

Thought for the Week
16th February 2020
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Over the past few weeks the Sunday readings have traced the beginning of Jesus' ministry, starting with his baptism by John, the recruitment of the first disciples and the beginning of his ministry preaching and teaching to all those who flocked to hear him. We heard about Jesus telling the crowds that the keys to the kingdom of heaven could be found in the Beatitudes. In last Sunday's gospel we heard Jesus begin to challenge those who came to hear him, telling them not to hide away but rather to demonstrate the power of God through their actions: *'Your light must shine in the sight of men'*.

That challenge continues this week as Jesus tells his disciples to go beyond following the ten commandments per se but, rather to follow them in a manner that upholds the dignity of all; in a manner that goes beyond what the law required. Where the law condemned murder Jesus condemned anger or even falling out with another and most significantly, he advocated making amends at the earliest opportunity.

Of course it wasn't that Jesus was turning down the commandments that had been given to Moses, but rather he was explaining that he, the Messiah, had come to fulfil the revelation of the will of God and to do that meant surpassing the old interpretation of the law. It meant going beyond 'Thou shall not' to 'Happy the gentle'. 'Happy the peacemakers'.

So what does this mean for me? To live out the Gospel I need to begin each day with the intention of doing my very best to live in faith with God and faith with others. Faith in the light that Jesus brings, allows us to live every day in love, in compassion and in forgiveness.

Now that's a better way than just blindly following a commandment!

A parishioner