

# SoulSpace

SERIES: NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Season colour: **GREEN**

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

**T**hey called her the 'Angel of the Amazon.' Her name was Sister Dorothy Stang and for nearly 40 years she lived in Brazil fighting for two things: the poor peasant farmers who were being exploited by loggers, miners and ranchers, and the tropical rainforest, which was being ravaged to the point of irreversible destruction by multinational corporations.

The 73-year-old American was a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame do Namur. Over the years, she developed sustainable agricultural programmes which provided jobs and food for the indigenous people. She also opened schools and established health clinics.

Sr Dorothy chose to live in poverty in order to help others living in poverty. She had a passion for people of all cultures, for social justice, and for the environment. She possessed few material things: a mishmash of colourful clothing, spartan furnishings and her Bible, which she carried everywhere and which she called her "weapon".

Tragically, on February 12, 2005, Sr Dorothy became a martyr. In the days preceding her murder, she was attempting to halt illegal logging where land sharks had interests but no legal rights. As she made her way along a muddy Amazon jungle road to the village where she lived, two gunmen approached her. They had been hired by a local landowner who was upset by Sr Dorothy's activities. The gunmen asked her if she was carrying a weapon. She reached into her bag, pulled out her Bible and reputedly said, "This is my only weapon."

She read to the men. They listened to two verses, stepped back and aimed their guns. Sr Dorothy raised her Bible toward them and six shots were fired at point blank range, killing her instantly.

Sr Dorothy spent almost four decades bringing the love of God to the poorest of the poor in the jungle where they lived. She gave her life out of love for God and God's creation.

## BACKWARD STEPS

**T**here are many like Sr Dorothy who work to cherish and protect the earth God has gifted to us. It is a difficult struggle. Some, like Sr Dorothy, pay with their lives. And even though people and nations are more environmentally aware than ever before, and positive steps have been taken to safeguard the earth and its resources, numerous challenges remain. Last June, the United States pulled out of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. A month later, one of the largest icebergs ever recorded broke off Antarctica. Scientists say the iceberg could speed up the break-off of other ice chunks, eventually raising sea levels. In August, Brazil's government abolished a vast national reserve in the Amazon to open up the area to mining. The area is thought to be rich in gold and other minerals. Closer to home, Ireland is one of just two EU countries set to miss the legally binding 2020 greenhouse gas emissions targets.

## PAPAL ADVICE

**I**n 2015, Pope Francis published his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*. "The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us," he writes. "Soil, water, mountains – everything is, as it were, a caress of God." Therefore, we must all change our day-to-day actions to live more sustainably, he says, and our leaders must be held to account.

While we can't all dedicate our lives in the way Sr Dorothy did, there are lots of practical things we can do this year and always:

- Pressure the government to meet its greenhouse gas emissions targets
- Never litter or dump
- Watch what you use and how you use it. Waste not.
- Recycle
- Join or support an environmental group
- Read *Laudato Si'*. ■

votes ends



## Today's readings

Job 7:1-4,6-7

1 Corinthians

9:16-19; 22-23

Mark 1:29-39

Today's Gospel might be described as a typical sabbath in the life of Jesus, which began with the morning synagogue service described last week. People would have gone to the synagogue fasting, and after the lengthy service, they returned home to eat the main meal of the day. In this case, there is a problem: Jesus is due to eat in Peter's house, but his mother-in-law is unwell and no doubt this has upset the preparations for the meal. It provides nevertheless the reason for Jesus' first healing miracle. The sabbath ended at sundown, and so people were freed from the sabbath law that forbade the carrying of heavy loads and bringing him their sick. A small detail opens an important window into the life of Jesus: he rises early to go to a quiet place, perhaps the shore of the lake, where he can be alone to pray.

## GOD'S WORD TODAY



**CARE  
FOR THE EARTH**

**T**he Book of Genesis tells us that when God created the earth, God looked at what God had made and found it very good. But God's creation is in danger. To quote Pope Francis, "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth." Caring for the earth is a challenge every Christian is called to embrace this year and every year.

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**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

When we are sick or our lives are disturbed in some way we tend to see the darkness and to turn in on ourselves. The healing that we need is more than a physical one, it involves being freed from self-concern to care for others.

**CHOOSE LIFE**

"I believe that it would help greatly if people who believe in the right to life of the unborn would just talk to their neighbours and friends over a cup of tea or a pint, as they would about sport or politics. It is not about debating or being confrontational. At the most basic level, it is just about letting other people see that they are not alone and that it is perfectly reasonable to believe in the right to life. (Bishop Kevin)

**PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KEVIN**

Bishop Kevin's pastoral message "The Gift of Life – A Shared Responsibility" is available to read online at [www.elphindiocese.ie](http://www.elphindiocese.ie)

**26<sup>th</sup> WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**

**10.30am Mass on SATURDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

The theme this year is:

"Woman, behold your son ... Behold your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (Jn 19:26-27).

In his message to mark this occasion, the Holy Father, Pope Francis turns his attention especially to the sick and all those who provide them with care and treatment.

