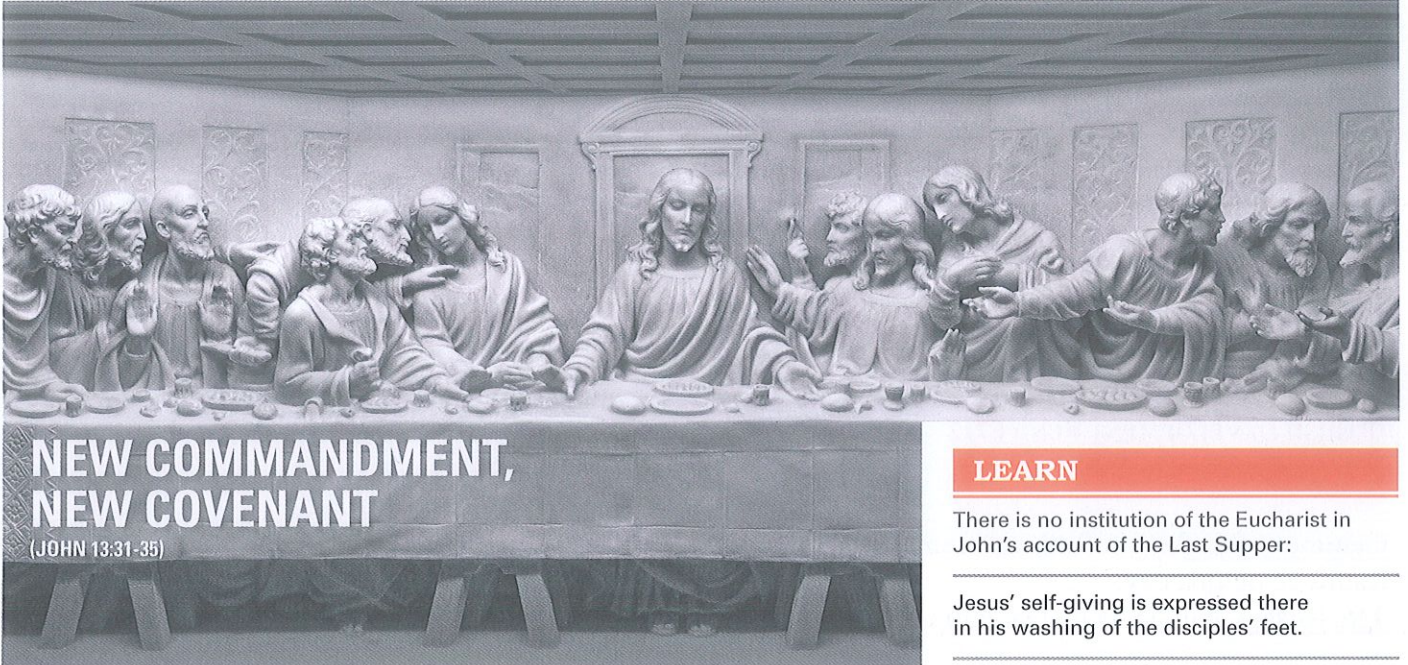


THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



NEW COMMANDMENT, NEW COVENANT

(JOHN 13:31-35)

Marble relief of the Last Supper, on the altar of the Basilica di Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Rome

In the Gospel according to John, there is no account of the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper as we find in the versions of the Synoptic writers Mark, Matthew and Luke. The Eucharistic text is that of the Feeding of the Crowds. At John's Last Supper scene, the symbolic act is the washing of the disciples' feet.

In the other accounts, Jesus talks about the new covenant. Part of the covenant ritual was the imposing of commandments and, in our gospel text today, Jesus tells the disciples that he is giving them a new commandment, which suggests the idea of a new covenant. This instruction will demand a great deal of those who accept the new relationship with God – it is to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them – but the message is directed also at those reading or listening to the Gospel.

