

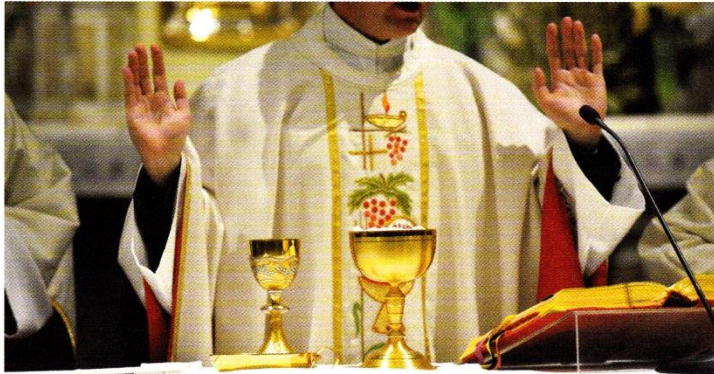
19TH AUGUST 2018

Sunday Message

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



EAT MY FLESH AND DRINK MY BLOOD

(JOHN 6: 51-58)

The Gospel of today is a continuation of last Sunday's sermon by Jesus on the bread of life. The initial sentence takes up the theme from where he left off.

Jesus is the living bread who has come down from heaven and anyone who eats this bread will live forever. The other component is the sacrificial aspect of his teaching, for although he gives us his flesh to eat, he will also sacrifice his flesh for the life of the world. Following on from these important theological points, the Jews begin to argue amongst themselves. We noted last week that their problem rests with the fact that Jesus is known to them as a son of a simple carpenter. But in this scene they are asking the question, "how can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

We know from our reading of Mark's Gospel during the months of June and July that there is an inherent deficiency in the religious practices of the day. It is often said that John the Baptist took to the hills, abandoning the rituals of his own faith, in search of something more life-giving and enriching. Jesus' sermon today states that he draws life and energy from God the Father and anyone "who eats my flesh and drinks my blood ... will draw life from me". This is the definition of the Eucharist and this is what the initial followers of Jesus craved. A life in God through the life-giving body of Jesus. ■

REFLECT

How can this man give us flesh to eat? Not a bad question, some of us might say. But for difficult vocabulary and questions like this, it is always good to consult what the scholars say. Ciaran O' Callaghan CSsR and Bishop Robert Barron both state that the idea of eating someone's flesh and drinking his blood is bound to cause a reaction of shock and horror amongst the Jews. But when we hear this language through the lens of our Christian faith and heritage, we know Jesus is talking about the Eucharist. The gift of life and our intimate

contact with Jesus will come in our participation at Mass. Flesh and blood is another way of communicating the intimacy that exists between God and his chosen people.

We often reserve the word 'intimacy' for the realm of relationships and friendships. The word reflects closeness, a bond that exists between two people, and an intimate union that reflects the love of God. At many weddings, you will often hear the priest say that the face of God is made visible through the celebration

SAY

"To love God is something greater than to know Him."

(St Thomas Aquinas)

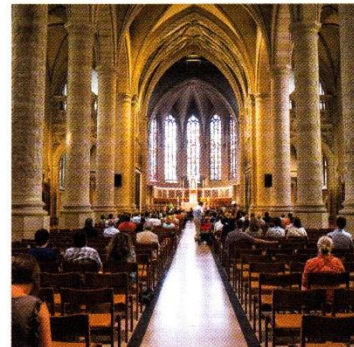
LEARN

"With the Eucharist the intimacy becomes total; the embrace between God and humanity reaches its apex."

(John Paul II, General audience, October 11, 2000)

DO

Pray for a strengthening of belief in the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith. With Mass attendance figures in decline across many countries, we must never cease to preach the Good News of Christ's presence.



of marriage and two people committing themselves in fidelity to each other. It was St Alphonsus in the 18th century who first put forward the idea of the intimate love of Jesus Christ, made present and visible through the Eucharist. So the next time you receive the flesh and blood of Christ, reflect on the intimate friendship that is offered to us through the Eucharist. This is a friendship that gives life through Christ's body. May we continue to nourish this relationship through our prayer and participation at Mass. ■

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 **19th – 26th Aug 2018**

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 18th	6.30pm	Swinford: Mary Brady, Rabawn & her husband Pat (1 st anniv) Kevin Forkan, Fraunhill & Teresa Forkan, Kinaffe (1 st anniversaries) & dec'd Forkan, Murtagh & Fadden Families Eileen & Tom Price, Cullane
Sunday 19th	12 noon	Swinford: Patrick Devaney & dec'd Family, Drumshinnagh, Culmore
Monday 20th	10.00am	Swinford: Peadar Cassidy, Brabazon Heights
Tuesday 21st	10.00am	Swinford: Dec'd Callaghan Family, Tullinacurra Special Intention
Wednesday 22nd	10.00am	Swinford: Michael & Julia Fox, Birmingham /Oak Drive John McNicohlas, Sweetwell & dec'd McNicohlas & O'Brien Families & Peter Durkan & dec'd Family, Cargaballagh, Killasser
Thursday 23rd	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Friday 24th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Saturday 25th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 25th	6.30pm	Swinford: Dennis, Kathleen, Matthew & James McCarthy, Kilbride Pat Goff, Park Road Michael & Breege Gleeson, Cloonlara & dec'd Durkan & Gleeson Families Phyllis Pidgeon, Park Road
Sunday 26th	12 noon	Swinford: No Mass

