

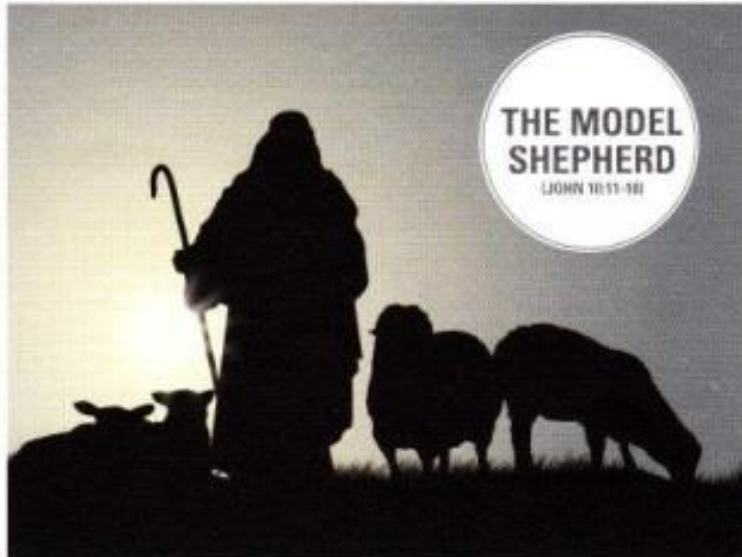
22 APRIL 2018

# Sunday Message

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 4



The image of the shepherd is often used in the Bible to describe the kings or other leaders of the people of Israel.

However, it is frequently used in a negative sense to accuse such people of abusing their position of authority and trust to exploit the people to their own advantage. Jesus here is contrasting himself with those who really do not care for the flock and abandon their post when the going gets tough.

Jesus describes himself as the model shepherd, one who has a deep, intimate relationship with each of the members of the flock. His commitment to the flock goes to the supreme sacrifice of laying down his life for them. The relationship between Jesus and the flock is that Jesus will freely die a violent death but take up his life again because the Father loves him. The prophet Ezekiel had looked forward to a shepherd-messiah like David, who would gather the people as one flock under one shepherd. Jesus presents himself as the one who fulfills this scripture by his unconditional self-giving and taking up his life again. But all this is at the command of the Father: in all things Jesus is obedient to the Father's will. There is also a broader dimension to the mission of Jesus: it encompasses also sheep who are not of the fold of Israel. The idea of who the Messiah is and what his mission is broadened well beyond what the people of the time were expecting. ■

## REFLECT

Some words are used so often and in so many different contexts that they lose any real meaning. One such word is the adjective *good*. What do we mean if we describe Jesus as 'the good shepherd'? The word used in the Gospel has more the sense of *model, ideal or authentic*. What Jesus is saying is that he is the model shepherd for his disciples.

In this part of the world, the shepherd walks behind the flock, which is kept in line by a dog. In the biblical world, the shepherd walks in front and the

sheep follow. In the Gospel reading the relationship between Jesus and the disciples is compared with that of Jesus and the Father, which John the evangelist presents as one of close intimacy. Another word for shepherd is *pastor*. Pastors have a responsibility, a 'duty of care' for those members of the Church entrusted to them. Another term for the Church is the *People of God*. Perhaps we need to reflect more on the relationship between the members of the People of God and see authority more in terms

of service and charity than of power. Authority basically means enabling people to grow. If Jesus is described as the model shepherd then he is the yardstick against whom anyone who holds authority in the Church, among the People of God, is to be measured. Someone pointed out once that in our culture the flock is made up of female members controlled by a male with a black coat and white collar. Jesus' image is rather more inclusive, positive and encouraging. ■

## LEARN

The Lord is called *The Shepherd of Israel* in the Hebrew Scriptures.

The kings and leaders of the people of Israel are described as the shepherds of the people.

The fourth Gospel presents Jesus as very much aware of the close relationship between himself and the Father.

The only commandment in the Fourth Gospel is that the disciples love one another as Jesus has loved them.

## SAY

I know my own sheep and my own know me.



## DO

Make a list of what you expect a model shepherd to be. Discuss this with other parishioners. Make your views known the next time a vacancy for a priest for your parish or bishop for your diocese arises.

