



RCIA

Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults
The Ten Commandments: 2, 3 & 4




Opening Prayer


Deuteronomy 5:7-21 (The Ten Commandments)
 7 You shall have no other gods before me.
 11 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
 12 Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy.
 16 Honour your father and your mother.
 17 You shall not murder.
 18 Neither shall you commit adultery.
 19 Neither shall you steal.
 20 Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbour.
 21 Neither shall you covet your neighbour's wife; Neither shall you desire your neighbour's house, or field, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.



The Ten Commandments


1. Honour God
2. Honour God's name
3. Honour God's day
4. Honour your father and mother.
5. Do not kill
6. Do not commit adultery
7. Do not steal
8. Do not lie
9. Do not wrongfully desire your neighbour's wife
10. Do not wrongfully desire your neighbour's goods

Relationship with God (commands 1-4)
 Relationship with our neighbours (commands 5-10)



The Second Commandment

- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
- Honour God's Name



The Second Commandment

- Treat God's name with reverence
- Forbids blasphemy and profanity: contemptuous use of
 - God's name
 - Holy objects e.g. crucifixes, crosses
 - Saints' and Mary's name
- Forbids cursing
 - The Lord's name should not be used to curse anybody or anything.



The Second Commandment

- Bad verbal habits
 - “Oh my God.”
 - “Oh gosh.”
 - “Jesus Christ !”
 - “I swear to God, ...”
- Acts 3:1-8 

Acts 3:1-8 (There is power in the name of the Lord)
 1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. 4 Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; **in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, stand up and walk.' 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.



The Second Commandment

- Is it OK to swear by God's name (i.e. take an oath) ?
 - Yes, if you mean to keep it.

Genesis 21:22-24 (Abraham taking an oath)
 22 At that time Abimelech, with Phicol the commander of his army, said to Abraham, 'God is with you in all that you do; 23 now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my posterity, but as I have dealt loyally with you, you will deal with me and with the land where you have resided as an alien.' 24 And Abraham said, 'I swear it.'

Romans 1:9 (St Paul taking an oath)
 For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel* of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers

Matthew 26:63 (Jesus asked to take an oath)
 Then the high priest said to him, 'I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.'



The Second Commandment

- Nothing wrong with taking oath if it is necessary
- Forbids false oath
 - In law, perjury and contempt of court
 - Asking God to be witness to a lie



The Third Commandment


- Observe the sabbath day, to keep it holy
- Honour God's Day

Exodus 20:8-10 (The Third Commandment)

8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9 For six days you shall labour and do all your work. 10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work.



The Third Commandment

- Genesis 2:1-3 
(God rested on the seventh day)

Genesis 2:1-3

(God rested on the seventh day)

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.



The Sabbath Day

- "Sabbath" comes from the Hebrew word *shabbath* meaning "day of rest".
- A day of rest from the labour / usual routines of the week.
- A day spent in the presence of the Lord with the family and the Parish community.
- A day dedicated to the Lord in rest or in good activities.
- A day of reflection: gives us the opportunity to gather our thoughts, renew our physical and spiritual strength and reevaluate our activities in the light of eternity.



The Third Commandment

- Just as our tired bodies need rest, so too does our soul and our soul can only find proper rest in God alone.
- Jewish Sabbath Day : Saturday
 - Marks the end of God's creation
- Christian Holy Day : Sunday
 - Jesus rose on Sunday – a new creation
 - Day of Pentecost – the Church's birthday
- Sunday is known as The Lord's Day
 - Jewish converts celebrated Sabbath on Saturday and the Lord's Day on Sunday



The Third Commandment

- On Sunday and other Days of Obligation, the faithful are to abstain from labours that impede the worship of God.
- To rest and to cultivate familial, cultural, social and religious lives.
- Christians are to avoid making unnecessary demands that would hinder other's observance of the Lord's Day.



The Third Commandment

- On Sunday and other Days of Obligation, the faithful are required to attend Mass.
- Valid reasons to be excused from Mass : sickness, emergency, travel.
- In such situations, we should nevertheless try to spend time praying and worshipping God.

Mark 2:23-24, 27-28 (Working on Sabbath Day)

23 One sabbath he was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' 27 Then he said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; 28 so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.'

Luke 14:1-6 (Working on Sabbath Day)

1 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. 2 Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had dropsy. 3 And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, 'Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?' 4 But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. 5 Then he said to them, 'If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?' 6 And they could not reply to this.