Sunday 19th	9.00am	Meelick: J.P McNicohlas & parents Michael & Annie & his sister Nancy & her husband Liam William & Brigid Gallagher, Tullyroe & daughter Vera & sons Billy & John & Billy's wife Eileen Page
Sunday 26th	9.00am	Meelick: No Mass

Sunday 19th	10.30am	Midfield: Tom Hanley, Glenamaddy & Teresa Lavin, Pontoon/ Manchester & dec'd Families
Sunday 26th	10.30am	Midfield: No Mass

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 Joe Thompson, Tower View, Meelick and Tom Gallagher, Achill and London (husband of Julia Keane, Faheens). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community Maedbh Catherine Gallagher, London who was baptised recently in Swinford Church and Síomha Mae Lynn, Cork and Pearse Martin Halligan, Swinford who were baptised recently in Midfield Church

Change of Mass times: Please note that next weekend, August 25th and 26th, due to the visit of Pope Francis, there will be a Vigil Mass in Swinford Church on Saturday, August 25th at 6.30p.m. and there will also be a Vigil Mass in Midfield Church on Saturday, August 25th at 8.00p.m. There will be no Masses in Meelick, Midfield or Swinford churches on Sunday, August 26th. On Sunday evening, August 26th, there will be Mass in Kilmovee Church at 6.00p.m. and in Kilkelly Church at 7.30p.m.

Celebration to mark the Opening of WMOF: This week Ireland will host the World Meeting of Families and the visit of Pope Francis to Dublin and Knock. To mark this special week, there will be a celebration in the Cathedral in Ballaghaderreen on Tuesday evening next, August 21st at 8p.m. The theme of this celebration will be the message of Venerable Patrick Peyton, CSC, The family that prays together stays together and a World at prayer is a world at peace. It will include a short presentation on the life and message of Fr Peyton, a native of Attymass in our diocese who became famous as 'The Rosary Priest' because of his promotion of the family Rosary at monster rallies all over the world in the 1950s and 60s. Recitation of the Rosary will be the centre of the celebration and this will be led by families from all the parishes in the diocese. All are welcome to this celebration.

25 Card Drive: The proceeds from the 25 Card Drive in the Gateway Hotel for the next three Sunday nights will go towards Swinford Tidy Towns. Game commences at 8.30p.m. and all are welcome.

O'Dwyer Arts Centre: Yoga classes starting on Thursday 6th Sept 11am - 12pm cost €6 per class. Tutor Pat Kirby. Zumba dance classes starting on Wednesday 5th Sept 7 pm - 8 pm Tutor Pascale.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Horkans and Noreen Kelly of Castleroyan, Kiltimagh won €566. Next draw on 21st August.

Swinford Community Lotto Results for 13th August; Numbers 13 15 26 28; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; ED Bredican Cloonfauine; Jessica O'Grady Killasser; 3 Number winners; None; Jackpot €4,600 Next Draw Monday 20th August in Moores.

ISPC Childline Mayo will be holding Group Information & Interview dates in Castlebar on Weds 5th & Thurs 6th of Sept from 6-7.30pm where you can come along and hear all about volunteering with us & what's involved.

Training is due to commence in Oct which will be held over evenings & Saturdays. Contact Caroline on 094-9025254 for more details.

Community Participation Network Mayo "learning to speak up for myself" Commences in Sept in the Culture Centre Swinford. Registration is on 20th Sept. The 6 week course starts on 27th Sept from 10am-1pm. Contact Carmel on 087-2125340/info@mayocil.ie for more details.

Training Opportunities: We train early school leavers, LCA students and people who would benefit from additional learning supports. Our courses will develop your skills and confidence to open up new opportunities for further training. We offer Sports Studies, Employment Skills, Business, IT & Office courses and more. Contact Castlebar@nl.n.ie; or (094) 9022770.

Children's Art Camp from 20th - 23rd August 10 am - 12.30 pm. Deposit of €10 required to secure a place. Contact Teresa 087-0559537.

Crochet classes starting on 4th September for 6 weeks 11 am - 1 pm deposit of €10 to secure a place beginners welcome.

Western Care Association Church Gate Collections: Western Care would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed to the recent Church Gate Collection which raised €470.63 Swinford, €210.59 Midfield and €58.65 Meelick. A Special Thank You to all the Collectors, without their support the collection would not be possible.

Horkans Garden Centre: are delighted to announce the return of our Summer Family Farm in our Turlough Store from the 16th to 26th August. Free and everyone is welcome! For more information visit www.horkans.ie