**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** **22<sup>nd</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Pat Coyne, Circular Road John King, Kinaffe & dec'd Family
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary & Michael Moore & dec'd Clarke & Moore Families Annabel Lynn, Dorothy O'Brien, Betty & George Hennessy
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Human Life International Ireland
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Phil & Jim Dunleavy, Johnsfort/Coventry James & Mary Kate O'Malley & son Tony & daughter Kitty & her husband Sonny Hanley & brother-in-law Jim Gallagher, Killaturley
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Eddie Molloy, Dromada Joyce (MM) & son Michael

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Julia & Anthony Lynskey & dec'd Family, Newpark Willie & Bea Mellett & Mary Mellett, Market Street & dec'd Mellett & Roddy Families & Mary Hopkins
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary Nolan & parents & Mick Neylon, Derryronane Patrick Mc Elhatton

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<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Kathleen McDonagh & her son Tim, Laughtadurkan (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv) Tom Jordan, Culleens
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Theresa O'Hara & Tom O'Neill & dec'd O'Neill Family, Knockavilla

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<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Babe & Michael Muldowney & daughter Mary, Carnacul Pat & Margaret King & son John & grandson Neil Kelly & son-in-law David Hope & dec'd King & Kelly Families
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Annie & George Brogan & son John & his wife Mary & Grandson John Keevans Michael Regan, Mary Basquil, Anne Keane & Johnny Healy & dec'd Durkan, Philbin, Regan, Basquil & Healy 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** Kevin Morley, Fraunhill. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

**Congratulations** and every blessing to Grace Harkin and Razi Rizvi who were married recently in Swinford Church.

**Mission Appeal:** Next weekend we will welcome Fr Emilian of the Rosminian Order who will speak at all Masses on the work of the Rosminians and make a mission appeal.

**Vocation Sunday 2018** "Today the Lord continues to call others to follow him. We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous "yes", nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord. To listen to that voice, to discern our personal mission in the church and the world, and at last to live in the today that God gives us." - Pope Francis. Priesthood in Achonry Diocese-It is worth saying "yes" to God. Contact Our Vocations Director, Fr Paul Kivlehan, The Presbytery, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. Tel 094-9860011/087-3683535 or E-mail pkivlehan@achonrydiocese.org or contact any local priest for more information.

**Quiet Days for Busy People Day Retreat:** The last in the spring/summer series, the 'Quiet Day' retreat will take place Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April in the Prayer Guidance Centre, Knock. The theme for the day is 'New Life'!, with a focus on spring and new beginnings. Taking place from 11am-3pm. (fee €30 includes lunch) to book, phone 094-9375355.

**Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for April 16<sup>th</sup> Numbers: 3 8 9 10; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Mary Lavin Snr, Cultrasna; Philip & Caroline Irwin, C/O Sheepwalk; 3 Number Winners: Julie and Marie, C/O Moore's; Mathew Cronnolly, C/O Sheepwalk; Andy McCawley, Ballina; Jackpot €5,000; Next Draw on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

**GAA 50/50:** This week's draw was held in Julians and Mary Regan of Tullinacurra won €456. Next draw is 24<sup>th</sup> April in Melletts.

**Table Quiz:** There will be a GAA Quiz in The Sheepwalk Bar on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 9pm.

**Wedding Speech:** Wedding Speech nerves? Contact John at Your Speech, The Wedding Speech Professional on 086-1529429 or visit [www.yourspeech.ie](http://www.yourspeech.ie)

**All Ireland Rosary Rally** takes place in Knock Shrine on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Main celebrant: Most Rev. Bishop Kevin Doran. Homilist: Fr John Walsh O.P.

**Barnacogue N.S:** A Cash for Clobber collection takes place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May. We would welcome any of your unwanted, used clothes, bags, belts, shoes, household textiles, tea towels, cushion covers, curtains & bed linen (no duvets or pillows). You can drop your clobber (in bags) into the school between 9.30am & 3.00pm, Monday to Friday before 18<sup>th</sup> May. What a great opportunity to clear out your wardrobes while helping the school to fundraise. Your support is much appreciated.

**Foxford Traditional Singing and Poetry Group:** will meet in The Mayfly Hotel on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9.15pm. All welcome.

**Gardening Club** Day Trip to Galway on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Breakfast in Trapper's Inn, guided tours of St. Brigid's Garden Roscahill and Celtic Crystal factory and Visitor Centre, shopping at Terryland shopping centre, visit to McGaughs Gardening Centre, dinner on return journey. Total €48. Contact Angela 087-6520311.

**Mayo Stroke Support Group** will host an Information Evening on 'Understanding Stroke as a Family' in the TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April from 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

**Coláiste Néifinn** is an Irish Summer College for 12 - 18 year olds. An enrolment evening will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April in The Manor Hotel Ballina and on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April in the TF, Castlebar at 6pm. For more information phone 087-3573778.

**O'Dwyer Arts Centre** are hosting Alzheimer's Tea Day on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> May from 10.30am

**Gallagher House Services:** Our annual 8km run, jog/walk will take place from Kilmactigue Community Centre (beside playground) on Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Registration is from 6pm on the day. Contact 071-9120624 for more details.

**A Conference** to save the Eight Amendment in our constitution will be held in the T.F Hotel Castlebar on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 6pm. Guest speakers on the night are Dara Calleary TD, Niamh Uí Bhriain Life Institute, Peadar Tobin TD, Declan Ganley, Dr. Anthony O'Reilly GP, Fidelma Healy Eames-My Adoption Story, Michael Farrington, Renua,