See also Mark 3:1-5, Luke 13:11-16



Sabbath & Creation Story (Gen 1:1-2:3)

- Day 1: Day and Night → Time
- Day 2: Sky → Space
- Day 3: Land, Sea and Vegetation → Life
- Day 4: Sun and Moon → Authority
- Day 5: Fishes and Birds → Creatures (lower life-form)
- Day 6: Beasts and Human → Creatures (higher life-form)
- Day 7: Sabbath → Where does this fit?



Holy Days Of Obligation

- Special days of religious significance
- In addition to Sundays, Catholics are required to attend mass on these days



Holy Days Of Obligation – why?

- Attending Mass midweek to observe a specific feast brings God into the reality of our lives and gives Him priority
- Gives us an identity. Unites us with other Catholics around the world.
- Helps us to know our faith better - many of our Feast Days have glorious, interesting, amusing or touching traditions associated with them



Holy Days Of Obligation

- There are 10 holy days of obligation in the universal Church.
- The Conference of Bishops in each country can abolish certain holy days of obligation or transfer them to a Sunday with prior approval of the Apostolic See



10 Holy Days Of Obligation

- Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- Epiphany
- Ascension
- Corpus Christi
- Holy Mary Mother of God
- Immaculate Conception
- Assumption
- St Joseph
- The Apostles Saints Peter and Paul
- All Saints



10 Holy Days Of Obligation

- Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 25 Dec, i.e. Christmas
- Epiphany
 - 6 Jan, twelfth night of Christmas
 - The recognition by the Magi of the Infant Jesus as Christ the King
 - In Australia, Epiphany is celebrated on a Sunday between 2 Jan and 8 Jan



10 Holy Days Of Obligation

- Ascension
 - Fortieth day after Easter Sunday, i.e. Thursday after the 6th Sunday of Easter
 - The Ascension of Christ into Heaven
 - His completion of the work of our redemption
 - In Australia, Ascension is celebrated on the 7th Sunday of Easter



10 Holy Days Of Obligation

- Corpus Christi
 - Thursday after Trinity Sunday (Sunday after Pentecost)
 - Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
 - The institution of the Eucharist
 - In Australia, Corpus Christi is celebrated on the 2th Sunday after Pentecost



10 Holy Days Of Obligation

- Holy Mary Mother of God
 - 1 Jan
 - Mary is the mother of Jesus, true God and true man
 - Elizabeth proclaimed Mary as "mother of my Lord" (Luke 1:43)
- Immaculate Conception
 - 8 Dec
 - Mary was conceived free of original sin to be the mother of our Saviour



10 Holy Days Of Obligation

- Assumption
 - 15 Aug
 - Mary was taken body and soul into heaven
- St Joseph
 - 19 March
 - St Joseph is a model of fatherhood



10 Holy Days Of Obligation

- The Apostles Saints Peter and Paul
 - 29 Jun
 - The principal pillars of the Church founded by Christ
- All Saints
 - 1 Nov
 - Honour the holy men and women who serves as model for our Christian lives



Holy Days Of Obligation

- The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has decided that only the following feast days are to be observed in Australia:
 - 25 Dec - Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 15 Aug – Assumption
- Epiphany, Ascension and Corpus Christi are moved to Sundays
- When a Catholic travels, he/she is to observe the Holy Days of Obligation of that country
- For more info on the 10 Holy Days of Obligation, see <http://www.wf-f.org/CanonSundayHolyDay.html>



Points To Ponder

- What preparation do we make before going on a trip to a foreign country?
 - Check out the visa requirements
 - Check out exchange rate, prepare foreign currency
 - Check out any vaccination requirements
 - Plan our trip to coincide with local events
 - Find out the nearest restaurants/train stations/shopping mall to our hotel



Points To Ponder

- We plan for our physical needs, do we plan for our spiritual needs?
- Do we ...
 - Check out religious obligations in the country?
 - Plan our trip to facilitate the attendance of Mass on Sunday?
 - Find out the nearest church to our hotel, and the mass time?



The Fourth Commandment

- Honour your father and your mother



Vocation of Parents: Chosen to do God's work on earth

Our Earthly Parents

- They bring us into this world.
- They furnish nourishment and the support necessary for life.
- They instruct us to lead good lives.

GOD Our Father

- God our Creator gives us our life here on earth and eternal life.
- God's Divine Providence gives us all we need to sustain us both body and soul.
- God teaches us to live holy and righteous lives through His Divine Word and His Commandments.



Why Honour Our Parents?