Bishop Kevin will celebrate the 10.30am in the Cathedral on the day, Mass will include a Special Blessing for those who care for the sick and also Anointing of the Sick. Please inform all the housebound and sick you know and consider helping them attend by providing transport or the means to join in watching our ceremony online: [www.sligocathedral.ie](http://www.sligocathedral.ie). Thank you.

**DATE FOR DIARY HUNGER LUNCH on Ash Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, in the Gillooly Hall from 12noon to 2pm marking the beginning of Lent and in aid of Trocaire. Please support. All most welcome.**

We are delighted to announce that the **LEGION OF MARY** are hosting an exciting **Conference for Young Adults** with a focus on the importance of faith on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February in the Gillooly Hall, Sligo. We are privileged to have several inspiring speakers with us on the day including Elma Walsh, mother of Donal Walsh, whose life-affirming message before his passing continues to give hope to people no matter what the difficulty. Joining us also on the day will be Fr. Philip Mulryan - a former Premiership and International footballer. The Conference starts at 10am and will finish at 5pm and the cost per person is only €15 which includes a meal for lunch. Don't hesitate to contact Moira (086 0721694) or Alan (085 1324616) if you have any queries, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

**SUNDAY READINGS for 11<sup>th</sup> February:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Lev. 13:1-2. 44-46; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; Gospel: Mk. 1:40-45.

**BINGO, GILLOOLY HALL, TONIGHT**

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00pm** With a JACKPOT of €3,150 Raffle at interval with refreshments available. All welcome.

**SLIGO CATHEDRAL PARISH – 2200 FAMILIES**

21<sup>st</sup> January **PARISH ENV: €1,562 PL/STAND. ORD: €1,314**

THANK YOU for your contribution.

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

**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).

**POPE FRANCIS ON THE FAMILY**

You are invited to join us for sessions of guided discussion and reflection on family life in preparation for the World Meeting of Families 2018 in Summerhill College Library on Wednesdays 28 February, 07 March, 14 March 8pm – 9pm These sessions will be in an informal, friendly atmosphere, followed by a cuppa. Everyone is welcome - we are all family!

**CATHEDRAL LENTEN SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP**

will meet at 7.30pm on the Thursdays in Lent (excluding Holy Thursday), starting 15<sup>th</sup> February upstairs in the Gillooly Hall. You are all welcome.

**CHOOSE LIFE NEWSLETTERS**

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference will produce weekly newsletters called Choose Life to encourage discussion in families on the value of every human life. Issue One is available at [www.elphindiocese.ie](http://www.elphindiocese.ie)

**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

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.

Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.

Saints Louis and Zelig Martin, pray for us.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> February "Wednesday Tea" after 10.30am Mass.

Saturday 10<sup>th</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**

**ST BERNADETTE'S CHAPEL**, Rockwood Parade. Mass will be celebrated on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 5.15 p.m. All welcome.

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES IN GERMAN** at Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced at Mercy College Sligo (started Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January). Phone 086 7384925 for info.

**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: [scoileoinnaofa.ias@eircom.net](mailto:scoileoinnaofa.ias@eircom.net) Website: [www.stjohnssligo.com](http://www.stjohnssligo.com)

**THE WAY OF GENTLENESS** a personal enrichment journey for Lent will take place in St Patrick's Church Strandhill on Mondays February 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ST. BRIGID'S DAY** A total of €600 in donations was collected from St. Brigid's Crosses for the Diocesan Assisted Pilgrims Fund to Lourdes. Thank you to all who contributed.

**"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 (5) Domiciliary Care Allowance** Further details and for an application form please contact the Warmer Homes Scheme Team at [094 9371830](tel:0949371830) or [094 9373455](tel:0949373455)."

**FREE INTERNET COURSE** delivered by Sligo Leader Partnership Co. for people who would like to learn how to use the internet but have no previous skills or experience with computers. . This free course comprises of five two hour classes. Please ring David/Paula at 071 9141138 for further details.

**ANNIVERSARY & REMEMBRANCES**

DAY	8.00 a.m. Mass	10.30 a.m. Mass
TUES 6 <sup>th</sup>	SPECIAL INTENTION	EMMET O'CONNOR
WED 7 <sup>th</sup>	SPECIAL INTENTION	1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary MARY HENRY 
THURS 8 <sup>th</sup>	—	TOM WEIR
FRI 9 <sup>th</sup>	WILLIAM KELLY	1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary PATRICIA GIBLIN 
SAT 10 <sup>th</sup>	MARY QUIGLEY	1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary PADDY GALLAGHER 

 **MONTH'S MIND MASS** for BERNARD DEVINS will be celebrated at the 7.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Rest in peace** Your prayers are asked for the repose of the souls of: MARGARET (MADGE) GUNNING (nee Mullaney) Scarden Beg, Strandhill Rd.; IRENE NALLY (nee Burke), The Park, Strandhill Rd. and NORA MCSHARRY (nee Keegan), Maugheraboy Estate. *May God grant them eternal rest and comfort and console their bereaved families and friends.*