

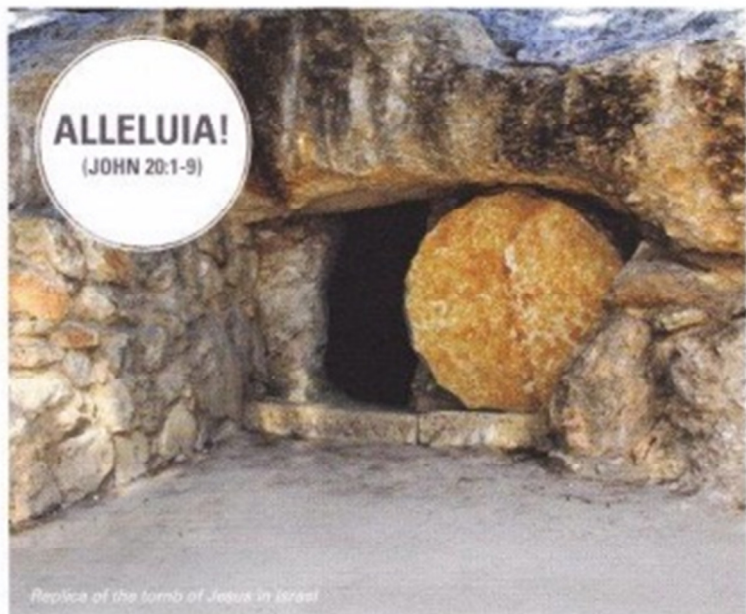
1 APRIL 2017

Sunday Message

EASTER DAY

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



For John, the story of Jesus ended on the cross. For the Fourth Evangelist, the crucifixion is Jesus' being lifted up in exaltation and the Paschal Mystery is complete. However, the story of the disciples is not yet properly concluded. Today we hear the account of three of them at the empty tomb of Jesus.

The scene is set still in darkness, which indicates a state of unbelief. Mary Magdalene is the first to visit the tomb, alone in John's account. The possibility of Jesus' being risen from the dead does not occur to her: she assumes that unknown parties have removed the corpse. There is no indication that Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved think any differently as they run to the sepulchre. In the Johannine tradition, the person usually called the Beloved Disciple, who is the source of that particular memory of Jesus, outruns Peter; this is an indication of his priority in the community. He stops outside and peers in. Peter enters the tomb before him, which is a sign of Peter's rank of authority among the disciples.

They are confronted with details which remind us of the story of the raising of Lazarus, but which underscore the difference between that and what has happened to Jesus. Lazarus came out of the tomb still wrapped in the cloths of death, his face covered with a cloth. In Jesus' case, the cloths are lying empty on the ground and the cloth over his head is neatly folded elsewhere. The mention of the cloth being folded and the stone over the entrance to the tomb having been moved away hint that God has been active in all this. The unnamed disciple sees the symbols of death's defeat – the empty tomb, the linen cloths, the cloth which had been over Jesus' head – and he believed. It is important that we note that he believes without seeing the risen Jesus. This will be the final teaching of Jesus in the phrase often called the Johannine Beatitude: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe". The evangelist is speaking to us – and about us! ■

SAY

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water. Think of your baptism and renew your friendship with the Risen Christ.

REFLECT

The empty tomb proves nothing. It can only tell us that *He is not here*. The characters in the Gospel story, with the exception of the disciple whom Jesus loved, come to believe that Jesus is risen through an encounter which conveys revelation from God, either by angels or by meeting the risen Jesus. That the tomb is empty is a consequence of the resurrection, not a proof of it. No one saw Jesus rise from the dead, contrary to the impression given by certain pictures which suggest the opposite.

The resurrection is the core Christian belief. But the basic Christian attitude is not belief in a set of doctrines (the Creed, for example), but a personal relationship with and commitment to Jesus Christ. This relationship is described by the Fourth Evangelist as one of love, hence the *disciple Jesus loved* is the one shown as being closest to him. Mary Magdalene figures prominently in the story of Easter morning, which suggests that she falls into the same category. They are provided as models for us to reflect on and hopefully to imitate. ■



LEARN

The Easter message is *Christ is risen!* - Not Jesus is alive!

Alleluia is made up of two Hebrew words: *Allelu* is a plural command meaning *Praise!*; *Yah* is a form of the divine name and means the Lord. Alleluia therefore means *Praise the Lord!*

Mary Magdalene is called in Christian tradition *the apostle of the apostles*.

In the Fourth Gospel, 'the disciple whom Jesus loved', and who is the regarded as a special source of the Gospel's tradition, is never identified by the name of John.

