

# SoulSpace

SERIES: NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Season colour: **GREEN**

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

When she got pregnant in 1926, Dorothy's new lover insisted she abort this child, too, but she refused. She had read the autobiography of St Therese of Lisieux, and so when her daughter was born, she named her Tamar Theresa. When she took her child to a Catholic church to be baptised, her lover abandoned her. Soon afterwards, Dorothy herself was baptised a Catholic.

Dorothy, the one-time political radical, now looked for a radical way to do good. The answer came when she met a man called Peter Maurin. Dorothy shared his view that the Gospels formed a blueprint for a society where people could truly be co-creators with Christ.

What began as a chat around a kitchen table in 1932 grew into a worldwide movement known as 'The Catholic Worker'. Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin began by founding a newspaper. With Dorothy's journalistic experience, she saw that a newspaper, sold at a penny a copy, would offer solidarity with the workers who were struggling with unemployment and would also be a means of promoting Catholic social teaching. Within two years the paper had a circulation of 150,000.

The second part of the Catholic Worker programme grew from a belief that Houses of Hospitality should be established, where anyone was welcome to share a meal. By 1936, hundreds were lining up at Dorothy's door every day where there was a pot of soup always on the go and volunteers ready to help out. So great was the demand that entire buildings were rented to accommodate the growing numbers.

Dorothy was also active in the anti-war movement. "Our manifesto," she wrote, "is the Sermon on the Mount."

Throughout the 50 years she spent ministering to the poor, until her death in 1990, Dorothy Day had the deepest conviction that Christ was at the centre of it all and that only in him can genuine fulfilment be found.

Because of her personal encounter with Jesus all those years before, Dorothy's life changed completely. She went from love of life to love of God and love of others.

She was one of four great Americans - Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr, and Thomas Merton - praised by Pope Francis in his address to the US Congress in 2015. "Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints," the pontiff said, calling her an icon of the dream of "social justice and the rights of persons".

## DIVIDED WORLD

**T**oday's world seems more divided than for many years. Politicians talk of constructing walls and reintroducing borders rather than of building bridges and eliminating injustice. They stir up fear of the other rather than promote inclusion. Anti-semitism, xenophobia, racism, sectarianism, far-right extremism are on the march again.

Of all Gospel stories, the Last Judgement scene in Matthew 25 cuts right to the heart of what it means to be a Christian. On judgement day, on what basis will God separate the sheep from the goats, the saved from the lost? Not on how often we went to Mass or on pilgrimage. Not on the prayers we said or our charitable contributions.

Jesus uses another criterion to discern who will be saved: our attitude towards those in need. "In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."

Dorothy Day knew this. It was how she resolved to live every day. Love of neighbour, love of the stranger, must be one of our New Year's resolutions too. ■



## CALLED TO LOVE OTHERS

Top of any New Year's resolution list must be saying 'no' to hatred and to anything that divides us.

**M**any mornings in 1918 found Dorothy Day, a 21-year-old, radical, New York reporter, stumbling home to bed, almost drunk, after spending all night out socialising. In the half-light before dawn, she always encountered groups of women hurrying to Mass at St Joseph's church. Sometimes she would follow them inside and watch as they began their day in prayer. It made a huge impression on her, but she was a bit of an anarchist and wasn't ready for religion. In the years that followed she had an affair with a reporter, got pregnant, had an abortion, then moved on to another lover.

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### Today's readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
1 Corinthians 7:32-35  
Mark 1:21-28

Capernaum was the hometown of the first four disciples who were called last week, and through them, it became Jesus' base and second home. It was on the edge of the Sea of Galilee, and not far from one of the great ancient roadways of the Middle East. Jesus' ministry combines preaching the Word, healing and exorcism. In the time of Jesus, many forms of illness, particularly disturbances of the personality, were believed to be caused by unclean, or evil, spirits and exorcism is often seen as a contest between Jesus and the demonic powers that threaten human well-being. Jesus meets the challenge of the evil one calmly, but without flinching. The way in which he calms the man is proof of his authority, and the story causes his fame to be known around the lakeside towns and villages.

### GOD'S WORD TODAY

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**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Catholic Schools Week begins today**

**World Day for Consecrated Life - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

For some people it is a fearful thing to imagine being face to face with God. For those in Christ, however, such fear is overcome because with him the presence of God neither torments nor annihilates but brings human life to perfection.

**CHOOSE LIFE**

"We love our children because they are children, not because they are beautiful, or look or think as we do, or embody our dreams. We love them because they are children." Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 170

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

There will be a special celebration to mark the opening of the week at **12noon Mass, today**, 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 FEASTDAY-THURSDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY**

marks the feast day of St Brigid, secondary patron saint of Ireland. Mass will be celebrated at 8 am and 10.30 am. Our sincere thanks once again to the Sisters of the Presentation and their volunteers for producing the beautiful crosses to be distributed in our Cathedral.

**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 CONSECRATED 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 4<sup>th</sup> February:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Job. 7:1-4. 6-7; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1Cor. 9:16-19. 22-23; Gospel: Mk. 1:29-39.

**BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT**

**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> January at 9.00pm** With a JACKPOT of €3,100 Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES**

14<sup>th</sup> January PARISH ENV: €1,744 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,312

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK-SATURDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

A Special Blessing for those who care for the sick and also Anointing of the Sick will take place at the 10.30am Mass on this day. Please inform all the household and sick you know and consider helping them attend by providing transport or the means to join in watching our ceremony online.

**SAVE THE 8<sup>th</sup> VIGIL** Join us on the feast day of St. Brigid (Patron Saint of Babies) for our 24 Hour Silent Eucharistic Vigil as we unite together to pray especially for the protection of the 8th Amendment whilst invoking all the Saints and Martyrs of Ireland also. The Vigil takes place on Thursday 1st February from 9.00am until Friday 2nd February 2018 at 9.00am, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel beside the Cathedral, Sligo. To sign up for your specified hour please text 087 6274621 or simply sign the sheet on the door. It is imperative at this time that we make a special effort to pray for the protection of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment and prayer is a powerful way to do this. Thank you.

**INTRODUCING CHRISTIAN MEDITATION TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The day will be of particular interest to teachers and parents. It will take a practical, hands-on approach and participants will leave with the knowledge of how to introduce the practice to children in a straightforward and deeply meaningful way. Led by Dr. Noel Keating, it will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Star of the Sea Centre, Mullaghmore. To book: [staroftheseacentre@gmail.com](mailto:staroftheseacentre@gmail.com) or 071 9176722. Cost €20.00 per person (incl hot lunch).

**OFFICIAL FAMILY PRAYER FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018**



**God, our Father,  
We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,  
One Family, in the Spirit of your love.**



**Bless us with the joy of love.  
Make us patient and kind,  
gentle and generous,  
welcoming to those in need.**

**Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.  
Protect all families with your loving care,  
Especially those for whom we now pray:**

**(We pause and remember family members and others by name)**

**Increase our faith,  
Strengthen our hope,**

**Keep us safe in your love,**

**Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.**

**This we ask, through Christ our Lord,  
Amen**

**CHILDREN'S EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** . Venue: Cathedral, Sligo. Date: The 1st Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 3pm to 4pm. Rosary ,songs, Sunday Gospel Reading. Confession available. Parents to stay with children. For more information contact 087 2655762. All welcome.

**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018** Register now to attend the World Meeting of Families in August! Tickets can be booked on [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

**CATHEDRAL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

*Upcoming* **EVENTS**

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February Confessions from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

**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**

**URSULINE NETWORK** - Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January in the Convent (opposite Cathedral entrance) at 7.00pm. New members welcome.

**HEART SUPPORT GROUP MEETING** will be held in the Park Hotel on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7pm. Speaker: Audrey Colleary, Senior Physiotherapist. Topic: Exercise Benefits and Heart Health.

**NORTH WEST STROKE GROUP** next meeting Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January at 8pm at the Irish Wheelchair Association premises in Abbeyville, Sligo.

**HSE RETIRED ASSOCIATION GROUP** Monthly meeting takes place in St Michael's Family Life Centre on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 3pm. New members welcome.

**PRO-LIFE MASS** On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 (Feast Day of St. Brigid, Patron Saint of Babies) a Mass will be celebrated for the protection of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment in St. John's Church, Carraroe, Sligo at 7.00pm. Please join us in praying for women and the unborn child in the womb. "Every child that isn't born, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord" Pope Francis

**P.T.A.A. SLIGO** - Meeting in St. Mary's Presbytery at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February immediately after the 7pm Mass.

**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).

**OPEN DAY / ENROLEMENT DAY** for September 2018 for St. John's co-educational school, Temple St. Sligo for Junior Infants on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February from 1.30pm—3.30pm. If you are unable to attend and would like more information please call in or call us on 071 9162537 or email: [scoliceinnaofa.ias@eircom.net](mailto:scoliceinnaofa.ias@eircom.net) Website: [www.stjohnssligo.com](http://www.stjohnssligo.com)

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

**SLIGO SOCIAL SERVICES** have a shortage of good quality menswear and household linens e.g. curtains, duvet covers etc. (unfortunately we cannot take duvets, pillows or cushions). If you have anything you would like to donate please drop items to The Lungy (behind the Hawkswell Theatre). Thank You.

**anniversary & remembrances**

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
MON 29 <sup>th</sup>	MICKEY MCLOUGHLIN	—
TUES 30 <sup>th</sup>	—	<b>Month's Mind</b> KATHLEEN QUEENAN ✝
THURS 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>SPECIAL INTENTIONS</b>	—
FRI 2 <sup>nd</sup>	KATIE MCDERMOTT	<b>CONSECRATED LIFE</b>
SAT 3 <sup>rd</sup>	—	<b>Month's Mind</b> KATHLEEN BUCKLEY ✝
✝	<b>MONTH'S MIND MASS</b>	for GERARD DOWNS will be celebrated at the 7.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.

**Rest in peace**

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: KAY MURRAY, formerly Wolfe Tone St.; PAULINE TORSNEY, Temple St. and MARY DUNNE (nee McDermott) Boston and formerly Ballytivnan. *May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*