

The Law of Love

Jesus Christ and his Gospel are the ultimate revelation of God's love and protection, the ultimate expression of how to live the Law of God. We, as his disciples, are called to 'love one another' as he, Jesus Christ, has loved us, and as the Father has loved us by sending his Son to save us and his Spirit to strengthen and give us courage.



From Thought into Action

Of the Ten Commandments, only three deal directly with our relationship with God, the other seven deal with our relationships with each other; these are given a practical expression in the life of Jesus Christ. By our following the 'New law of Love' in the Gospel, by seeing it lived in the lives of the saints, this is what inspires us to understand the Law of God. It is possible for us not only to accept it, but more importantly, to live it.

The Law of Freedom

The Law of God is not imposed on us, we freely accept it. We are careful not to see it merely as rules and regulations (through the lens of 'legalism'). 'Legalism' is not just being faithful to the Law of God, which is a good thing; legalism is a misinterpretation of God's Law by which we tend to put more emphasis upon ourselves and our created rules than upon God.

The Yardstick

The Law of God is a clear standard for human living, a measure of our fidelity to the call of Christ to 'follow him', to 'love one another as I have loved you'. ■

Summary

As Christians, we have another Law, the Law of God that has been revealed to us in the scriptures and in the person and teaching of Jesus Christ.

The people of the Old Testament saw the Commandments as part of their covenant with the God who had freed them from slavery. They saw them as an offer of God's love and protection, and a visible sign of it.

Question

How can laws put more emphasis upon ourselves than upon God?



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Vol.47; No.12; Sixth Sunday of Year A; 15 Feb 2026; Readings: Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20, Psalm 118, 1Corinthians 2:6-10, Matthew 5:17-37; Next Week: Sat 14 Feb St Cyril and Methodius : Sun 15 Feb Ordinary 6 : Mon 16 Feb Weekday Tue 17 Feb Founders of the Servites/St Fintan : Wed 18 Feb Ash Wednesday : Thu 19 Feb Weekday : Fri 20 Feb Weekday : Sat 21 Feb St Peter Damian : Sun 22 Feb Lent 1.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: Morality; Sixth Sunday of Year A; 15 Feb 2026

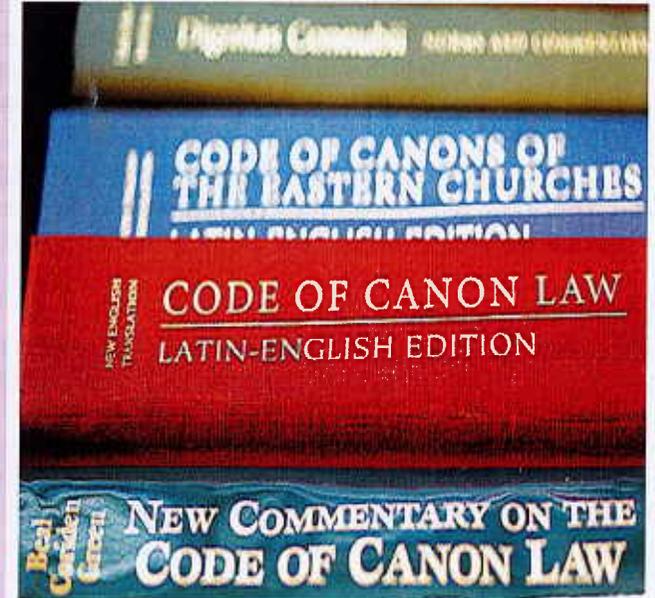
The word 'Law' is a word everyone knows. We are well aware of laws and their place in our society – even in the society of the Church. St Thomas Aquinas has two definitions of law. The first comes from the viewpoint of the lawmaker:

"An ordinance of reason, for the common good, made by one who cares for society;"

... and, from the point of view of the subject:

"law is a rule and measure of acts".

When we talk of law in the Church we think of the Code of Canon Law which organises the external life of its members. However, as Christians, we have another Law, a more basic and fundamental Law. We have the Law of God that has been revealed to us in the scriptures and in the person and teaching of Jesus Christ. These are the Ten Commandments and the new commandment of Christ "to love one another as I have loved you".



The New Law

Some think of commandments, laws, rules and regulations as tiresome, but nevertheless something to be obeyed – an imposition on our freedom. But the people of the Old Testament saw things differently. They saw the Commandments as part of their covenant with the God who had freed them from slavery. They saw them as the great offer of God's love and protection, and a visible sign of it. This is what these laws represented and, in a way, this is why they were celebrated.

Parish Office Contact Numbers and Email Addresses

Christ the Redeemer	02890309011	christthereedeemer@downandconnor.org
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St Anne's	02890610112	stannes@downandconnor.org

Pope Leo's prayer intentions for February: For children with incurable diseases.

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Ash Wednesday -18th February

Ashes will be distributed in Our Lady Queen of Peace after the 10 o'clock Mass There will be a Mass at 10am in Christ the Redeemer on Ash Wednesday.

Lenten Exercises

Every Wednesday during Lent at **7pm** each of the parish churches within Our Family will host the Stations of the Cross, prayer, reflection and meditation. You are greatly encouraged to come along.

Christ the Redeemer Church

Wednesdays and Thursdays during Lent there will be Mass at 7pm



Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse

A Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse will be marked across Ireland on Friday 20th February 2026

This day is not only for victims and survivors who have been so severely injured inside our Church, but also for the families and communities affected by the pain and grief of their loved ones. Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ will celebrate Mass

in **St Peter's Cathedral on Friday 20th February 2026 at 6:00pm.**

Chairs and members of Parish - Family of Parishes Safeguarding Committees are invited to attend the Mass in St Peter's Cathedral and join with Bishop Alan in praying for all those who have been affected by abuse.



Anniversaries Pat Burke

We pray for those whose anniversaries occur around this time

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them

Trocaire's Gift of Change and donations made at Christmas raised £662.

The funds raised from The Gifts of Change Appeal will go to support all of their global programmes: Saving Lives and Protecting Dignity; Supporting Women and Girls; Climate and Environment; and Promoting Access to Justice.

This donation will help to sustain their life-changing projects overseas, and it is the sum of each contribution, no matter what size, that makes a powerful difference. They wish to thank everyone in Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish once again, for their loyal and generous support.

Baptisms We welcome into the family of God recently baptised,

Aela Marie Connolly



Divine Mercy Devotions with Adoration & Confession 7-8pm

Christ the Redeemer Church

Thursday 12th February

Nativity

Thursday 26th February

Everyone Welcome

Divine Mercy Conference- Saturday 28th February 2026

Bus will leave St Paul's Church, Falls Road at 7.30am Returning approx.

10.45/11.00pm. Travel cost is £25 (bus price only) paid on booking. Failure to get 30 people the bus would have to be cancelled, advised, 1 week before departure. Unfortunately, no refund can be given in cases of sickness etc.

Conference tickets to be bought individually at the venue £35 or Euros.

Bring enough food for lunch and dinner – there are tea and coffee stations where hot drinks and snacks can be purchased.

Telephone Tina McCrory – 07523824350 to book a seat on the bus

Weekly Offering

Envelope Offering: £440.00

Many thanks for your continued support.

If you require a box of the weekly collection envelopes, please contact the parish office



Our Lady of Guadalupe, Legion of Mary have very kindly sent us Miraculous Medals and Novena leaflets. These will be available in the front porch of the church for anyone wishing to take them home.