

18 MARCH 2018

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



The hour of Jesus has arrived. He has reached the end of his public ministry, which reached its climax in the raising of Lazarus from the dead, the action which, ironically, leads to the plot to put Jesus to death.

The coming of the Greeks denotes the gathering of all people to Jesus when he is glorified, which will happen on the cross. Jesus' death is the ultimate expression of his self-giving in fulfilling his mission from God. This attitude is what he expects of his disciples. We should understand the idea of loving or hating one's life in the sense of asking ourselves where our real values in life lie. Do we love the things of this world and would rather hold on to them at any cost, or are we prepared to let them go so that we can receive something infinitely more satisfying in this life and the next?

Throughout his Gospel, the evangelist whom we call John presents Jesus as knowing everything and being in complete control. We have seen how the cross is the instrument of Jesus' being lifted up in glory (exalted). But this does not take away the terror of being crucified. There is no account in John of the struggle of Jesus in Gethsemane to remain faithful to his mission, which is leading him to Calvary. But Jesus does shudder in the face of death on more than one occasion. Here he says, "Now my soul is troubled", but accepts that this is the way in which the Father is to be glorified.

We have seen that God loved the world. However, the term appears in different senses in the Fourth Gospel, and here it is used in a negative sense, being linked to the forces opposed to God, personified in "the prince of this world". Here we have the idea of the people who reject Jesus and his message. Judgment will be pronounced on them, but a judgment which they have decided and brought upon themselves. Those who accept Jesus and become truly his disciples will be honoured by the Father and will be where he is. ■

REFLECT

One of the most significant changes in the celebration of the Eucharist has been enabling people to receive Holy Communion in the hand.

Perhaps as we reflect on today's Gospel, we might see this simple gesture as an expression of what it means to be willing to accept Jesus and his message. First of all, our hands are open. We are indicating that we are ready to receive the bread of life, Jesus' teaching and himself in the Eucharistic bread.

Secondly, our hands are empty. In normal circumstances, if our hands are closed, then we cannot receive what someone is offering us. Our hands might be forming a fist or clutching onto something which we are determined not to let go. This is what Jesus means by loving our life and clinging onto the wrong things. We believe that at communion time we receive Jesus into ourselves. The gesture of opening our hands and holding them up expresses physically the opening up of our deepest selves to receive God's gift. ■

LEARN

The hour of Jesus is John's way of referring to the event of Jesus' being glorified on the cross.

This event encompasses the entire paschal mystery of Jesus' death, entry into his glorified life and the bestowing of the Spirit on his disciples.

The expression *Agony in the Garden* might be better understood as Jesus' *Struggle in Gethsemane*.

DO

If you receive Communion in the hand, reflect on the physical action as you perform it. If you receive Communion on the tongue, ask yourself why, and what this gesture means to you.



SAY

Father, glorify your name!

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 **18th – 25th Mar 2018**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 17th	6.30pm	Swinford: No Mass
Sunday 18th	12 noon	Swinford: Paddy Doyle & his daughter-in-law Veronica & Owen & Delia O'Brien & dec'd Family, Tullinacurra Bill & Eileen Ormsby, Park Road & dec'd Ormsby & Clarke Families
Monday 19th	10.00am	Swinford: Brendan McNulty, Ballintample Josie Peyton, Derryronane (M.M) & his brother Francie & parents
Tuesday 20th	10.00am	Swinford: Andy Foley & parents, Derryronane John & Peggy McCann, Derryronane
Wednesday 21st	10.00am	Swinford: Kathleen Conway (nee Lynskey), Bristol/Killaturley
Thursday 22nd	10.00am	Swinford: Bridget & Michael Callaghan & dec'd Family, Tullinacurra
Friday 23rd	10.00am	Swinford: Human Life International Ireland Teresa & Keira Henry, Ballydrum
Saturday 24th	10.00am	Swinford: Joe Prendergast, Circular Road (1 st anniv) & dec'd Prendergast & Doherty Families Tom Mackey, Rathúnas (1 st anniv)

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Saturday 24th	6.30pm	Swinford: Hubert & Catherine Gallagher & dec'd Family, Cloonfinaun Jim & Mary McCann & daughter Margaret & son Jim, Kilbride
Sunday 25th	12 noon	Swinford: Annabel Lynn, Dorothy O'Brien & Betty & George Hennessy Richard & Pat Gallagher & parents & dec'd Family, Carrowreagh

Sunday 18th	9.00am	Meelick: Sabina & Timothy Mulroy, Laughtadurkin & dec'd Mulroy & Burke Families Mary & Vincent Roughneen
Sunday 25th	9.00am	Meelick: Feena & Seamus Durkan & his parents Kathleen & Peter, Ardhoome Martin & Mary Doyle & daughter Teresa Higgins & dec'd Doyle & Murphy Families

