In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says:
"You have heard the commandment, ‘You shall not commit murder; every murderer shall be liable to judgement.’ What I say to you is: everyone who grows angry with a brother or sister shall be liable to judgement; anyone who uses abusive language toward another shall be answerable to the Sanhedrin.”

Our first reading was an enunciation of what we call the 10 Commandments. In a sense, the commandments are God’s instruction manual for living a healthy, happy life here with one another. Rather than being restrictions, the commandments are descriptions of how to live a wholesome, holy life in a community God has called into freedom.

The commandments are our best assurance against becoming slaves again in some Egypt or any other repressive regime, ideology or way of thinking. The commandments are our assurance of remaining free.

But wait! Doesn't today’s Gospel story contradict what Jesus says about anger being contrary to the commandment not to kill?

He's angry enough to drive out the sellers of oxen, sheep and doves. He's angry enough to overturn the money-changers tables.

As it turns out those sellers and money-changers are profiteering at the expense of the poor – the very people who have a special place in the heart of God.

Jesus is teaching by his action that not all anger is sinful, that sometimes anger can be righteous.

Some Bible scholars suggest that Jesus' action in today's Gospel story is a piece of street theater. Jesus is acting out God’s rejection of religious practice that is anything less than an expression of love.

In doing so Jesus is putting his life on the line for the sake of God’s love for those who are being exploited.
by the religious establishment.

What is really implied in our regularly signing ourselves with the CROSS? You might want to think about that this week. We sign ourselves with the cross twice at each Mass. Sometimes it can be done pretty mindlessly.

It implies:
   A willingness to go where Jesus has gone, to do what Jesus has done for the sake of those who are being used by systems that turn money into a god, into idolatry.

Ultimately, in some way, shape or form, our lives lead to the cross.

"Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles but to those who are called, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."