God will be glorified in the crucifixion of Jesus, where God's love for the world will be finally revealed and Jesus will leave his disciples in the form that they have known him up to now. However, their being his disciples will continue, and the sign of this will be their love for one another. This will be the best witness to those among whom they live. ■

REFLECT

Easter is the time when we are invited to reflect on our actual relationship with the risen Jesus. For the rest of the church's year, we are presented with Jesus' ministry and can draw lessons from that, but the Gospel of John can be more difficult, as it makes demands on us personally. At the Paschal vigil, we are asked to declare what we believe, and this can be a rather simple thing to do, to answer some questions. But when we are told that our relationship with Jesus will require some personal examination of ourselves, and possibly subsequent

change, this can be a lot more demanding, even threatening. This is not a matter of how we behave, but of the person we are, our attitude to Jesus and to each other.

During the Last Supper in John's account, Jesus says to those at table with him, "I call you friends." In one of the themes of the Fourth Gospel, this means that his disciples' training is complete, and today's reading represents an important step in that process – the giving of the new commandment, which is a sign of the new covenant between God, Jesus and the disciples. If we are to be true disciples,

then we have to take this teaching of Jesus seriously.

The history of the church can make it difficult for people to accept the message of Jesus. We have the persecution and burning of those whose opinions do not square with official doctrine; there are religious wars and bitter divisions between Christian denominations. Perhaps we might reflect on what witness we ourselves are giving today and that Jesus is not giving us advice, but a commandment. ■

LEARN

There is no institution of the Eucharist in John's account of the Last Supper:

Jesus' self-giving is expressed there in his washing of the disciples' feet.

The giving of the new commandment forms part of the making of the new covenant.

It is the disciples' relationship with one another which will be the most effective sign of their belief in Jesus.

DO

Are you at odds with any other disciple in your community? Think about what you can do to sort it out, in light of the teaching of Jesus.

SAY

By this love, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

(see John 13:35)



NEWSLETTER 15TH MAY 2022
A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

Fr. Stan Deegan Tel: 044-9374127 0872673655.
Email: parishofkillucan@gmail.com
www.parishofkillucan.ie Facebook: Killucan Parish
The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.


ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Saturday 14th, 6pm. Paddy & Margaret Hill. Jim, Annie & Tom O'Callaghan.
Sunday 15th, 11.30am. Barry Keogh MM. Ollie & Emma Eyres.
Saturday 21st, 6pm. James & Margaret Boyle.
Sunday 22nd, 11.30am. Dympna Rourke. Michael Kenny & his brother Tommy.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 15th, 10am. Tommy McKeogh.
Sunday 22nd, 10am. John Mulvaney & his son Paddy.

Weekday Masses; Fri Rath wire.

 <p>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p>In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm. & St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm: <i>Special Diocesan intention of prayer for vocations and the family.</i> Take one Hour with the Lord</p>
---	---

<p>MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €648 PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €712</p>

<p>RIP: Kevin Heffernan, Rathwire.</p>
--

Cemetery Sunday: in Rathwire cemetery on Sunday June 19th at 3pm. There will be no 11.30am Mass in Rathwire on that day.

The Rosary will be recited at 7.30pm each Friday evening for the month of May, at the grotto in Raharney.

Giving Birth to Love

“See, I make all things new,” says the One who sat on the throne. The second reading is about a vision of a new earth, a new Jerusalem, in which “there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away.”

The new Jerusalem will be made up of people who love one another. People will not watch in this holy city as their brothers and sisters languish in poverty and hunger, nor will they attack each other in various forms of inhumane treatment, torture, and war. The key to this new world will be love: “This is how all will know you for my disciples: your love for one another.”

The road to this new Jerusalem will not be an easy one: “We must undergo many trials if we are to enter into the reign of God.” We enter the road with faith that the risen Lord will “give us new purpose and bring us to a new life.”

The entire creation has been groaning till now in an act of giving birth, as it waits for the glory of the children of God to be revealed. Let Christians therefore be convinced that they will yet find the fruits of their own nature and effort cleansed of all impurities in the new earth which God is now preparing for them, and in which there will be the kingdom of justice and love, a kingdom which will be fully perfected when the Lord will come himself.

Synod of Bishops, Justice in the World,