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 **1st – 8th April 2018**

EASTER DAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

Saturday 31st	9.00pm	Swinford: The Easter Vigil
Sunday 1st	12 noon	Swinford: Joe Cummins, Brabazon Heights Jack & Betsy Campbell & son Michael, Tyrone
Monday 2nd	11.00am	Swinford: Robert McCallion, Park Road Sr Margaret Mary Jordan, Newcastle Margaret Nolan, Manchester
Tuesday 3rd	10.00am	Swinford: Vinnie Gallagher & dec'd Family, Mill Street Hubert Fitzpatrick, Dublin Road/ Logcurragh
Wednesday 4th	10.00am	Swinford: Michael Doyle, Kent (M.M) (Padre Pio Devotions after Mass)
Thursday 5th	10.00am	Swinford: Anne & Joe Dunleavy, Johnsfort
Friday 6th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Saturday 7th	10.00am	Swinford: Dec'd Comer & Brown Families, Rathscanlon Sr Dolores Gallagher, Sisters of Mercy (M.M)

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 7th	6.30pm	Swinford: Daniel McGee, Dungleae, Co.Donegal Tony Moore, Newpark
Sunday 8th	12 noon	Swinford: Mona & Martin Tunney, Cloonacannana Michael McNulty, Carnacul

Sunday 1st	9.00am	Meelick: Ann & William Murphy, Bothaul & dec'd Killilea, Murphy & Roache Families
Sunday 8th	9.00am	Meelick: No Intention

Sunday 1st	10.30am	Midfield: Maisie & John Fahey & dec'd Family, Brackloon Mary, Kathleen & Michael Philbin & Julie & Pat Campbell & Ellie, Jim & John Murtagh, Woods & Tom, Kevin & Niamh Basquil
Sunday 8th	10.30am	Midfield: Winnie & Martin Gorman & dec'd Family, Woods William & Bridget Heaney & dec'd Heaney & Gallagher Families, Midfield

Please pray for Joseph Conneely, USA (husband of Hannah Lavin, Culleens); Michael John Hastings, (brother-in-law of Tommy Durkan, Kinaffe & Liam Cavanagh, Bollingbrook Drive). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

Joseph Xavier Foy, Oldcastle who was baptised in Meelick Church recently.

Holy Water and Blessing of Homes: Bottles of Holy Water blessed at Easter will be available in all our churches this weekend. Every family is invited to bring a bottle of Holy Water home and also a copy of the blessing for your home which is being provided as part of the preparation for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August this year. All are encouraged to pray this blessing for your home in these Easter days.

Please note Mass in Swinford Church on Easter Monday morning will be at 11a.m.

Ordinations to the Permanent Diaconate: On Easter Monday, Kevin Flynn of Collooney parish and Martin Lynch of Kiltimagh parish will be ordained deacons by Bishop Brendan Kelly, Bishop of Galway in the Church of St James, Charlestown at 2p.m. Martin and Kevin will serve the Church in our diocese as permanent deacons. Please keep Kevin and Martin, their wives and families in your prayers this weekend. All are welcome to the Ordination Mass in Charlestown.

Trócaire boxes: Please return Trócaire boxes to the churches from this weekend. Many thanks to all who give generously to support Trócaire's work in the developing world.

Parish Pastoral Council: The April meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, April 9th at 9.30p.m.

World Meeting of Families 2018: To attend the Festival of Families in Dublin during the 21-26 August you must register on-line for tickets to the events and to the closing Mass with Pope Francis. Please visit www.worldmeetingoffamilies2018.ie to register as early as possible as booking is essential. Only those who will have tickets will be admitted to the various events during these days.

Stand Up For Life Rallies: will take place in Athlone on April 4th at 6p.m. (venue:

McCormack Hall, Athlone) and in Galway on April 5th at 6p.m. (venue: Leisureland, Salthill).

Kiddies Easter Egg Hunt On Easter Sunday in Brabazon Woodlands beside the playground at 2pm. free event, (No dogs allowed). This is a lovely annual event for children organised by Swinford Tidy Towns and Joe Mellett.

Bone Marrow for leukemia: Thank you to all who contributed Swinford €310.30, Midfield €128.10, Meelick €120.58.

Daffodil Day: A huge thank you to everyone who once again gave so generously this year. The total raised was €8989.10.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in The Sheepwalk and The Sheepwalk Bar won €416. Next draw is in Horkans on the 3rd April.

Table Quiz: There will be a GAA fundraising Quiz in The Sheepwalk Bar on Friday 27th April 9pm. (Note new date).

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for March 26th Numbers: 10 14 17 28; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners : Moore's staff; Renee McDonnell, Killasser; 3 Number Winners: Ann Kirrane, Circular Rd; JP & Phil Reynolds, c/o Julian's; Jackpot €4,400; Next Draw on Tuesday 3rd April in Quinns pub.

The First Saturdays Devotion is being hosted in Knock on Saturday 7th April. Starts at 11.00am with Rosary, meditations, and concluding with Holy Mass at 12.00 noon, Confessions and Enrollment of the free brown scapulars. Everyone is invited to attend to benefit from Our Lady's heavenly promises.

Go For Life Games and Bocce for over 55's will be held in the Cultural Centre Swinford by the Swinford Go Getters on Thursday 12th April 10.30 to 12.30. Admission €2, All welcome. Refreshments served.

Chiropodist: Martin McNally will attend at the Gateway Hotel Swinford on Fri 6th April from 10.00am. Please note change of venue.

Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw: Results of Draw no.9: €1000 was won by Dymna & Jimmy O'Donnell, Logcurragh, Swinford; €300 was won by Vincent Roughneen, Lissanumera, Swinford; €200 was won by Lorna Benson, Convent Rd, Claremorris. Thanks to all for supporting our draw.

Swinford A.C: Huge congrats to Craig Evans, Brookville Avenue who was last Tuesday night's winner of our lotto draw winning €218.