



NEWSLETTER

12TH FEB. 6TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR.

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 12th, 11.30am. Eileen Leech. John Lawlor. Jim Gorman. Jack Murtagh. Anne Marie Bowe & dec.d family members.

Sunday 19th, 11.30am. Sheila Garde. Andrew & Ellen Doyle. Margaret & Patrick Hill & Imelda. Una Gilsenan.


ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Sunday 12th, 10am. Paddy and his father John Mulvaney & dec.d Maguire family

Sunday 19th, 10am. Joe Reid MM.

Weekday Masses; Tuesday, Wed, Thursday and Friday in Raharney 9am.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €563
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €540

<p>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</p> 	<p>In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm. & St. Brigid's Wed. 5pm-10pm: <i>Special Diocesan intention of prayer for vocations and the family.</i> Take one Hour with the Lord</p>
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Temperance Sunday: next Sunday 19th. Prayers offered for all who suffer from addiction.

The Law of Love

The focus of today's liturgy is "obedience to God's word." We are challenged to "keep the commandments, to walk in the law of the Lord."

In order to keep the commandments, we must first know what they are and then we must understand them correctly. Jesus deals with this problem in the [Gospel](#). The Jews had a law about murder, but they had misread it to mean that one was in the clear as long as one was not actually, personally killing someone. Jesus challenged his Jewish followers to follow the correct interpretation of the law, which meant that they were not to be the kind of people who would kill or would do anything that leads to someone else's death.

We Christians believe that God's "command of perfect love" obliges us to do what is just and right. It is not good enough to stay out of trouble; we must work at setting things right in the world. It is not good enough to give food to the hungry; we must work at making ours a society in which people do not go hungry.

"Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart."

The responsibility for alleviating the plight of the poor falls upon all members of society. As individuals, all citizens have a duty to assist the poor through acts of charity and personal commitment. But private charity and voluntary action are not sufficient. We also carry out our moral responsibility to assist and empower the poor by working collectively through government to establish just and effective public policies.

U.S. Bishops, [Economic Justice for All](#)

Sunday Message

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 12 February 2023 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



Today's Gospel is part of the Sermon on the Mount, which we have been reading over the past two Sundays.

The Sermon on the Mount takes up three whole chapters of Matthew's Gospel (chapters 5-7) and contains the main teaching of Jesus. But it would be wrong to think of it as a single event that took place one sunny afternoon on a mountainside when Jesus was in excellent preaching form. The 105 verses of the Sermon on the Mount are a collection of different pronouncements and sayings of Jesus that Matthew gathered and stitched together into one unit. They are a crash course in Christianity, one powerful statement of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. ■

PRAY

Being a disciple of Jesus is not fashionable. Pray for the strength to follow Jesus faithfully. Pray for our church leaders that they will proclaim the Gospel with conviction.

SAY

Lord, help me to follow you with a full heart and eyes wide open. Help me to integrate my faith into every aspect of my life.

LEARN

Following Jesus involves far more than 'keeping' rules and regulations. It is about conversion of mind and heart.

Conversion is something that happens every day.

DO

Think about how you 'keep the faith'. What does it mean for you to follow Jesus? Is it just about going to Mass and the sacraments regularly, or does it mean much more than that?

REFLECT

You probably know the joke about the chicken and the pig. A chicken and a pig are discussing breakfast. The chicken says, "Let's have bacon and eggs." The pig replies, "That's fine for you. You're just making a contribution, but I have to be fully committed."

The poor pig would have to give up everything to provide a good fry for breakfast. He'd have to be fully committed. In a real sense, that's what today's Gospel from the Sermon on the Mount is about too. It's about being fully committed.

There's a big difference between Jesus' teaching and the old Jewish law.

The Pharisees and Jewish religious leaders of the time were focused on keeping the letter of the law. Observe the law, and you were upright in the eyes of God. But Jesus goes beyond that. He says keeping the law is more than just slavishly sticking to rules and regulations – it's about what goes on in our hearts.

You could say that while the Pharisees' view of the law was like that of the chicken, Jesus' view of the law is like that of the pig – it demands total commitment.

We see that contrast played out in today's Gospel. Jesus says: "You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill.... But I say this to you: Anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before a court of law..."

"You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you..."

"You have learnt how it was said: You must not break your oath... but I say this to you..."

Jesus is going beyond the old law. He puts a new interpretation on it and takes it a step further. He is demanding greater commitment from his followers than merely keeping the letter of the law.

It's safe to assume that nobody reading this newsletter has killed anyone, and so, legally speaking, we can say we have kept the letter of the law. We have kept

the fifth commandment. But see how Jesus interprets that law to include much broader things like anger. He takes one of the commandments and gives it a far more challenging application.

And it is challenging. Take what he says about being angry with your brother or sister. Now think of some of the social and moral debates we have been having in this country. There is so much anger, venom, and sneering contempt directed at individuals and groups. Social media is full of it.

Jesus knows it is possible to keep the law – to avoid committing murder, adultery or false witness – and yet to sin against those commandments by breaking them in spirit. For him, what matters is not external observance but what goes on inside the human heart – our thoughts, our values, our attitudes, our motivations, what guides our whole approach to life. Following Jesus means internalising our faith, making it part of the very air we breathe. It means trying to live the Sermon on the Mount. It means always having an attitude of love. ■