

Reflection: The Pharisees and Herodians set out to trap Jesus. They hate him and they want to discredit him and get him into trouble. They start out in a sneaky, unctuous, smarmy way by building Jesus up attempting to appeal to human pride: You are an honest man; you are not afraid of anyone; a man's rank means nothing to you. Then comes their treacherous question: Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Yes or no, what is your opinion? Before we come to his answer we should look at the background. Jesus and his questioners were living in a country occupied by a hated foreign power; the Romans. They were hated because of the degradation they caused - no one likes being a slave or tenant in one's own country - and in addition to that the Romans were plundering the country principally by extorting exorbitant taxes. We all know well that the tax-collector of the time was especially despised. We should also consider to whom these taxes were being paid. - Tiberius Caesar, who, in his personal life, was utterly depraved and immoral and who reigned by terror, who was a murderer and who, as emperor, claimed to be a god and oppressed and enslaved millions of people.

Now to Jesus' answer. If he had said: don't pay taxes to that evil wretch, he would have fallen foul of the Roman authorities. If he said pay the taxes, he would have been characterized as pro-Roman and would have fallen foul of his own oppressed people. His questioners thought they had him in a no-win bind.

Then of course he gave the masterful answer. "Let me see the money you pay the taxes with. Whose head is this whose name.... Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." Then followed the far more important part: "and to God what belongs to God." Here Jesus is declaring that obedience to God and reverence for God comes before any other consideration including civil, secular society. The Catechism has this to say about it: "The citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospel. Refusing obedience to civil authorities, when their demands are contrary to those of an upright conscience, finds its justification in the distinction between serving God and serving the political community. "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29) (CCC 2242)

The Second Vatican Council had this to say: "When citizens are under the oppression of a public authority which oversteps its competence, they should still not refuse to give or to do what is objectively demanded of them by the common good; but it is legitimate for them to defend their own rights and those of their fellow citizens against the abuse of this authority within the limits of the natural law and the Law of the Gospel." (GS 74. 5) We are obliged to be good citizens but when secular society commands, permits and promoted what is gravely morally wrong we have not only the right but the duty to raise our voices in objection because our first loyalty belongs to God.

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

Recently Baptised
We welcome into the
Christian Community
Analeia Hanley

Recently Deceased
We remember today in our
prayers
Mary Griffin RIP
May she rest in eternal peace.

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

[Scan QR code to donate](#)



New Sacristan Appointed

Following Kieran Loughran's retirement, we set about recruiting a new sacristan. In our parish newsletter we asked for expressions of interest.

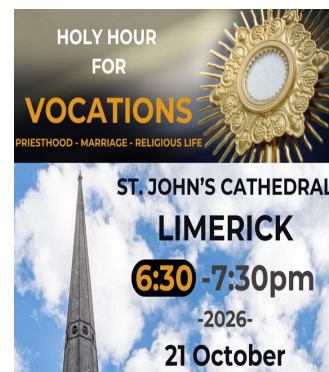
We were gratified to receive a number of such expressions. All were worthy and suitable persons. We finally decided on Gary Butterfield as the most suitable person given his background in general management and personnel management. We are very pleased to welcome him and we know he will receive a warm St John's Welcome from all our parishioners. He will begin his duties in early Nov..

Kieran's farewell

The collection taken up last weekend for Kieran's farewell gift was very well supported; a mark of the esteem in which he is held. *Farewell*

We invite you to a celebratory gathering in Kieran's honour in the Parish Centre after 10.00am Mass on Tuesday 10th November. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Holy Hour



Today !!

**WORLD
MISSION
SUNDAY**

**18th October
2026**

Right now, missionaries desperately need your help. In many poorer parishes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America missionaries are serving on the front line. They already do so much, walking hand-in-hand with marginalised communities, long before and after any emergency.

You can show missionaries you care by supporting
World Mission Sunday.

Your prayers and generosity will change lives.

Call Missio Ireland on (01) 497 2035 or go to www.missio.ie



Grow Mental Health- Friendly Community based peer support groups for anyone experiencing mental health issues with connection, hope and identity by empowering people to nurture their positive wellbeing by supporting personal growth.

Tel Celia 086-1526966 Sarrah 086-1037856

Saints of the Week

Mon 19th Ss Isaac and John

Thurs 22nd St John Paul II

Sat 24th St Luigi

Variety Choral Concert

Supporting
Friends &
Neighbours



IN AID OF:

Monaleen Cancer Support Group

**TICKETS
€10**

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 13th | 7.30pm Sharp**

**Mary Magdalene
Church Monaleen**

TICKETS ARE FOR SALE AT MONALEEN AND MILFORD CHURCHES