- Jesus was obedient to his earthly parents. (Luke 2: 51)
- Jesus reminded the Jews of the importance of honouring one's parents (Mark 7:10)
- Jesus reproached the Pharisees, who under the guise of dedicating their wealth to God (*Corban*), refused to their parents needful support. (Matthew 15: 4-6, Mark 7:10-13)
- See also Sirach 3:1-16




The Fourth Commandment

- We are communal and social being. We don't mature and grow up alone.
- We need the support of –
 - Our family
 - Our social / work group
 - Our country
- These units become the building block of God's Kingdom
- This creates mutual responsibilities



The Fourth Commandment

- Ephesians 6:1-9  (Children, Parents, "Slaves", "Masters")
- See also Colossians 3:20-24

Ephesians 6:1-9 (Children, Parents, "Slaves", "Masters")
 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 'Honour your father and mother'—this is the first commandment with a promise: 3 'so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.' 4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. 5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; 6 not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. 7 Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, 8 knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free. 9 And, masters, do the same to them. Stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with him there is no partiality.

See also Colossians 3:20-24



The Fourth Commandment

- Parents are to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of their children.
- Children are to respect and learn from their parents.
- Subordinates are to obey their superiors as they are serving God by the work they do.
- Superiors are to treat their subordinates justly and fairly.
- Public authority is obliged to respect the fundamental rights of the individual
- Citizens has the duty to work with the civil authority to promote truth, justice and freedom.



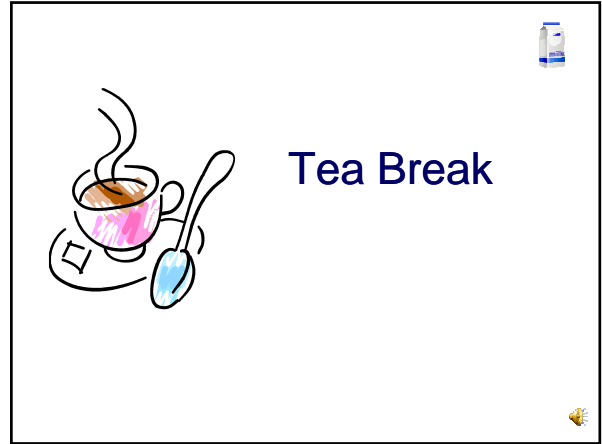
The Fourth Commandment

- Extends to all human relationship where one is vested with an authority over the other.
- The obligation is 2-way.
 - Parents-Children
 - Superior-Subordinate
 - Employer-Employee
 - Government/Society-Citizen



The Fourth Commandment

- Citizens are obliged *not* to follow the directives of the civil authority if they are contrary to morality
- Children are obliged *not* to obey their parents if the parents make immoral demands of them.
- "We must obey God rather than any human authority." - Acts 5:29
- "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple."
- Luke 14:26
- "Hate" in Hebrew = Total Detachment



Tea Break



Discussion

- What are the obstacles you commonly encountered in when trying to observe the Third Commandment?
- Discuss the mutual responsibility between parents / children, society / citizens.
- Discuss the circumstances under which children should disobey their parent, and citizens their government?



Recap

- The Third Commandment: Honour God's Days
 - Holy Days of Obligation
- The Fourth Commandment: Honour Your Father & Mother
 - Extends to all human relationship where one is vested with an authority over the other




Q&A




Further Readings

- *Path Through Catholicism*
(ISBN 0-7829-0971-X)
Chapter 19, 20



Notices



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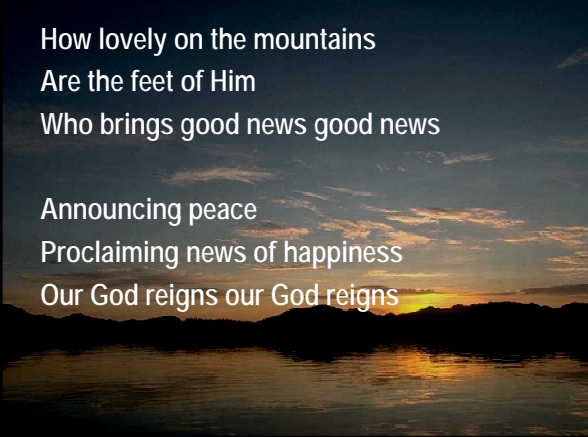
Our God Reigns

How lovely on the mountains
Are the feet of Him
Who brings good news good news

Announcing peace
Proclaiming news of happiness
Our God reigns our God reigns



Our God reigns
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Our God reigns
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