

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)

A WEEKEND LIKE NO OTHER

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

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th April 2027

Online booking only at www.marriageencounter.ie

Monday 26th October is
a Bank Holiday
Morning Mass at 10am,
No evening mass at
5.45pm

Priests of the Parish
Canon Gerard Garrett
Fr Daniel Tomasik
Fr Peter Claver Emeka Eze
Fr Robert Coffey
In residence Canon John Daly

Cathedral Shop
Mon - Sat, 10:30am - 1pm.
Sympathy Mass cards,
Occasional cards,
candles and other religious
goods for sale.

Mass Times
Mon-Fri 10am, 5.45pm
Sat 10am & 6pm Vigil
Sun 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon

Confessions
Saturday 10.30am

Baptisms
Saturday 4.30pm

Deceased
We remember today in our
prayers all our departed loved
ones.
May they rest in eternal peace.

Split the Pot Draw
Congratulations to
Audrey Ryan
winner of last weekends draw.
Draw envelopes available at
the back of the church.

Scan QR code to donate



Church Gate Collection

IrishRedCross

RECEIPT 83003

HQ BRANCH ☒ AREA ☐ Limerick City DATE: 13/10/2026

RECEIVED FROM: Parishioners of St. John's Church

ADDRESS:

PHONE: DONATION TYPE GENERAL ☒ OTHER ☐

EMAIL:

THE SUM OF: Four Hundred and Seventy Eight EURO: 478-07

SIGNED: Susan P. ON BEHALF OF IRISH RED CROSS

16 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, D02 XF65, Ireland. Charity Number: CH9360 Registered Charity Number: 20026184

Remembrance Service

A time to remember, to honour each baby and pregnancy loss, by lighting a candle together.

The Church of the Holy Rosary, Ennis Rd., Limerick

8th November 2026
3:00pm

Forever in our hearts
Remembered always

<https://www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie/web-cam/>



In a joint enterprise between St John's Cathedral and the Centre for Irish German Studies at UL, George Lee, our local historian extraordinaire, gave a wonderful talk last Saturday on the stained glass windows in the Cathedral. We learned that most of the windows were manufactured by a German Company and that they depicted scenes from Scriptures and teachings of the Church and the Sacraments. Thank you George for a very informative and entertaining and interesting talk. We look forward to your next one!

The Irish Cancer Society is seeking compassionate **volunteer drivers** to join our pool of drivers. As a volunteer driver you would be bringing patients undergoing chemotherapy to the hospital and back home for their treatment. If you can spare 2 days per month, have a valid driving licence, and a safe, reliable vehicle, you are the perfect candidate. The Irish Cancer Society will provide you with training.

For more information and to become a volunteer driver, please contact Monica or Emily at volunteer@irishcancer.ie

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Discernment Days
for women ages 16 - 30

Day will include:

- Mass
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Confession available
- Talks by the Dominican Sisters
- Opportunities for spiritual chats with the sisters

Sat Nov 14 2026
Sat Apr 10 2027
10am-7pm

Saint Saviour's Dominican
Priory in Limerick
V94X2AA

Contact limerick@op-tn.org
for more details



charity number 20204654