Sunday 18th	10.30am	Midfield: Ann & John Jennings & daughter Helen Dec'd of the Prendergast Family, Woods & The McLoughlin Family, Kinaffe & The McNicholas Family, Cashelsheenaughane & Ellie & Walter Bradish
Sunday 25th	10.30am	Midfield: Tom & Mary Doyle & son-in-law John Fahey, Kinaffe Paddy & Noreen Ryan, Johnsfort & granddaughter Tara

Please pray for Paddy Kneafsey, Sweetwell; Eddie Molloy, Dromada Joyce; Michael Doyle, Kent (brother of Valerie Clarke, Derryronane). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

Tyler Matthew Kelly, Treenkeel and Daithí James Gormley, Tullinahoo who were baptised recently in Midfield Church.

Palm Sunday: Sunday next, March 25th, is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week in the Church's yearly calendar when we reflect on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus and its meaning for us now. Palms will be blessed at all Masses next weekend.

Confessions for Easter: Visiting priests will be available for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance in Swinford church on Sunday, March 25th from 6p.m. to 7p.m. Please take this opportunity to make your confession in preparation for Easter.

Annual Loreto Vigil at Knock: The 23rd Eucharistic Loreto Vigil will take place at Knock Shrine on Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th March. The Vigil will begin at 8.30pm with Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction & Veneration of the Precious Relic from the Holy House of Loreto. Mass will take place at 11.30pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel with celebrant Fr Brendan Walsh, SAC.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for March 12th Numbers: 10 14 15 21; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Marion Maloney, Curryane; Patrica Tunney, Cloonlara; 3 Number Winners: John Henry, c/o Mellett's Pub; Fintan Ryan, Carracanada; K Coleman, Ballydrum; W Gerraghty, Bollinbrook; Jackpot €4,000 Next Draw on Monday 20th March.

O'Dwyer Arts Centre: Professional Traditional Musician offers tuition on tin whistle, flute, uilleann pipes & fiddle. Children 5 - 12 years beginners, improvers & advanced levels welcome. Private lessons can also be arranged with teacher. For information and to enrol for classes contact 087-9049710 or 086-6096590.

Dublin 2 Mayo Tractor Run: Raising funds for the Special Baby Unit in Mayo University Hospital and Crumlin Children's Hospital. Event takes place in Breaffy House Hotel on Sat 31st March. Raffle for Massey Ferguson 35X on the night and many more super prizes. Music by

Pamela Gilmartin, Marty One and D.J. Tommy Elliot. All welcome.

Swinford & District Gardening club: On Tuesday 27th March at 8.30pm in the Gateway Hotel Roy Mortimer will give a talk on growing your own potatoes and vegetables. He will also demonstrate his very successful and proven method of growing potatoes in containers. It will be of interest to all those with or without a garden. Non members €5, All welcome.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Moores and Joe Gallagher won €462. Next draw is in Quinns on the 20th March.

Foxford Traditional Singing and Poetry Group: will meet in the Mayfly Hotel on Thursday, March 29th at 9.15pm. All welcome.

Guitar and Keyboard/Piano lessons: are being held near Swinford. These are 1 to 1 lessons with a qualified and experienced music teacher. First introductory lesson is free. Contact Tony Roberts on 087-7625254.

Holy Face Public Vigil: Takes place on Good Friday at 12 noon at the Square Swinford.

Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw: Draw no 8 was held on Friday 9th March and €1000 was won by Brendan Walsh, Claremorris; €300 was won by David Brennan, Doughiska, Galway City; €200 was won by Eddie Casey, Swinford.

Wreath making for all occasions: Enjoy a free crafting demonstration all about wreath making for all occasions, at the National Museum of Ireland-country Life, Turlough Park, Castlebar, on Saturday, March 24th drop in at 11.30am or 3pm for these open craft sessions with the Connacht Textile Crafters. No booking required, Admission free.

Martin Sheridan Day Bohola takes place on Monday 2nd April. The Bohola Community and Swinford Athletics invite you to join in the commemoration of Ireland's greatest ever Olympic Athlete, Martin Sheridan by participating in 8k Family Fun Run/ Walk starting at 11am (€ 5 or family rate) 8K Mixed Teams (2 males + 2 females) Relay Road Race starting at 12pm. Team entries for relay €30. Contact Michael Oliver 086-8196511.

Book Club: Would you like to share your love of books and reading at a new book club starting in Swinford library? Why not come alone to our first meeting on Tuesday March 20th at 6.30pm. Adults only please.