Monaleen Parish Newsletter 25th October 2026

Reflection

In the verses in the gospel preceding today's passage, the Sadducees - who deny the resurrection - approached Jesus and asked him a question about the afterlife not in order to seek an answer, not to learn, but to try to trip him up. Yet again, Jesus gave a masterful answer and silenced them.

Then, not to be outdone, the Pharisees approached him and they put their question. They weren't asking in order to learn either but to *disconcert* Jesus. In other translations, it is said they approached him with a question to *test* Jesus. The only other place St. Matthew uses this verb is when he applied it to the devil who approached Jesus after his forty days' fast in the desert, and the devil set out to test Jesus. Clearly, St. Matthew is saying that what the Pharisees were up to was reprehensible, nothing short of diabolical. Inspired by the devil they were treating Jesus - who is God - with utter contempt. This then contrasts - like black contrasts with white - when Jesus tells them that the first law is to love God and not treat him with contempt as they had.

To get back to their question for a moment. At first glance, it seems innocuous enough: "Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?" We would happily admit that there is a hierarchy of importance in laws. Some laws are more important than others. It seems obvious enough. But the rabbis of Jesus' day held that all the commandments - all six hundred and thirteen of them - being God's laws were all of equal importance and ranking them in terms of importance would be human presumption and an affront to God.

Then using their own commandment from Deuteronomy which read: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord your God is one Lord: and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." Jesus instructed them that love of God is the first and most important law and then he went on to say that loving one's neighbour as oneself is the second and that the whole law is summed up in these two commandments. This is the key to interpreting all law. If one truly loves God and neighbour one has in fact kept all of God's laws.

Writing to the Romans, St. Paul put it this way: Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments." (Rom. 13:10)

Church of St Mary Magdalene,
Monaleen Road, Castletroy, V94 E3C8
'We seek to create an inclusive community, where all are welcome'

Priests of the Parish
Canon Gerard Garrett, Fr Daniel Tomasik
Fr Peter Claver Emeka Eze , Fr Robbert Coffey

Parish Secretary, Mrs Brid Hession
***Parish office** Tues, Wedn& Thurs 7.45am—12.45pm*
Tel: 061 338340 / Email: info@monaleenparish.ie

Mass Intentions

Sat 24th Oct 7pm	
Sun 25th Oct 10am	
11.30am	*Pat Molan RIP (3rd A)* *Oonagh Bermingham RIP (9th A)* *Mary Neiland RIP (A)*
Tue 27th Oct 9.45am	Anne Joyce RIP (Rec Dec)
Wed 28th Oct 9.45am	Eddie Frost RIP (Rec Dec_
Thurs 29th Oct 9.45am	*Tony Clohessy RIP (Rec Dec)*
Fri 30th Oct 9.45am	*Evelyn (1st A) & Joe O'Reilly RIP*
Sat 31st Oct 7pm	
Sun 1st Nov 10 am	
11.30am	*Eddie Lonergan RIP (Rec Dec)* *Sonny Larkin RIP (20th A)*

Saints of the Week

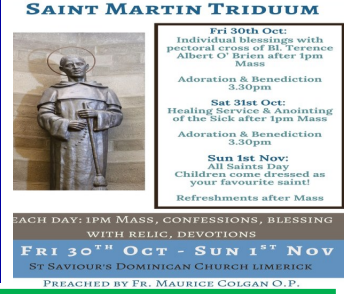
St Otteran - Tue 27th Oct,

St Simon and St Jude - Wed 28th

We wish to express our gratitude to the transition year students of Castletroy college who together with their teacher Maura Hanley did a wonderful job of weeding the bed to the front and side of the church and a general tidy up around the grounds of the church last Friday.

Ireland's 3rd National First Saturdays Conference

*This year's conference will take place in Knock on **Saturday November 28th**. The day begins at 10am and finishes at 5pm. It includes Holy Mass, adoration, talks, and a healing service. Speakers include: Fr Patrick Cahill, Geraldine O'Donnell, Fr Leon Pereira OP, Nikki Kingsley, Fr Marius O'Reilly, Fr. Jaimie Twohig, Christine O'Hara, Fr. Mark Quinn, and Fr Philip Kemmy, Fr. John Keane will lead a Eucharistic Healing Service. More information and the list of buses going are available on www.firstsaturdays.ie.*



A WEEKEND LIKE NO OTHER

Catholic Marriage Encounter Weekend , St. Mary's, Knock, Co. Mayo

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th April 2027

This residential Weekend starts at 7.30pm on Friday and finishes at 4.30pm on Sunday, and is open to all married couples.**Online booking only at www.marriageencounter.ie**