

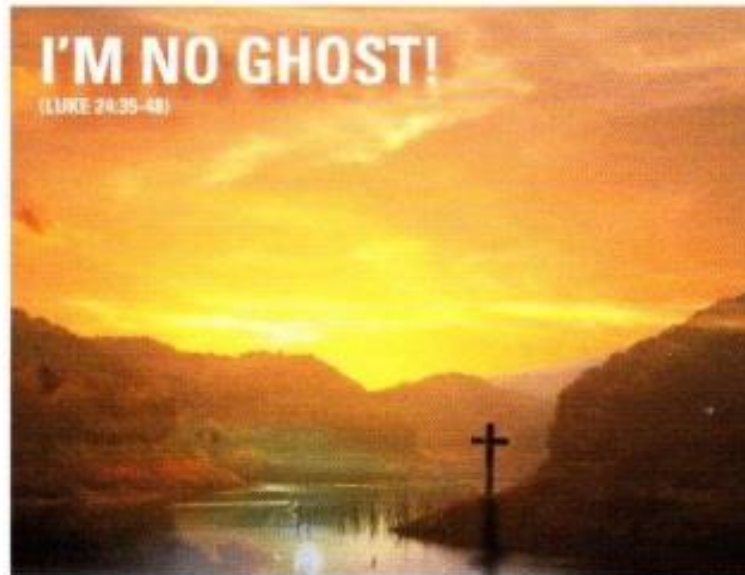
15 APRIL 2018

Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Pentecost Week 3



I'M NO GHOST!

(LUKE 24:35-48)

The two disciples who encountered the risen Jesus on the way to Emmaus have returned to Jerusalem and tell the others about their experience.

The Jesus they met was so different to the person they had known that they did not recognise him. In that story, Luke was underlining that Jesus was not resuscitated, like Lazarus, and brought back to the life he had lost, but now exists in a different kind of life. In the episode today, we are confronted with the other side of the resurrection coin, that it is indeed the same person who was crucified and buried who is now truly present among his disciples. Jesus is really present, but in a different way. He challenges them to touch his hands and his feet as proof – there is no mention here of wounds from the nails of the crucifixion. His eating of the fish also suggests a presence different to that of a ghost or spirit. But Luke is still portraying through narrative the life of the resurrection. The disciples simply cannot believe what they are seeing; they are overcome with joy. This apparent lack of belief is not the same as that which occurred during Jesus' ministry.

For Luke, Jerusalem is not simply a physical city: it is the focus of Jesus' journey, the place where God's plan of salvation will be worked out. He had said himself that it was not fitting that a prophet should perish outside Jerusalem. The risen Jesus now commands his disciples to carry his message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all the nations, "beginning from Jerusalem". Instead of being the destination to which Jesus is heading on his mission, Jerusalem will become the starting point for the disciples' mission to the Gentiles and will lose its significance in the process. The scene is set for Act Two of Luke's Gospel story in the Acts of the Apostles. That will commence with the final act in the Paschal Mystery at the feast of Pentecost. ■

LEARN

For Luke, Jerusalem is the place where the divine plan will be brought to its fulfilment.

To understand the Gospels properly, we need to bear in mind the Old Testament background: So at Mass, the first reading from the Jewish Scriptures is connected with the Gospel and sheds light on it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus explains what happened to him in the light of the Jewish Scriptures, which we call the Old Testament.

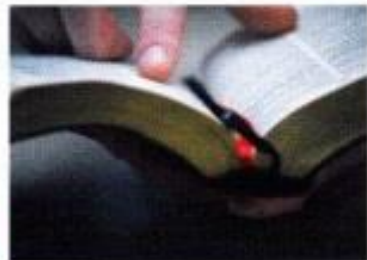
REFLECT

Catholics are familiar with the expression 'The Real Presence'. This refers to the presence of Christ in the Eucharistic bread reserved in the tabernacle. It tells us that Christ is truly (or really) present there. However, it can have the unfortunate and unintended consequence that we imagine that the Lord is only to be found among us in that particular way, that any other kind of presence is somehow unreal. This is not to say that people positively believe this, but we can slip into a way of thinking which limits the divine presence to special places and occasions, for instance Mass in church on Sunday. Somehow the Lord is absent from our lives for most of the time.

One of the lessons of Easter is that Christ cannot be limited by time and space or confined within human or earthly boundaries. This applies to theological and other kinds of speculation as well. We might reflect on the saying that 'bidden or unbidden, God is present'. ■

DO

Open a Bible which has cross-references for the Gospels: notice how often the Old Testament is quoted or alluded to. Look up some of these references and see if this sheds light on the Gospel passage you are reading.



SAY

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

SWINFORD MEELICK MIDFIELD
Fr Dermot Meehan Phone: 094-9251790/Urgent Calls: 087-1338200

PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.30am-2.30pm; Tues: 9.30am-1p.m;
Phone: 094 - 9253607
Email: swinews@hotmail.com **15th -22nd April 2018**

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 14th 6.30pm Swinford: John & Winifred Doyle, Lislackagh & Úna & Denis Deacy, Ashgrove
Bernadette O'Connor, Larch Hill & dec'd O'Connor & Hegarty Families

Sunday 15th 12 noon Swinford: Delia & T.J Solan & dec'd Family, Cullane
Molly & Ned Tunney & dec'd Family, Derryronane

Monday 16th 10.00am Swinford: Sadie Walsh & parents Michael & Anne, Market Street
& dec'd Walsh & Philbin Families

