congratulations and best wishes to JASON MURTAGH & CATHY FLETCHE; FINTAN RUDDY & PAMELA HACKETT; BRIAN FAGAN & TARA EGAN and COLIN JENNINGS & KELLY SULLIVAN who were recently married in our Cathedral.

**CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

*Upcoming* **EVENTS**

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January Confessions from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

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

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

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING** will be held in Saint Columbas Church, Drumcliff on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 8.00pm to honour those remembered on the Remembrance Tree erected by the Sligo Rotary Club during Christmas week. All proceeds will be presented to the local Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the North West Hospice during the Service. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**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.

**RECYCLING WORKSHOP** Recycling Ambassadors will show you what you can recycle in your household bin in this free interactive workshop. The workshops are been offered to help improve Irelands recycling rates and reduce levels of contamination in household recycling bins. See [www.voiceireland.org/rap](http://www.voiceireland.org/rap) for more details of the programme. #binsorted Or to book a workshop for your group or event contact: [aoife@voiceireland.org](mailto:aoife@voiceireland.org)



**WORKSHOP FOR PARISH CHOIRS** with Ephrem Feeley, composer of A Joy for All the World (official hymn of WMOF2018) on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 10.30am – 3.00pm in Star of the Sea Centre, Mullaghmore. To book: 071 9176722 or [staroftheseacentre@gmail.com](mailto:staroftheseacentre@gmail.com). Cost €15.00 per person (incl hot lunch).

**ELPHIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018. For further information and to book contact JWT on 01 2410800.

**MONEY ADVICE & BUDGETING SERVICE** Are you struggling to make ends meet? Are you worried about money you owe to money lenders, electric/telephone providers, credit cards, banks and/or mortgage lenders? We can help you. For free and confidential advice, please contact Sligo MABS on 076 1072730 or email us at [sligo@mabs.ie](mailto:sligo@mabs.ie) or you can call to our office to make an appointment at Carbury House, Fish Quay, Sligo. MABS offer advice, support and information and can negotiate with creditors on your behalf.

**ELPHIN DIOCESE YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI AND ANCIENT CHRISTIAN ROME** 23<sup>rd</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2018 OPEN TO YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 35. Cost €599. see [www.elphindiocese.ie](http://www.elphindiocese.ie) for details. For Info contact *Frank McGuinness, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Tel: 087 9880690 Email: frank.mcguinness@elphindiocese.ie*

**anniversary & remembrances**

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 15 <sup>th</sup>	MARY CULLEN	—
TUES 16 <sup>th</sup>	ALGIS YARSANAS	BRIDIE & TOMMY CALLAGHAN
WED 17 <sup>th</sup>	NELLIE MCLYNN	VINCENT BIRD
THURS 18 <sup>th</sup>	THOMAS J MORAN	PADDY BRANLEY
FRI 19 <sup>th</sup>	CHILDREN OF THE EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</b> TONY BRENNAN 
SAT 20 <sup>th</sup>	AARON & CHRISTOPHER MCGOLDRICK	<b>Month's Mind</b> CIARAN ROUGHAN 

**rest in peace** Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of: LENA BOHAN (nee Lydon), Lynndale, Maugheraboy. *May God grant her eternal rest and comfort and console her bereaved family and friends.*