Tuesday 17th 10.00am Swinford: No Intention

Wednesday 18th 10.00am Swinford: Michael Feeney, Cullane

Thursday 19th 10.00am Swinford: No Intention

Friday 20th 10.00am Swinford: No Intention

Saturday 21st 10.00am Swinford: **First Holy Communion** (Please note: No 10am Mass)

Saturday 21st 1.00pm: Swinford: Elizabeth McGuinness, Culmore (MM)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 21st 6.30pm Swinford: Pat Coyne, Circular Road
John King & dec'd Family, Kinaffe

Sunday 22nd 12 noon Swinford: Mary & Michael Moore & dec'd Clarke & Moore Families
Annabel Lynn, Dorothy O'Brien, Betty & George Hennessy

Sunday 15th 9.00am Meelick: Peter & Delia Murphy & son Pete & Mai, Jim & Jimmy Woodlock

Sunday 22nd 9.00am Meelick: Kathleen McDonagh & her son Tim, Laughtadurkan (1st anniv)
Tom Jordan, Culleens

Sunday 15th 10.30am Midfield: Tom Lavin, Carnacul/Crossmolina
Paddy Campbell, Tullinahoo (MM) & his brother-in-law Patrick Campbell

Sunday 22nd 10.30am Midfield: Babe & Michael Muldowney & daughter Mary, Carnacul
Pat & Margaret King & son John & grandson Neil Kelly & son-in-law David Hope & dec'd King & Kelly Families

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Swinford Church: Sundays: 2pm-6pm & Thursdays 10.30am-8pm

Midfield Church: Mondays 11am-12noon

Meelick Church: Mondays 7pm-9pm

Please pray for Pat McHale, Bollingbrook Drive and Tom (Junior) McGuinness, Sancta Maria. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

The Annual Evening of Reflection for all Readers of the Word of God and Ministers of Holy Communion in the parishes of our cluster will take place in Kilmovee Community Centre on Tuesday, April 24th at 8p.m. It will be conducted by Fr Pat Lynch and Fr Vincent Sherlock. All Readers and Eucharistic Ministers are invited and encouraged to attend.

Major Mayo Conference: The Importance of the 8th Amendment in our Constitution on Sunday 22nd April at the Travellers Friend Hotel, Castlebar at 6pm. Speakers include Niamh Uí Bhriain, Darragh Calleary TD, Dr Fidelma Healy Eames, Peadar Toibin TD, Declan Ganley and others. All welcome.

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service has opportunities for committed and enthusiastic people to train to become Facilitators in Marriage Preparation. Volunteers would assist couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church. Please email accordcbar@eircom.net or Call 094-9022214.

40 Days and Nights Eucharistic Adoration on top of Croagh Patrick in Devotion for the Nation from 17th April – 26th May email 40daysandnightscroaghpatrick@gmail.com or contact 086-8389989.

Children's Music Classes: starting in O'Dwyer Arts Centre on Thursday 19th April from 5 pm-7pm. Contact 087-9049710.

Special Olympics Annual Collection Day takes place April 20th across Mayo and nationwide. Volunteers are urgently needed in Swinford Contact Breffni.Gorman@specialolympics.ie.

The Mayo Branch of Arthritis Ireland are holding a Sleep Wellness Workshop in the Cultural Centre, Swinford on Thursday 19th April from 10.30am. Call 087-4150663 or email: arthritismayobranh@gmail.com.

Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation: Monday April 16th at 7pm in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House Swinford. Contact 086 0700681.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for April 9th Numbers: 9 13 16 29; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Shauna Kelly, Derryroyane; Saju Joseph, Mace; 3 Number Winner: Dowseti,

Tullinahoo Cottage; Jackpot €4,8 00; Next Draw on Monday 16th April.

Swinford Irish Music Session in memory of the late Frank Burke 1930 – 2017. Frank was a native of Cuillonaughton and a regular visitor home. He will be fondly remembered on the night by many musicians who played with him over theyears. Please contact Cathal on 087-6412785.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Bolands and thanks to a generous sponsor Swinford Day Care Patient Fund is €485 better off.

Swinford Active Retirement are hosting a tea morning for Western Alzheimers on Friday 20th April at the Gateway Hotel from 1030am-12.00.

Thank You: to all who gave so generously to the Kidney Donor Week collection. A total of €1840 was raised .

Swinford Community Games will take place in Swinford Amenity Park on Monday, May 7th at 1pm. Entry €5 total per family, includes entry for all events. Any help would be greatly appreciated. All children living in the Swinford area, from preschool to under 16, are eligible.

Card Game in aid of Swinford Agricultural Show will be held in the Gateway Hotel on Sunday, April 15th at 8.30pm.

Swinford District & Gardening: On Tuesday 17th April, at 8.30pm in the Gateway Hotel, Roy Mortimer will give a talk on growing your own potatoes and vegetables. Non members €5.

Looking for Bakers: The annual Great Irish Bake in aid of Temple Street Children Hospital will take place in Tesco Swinford on Fri 20th April. If you are willing to bake for this event, items can be dropped into Tesco on the day.

Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw: Draw No. 10: €1000 was won by Damien Mc.Grath, Castlebar; €300 was won by Mary & Iorna Burke, 1 Brabazon Heights; €200 was won by Martin & Annie Mcneela, Cloonlumney. Thanks for supporting our draw.

Killaturley Water Co-op would like to inform members that a major flushing/cleaning programme of all pipes in the network will take place from 16th -27th April in all areas.

New Dance Class starting on Sunday 22nd April in the Davitt Lounge, Straide. Beginners 7pm & Improvers at 8pm. Dancing till 10pm. Contact Frank on 087-9809432 for more information.