

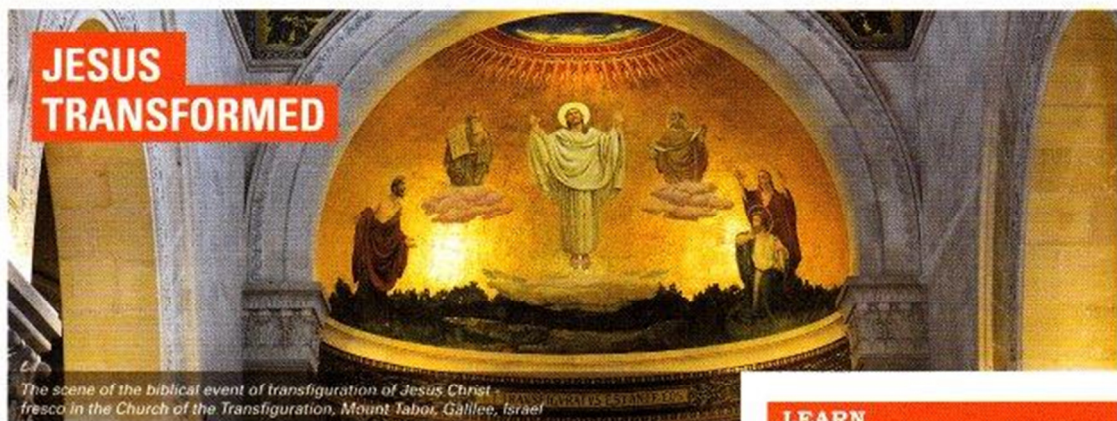
25 FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter week 2



The scene of the biblical event of transfiguration of Jesus Christ fresco in the Church of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor, Galilee, Israel

The incident which we usually call the Transfiguration of Jesus occurs at the pivotal point in Mark's gospel.

It recalls Jesus' baptism, and just as the baptism stands at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, so the transfiguration occupies the same place in relation to his ministry in Judea and Jerusalem. On both occasions, he is identified as the Son of God. Mark actually says that Jesus was *transformed*. The apostle Paul quotes a hymn which says that Christ Jesus *though he was in the form of God, emptied himself ... being born in the likeness of human beings*. The point of the story is that the three privileged disciples are given a glimpse of Jesus' divine form. However, this experience is linked with the cross, a connection made by the use of the title *Son of Man* which occurs in passages to do with Jesus' passion and death, and by the mention of *rising from the dead*, the meaning of which escapes the disciples at this point.

Peter's reaction is to want to prolong the experience by constructing three temporary huts or shelters of the type used by agricultural workers at harvest time. These would be for Jesus and Moses and Elijah, who represent the tradition of Israel in the Law and the Prophets. The cloud which covers them is a symbol of the presence of God. Since harvest depended on rainfall at particular times in the Holy Land, clouds were positive signs of life and hope. The command *Listen to him* gives approval to Jesus as the representative of God: it also lends authority to his difficult teaching about discipleship which he will give during the journey. The disciples (and we ourselves) are urged to listen and obey. ■

REFLECT

Jesus has already told the disciples that anyone who would be his disciple must take up their cross and be prepared to lose their very being, their innermost self. Peter, James and John are given a glimpse of Jesus' divine self, a manifestation of who Jesus really is. That is the true goal of the journey, beyond Calvary. Somehow the cross and resurrection – the event we understand as the Paschal Mystery – are crucial to the coming of God's kingdom in its fullness. The call to *listen to him* points to the proper response to Jesus and his place in the paschal mystery.

In the narrative, the disciples are about to set out accompanying Jesus in his

journey to Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week. Their experience on the mountain gives them an idea of Jesus' true identity and that the resurrection will take place. It is clear that they do not understand either of these notions fully, their reaction to each has been one of practically paralyzing awe at the first and puzzlement at the second. We are setting out on a similar journey through Lent, and the liturgy provides us with a similar glimpse, much less dramatic, in which it puts before us the message of Jesus' true identity as the Son of God and the central place of the cross, not just in God's plan as it is presented, but in our own lives as well. The purpose of Lent is to bring us closer to God and to Jesus. The instruction, *Listen to him* is addressed to us: we would do well to heed it. ■

LEARN

Mark tells us that Jesus was *transformed*, a rather stronger term than *transfigured*.

The incident reveals Jesus' divine form to the disciples.

Mountains in the bible are usually places of encounter with the divine.

Moses is the figure who represents the Law given on Mount Sinai; Elijah stands for the prophets of Israel. Together they symbolize the religious tradition of Israel.

DO

Look at the crucifix. What (or who?) is your particular cross? Make a special effort in this coming week to accept your cross as part of your following of Jesus with his.



Pope Francis venerates the crucifix as he leads the Good Friday service in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican

SAY

I will walk in the presence of the 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
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25th Feb – 4th Mar 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 24th	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael & Tim Kilroe & dec'd Kilroe & Whelan Families, Market Street
Sunday 25th	12 noon	Swinford: John & Margaret Brennan, Carracanada Mary & Martin Foote & son Peter & daughter Marian, Tullinacurra
Monday 26th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Tuesday 27th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 28th	10.00am	Swinford: Sr Anne Houlihan
Thursday 1st	10.00am	Swinford: Eileen & John Moore & daughter Bridie, Santa Maria
Friday 2nd	10.00am	Swinford: Maureen & Séamus Banks, Market Street & dec'd Banks & Mulrooney Families & Peggy O'Reilly
Saturday 3rd	10.00am	Swinford: Teresa Mulligan, Cloonshin (M.M) Baby Jack McNicholas, Dublin Road (M.M)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 3rd	6.30pm	Swinford: Peter Bredican, Kilbride & Paddy Kelly Mary Doyle, Cloonfinaun & dec'd Doyle & Lavin Families
Sunday 4th	12 noon	Swinford: John & Margaret Gavaghan, Derryronane & dec'd Gavaghan & Devaney Families Eileen Gaffney, Kinaffe/Swinford & parents Tom & Mary McNulty & dec'd Family

Sunday 25th	9.00am	Meelick: Margaret & Tom Walsh & sons Bartley & Pat & dec'd Family, Laughtadurkin John & Mary Browne & son Anthony, Collagh
Sunday 4th	9.00am	Meelick: Paddy & Winnie McGowan & daughter Mary, Laughtadurkin & Tommy O'Grady John & Ann Brennan & daughter Sr Joanna & son-in-law Michael O'Grady

Sunday 25th	10.30am	Midfield: Joe Morley & parents Julia & William & dec'd Family, Faheens Madeline Forkan, Chapel Street
Sunday 4th	10.30am	Midfield: Mary McDonagh (nee McLoughlin) London/Brackloon Maureen Gallagher, Tavnaglass

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 Nora McGuire (nee Brennan) Ardhoon, Meelick, Kathleen Conway, (nee Lynskey) Bristol/Killaturley (sister of Michael Lynskey, Killaturley & the late Lena Rowley), Patrick Gallagher, London/Tavnaglass (youngest son of Bridget & Patrick Gallagher & brother of Ted Gallagher, Tavnaglass), Martin McGrath, Castleknock, Dublin & formerly Newpark. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Divine Mercy Chaplet: The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited after 10a.m. Mass each morning during Lent. Prayer cards with the Chaplet are available in all the churches.

Swinford Parade: Entries are now being accepted for the 2018 St.Patrick's Day Parade being held on Saturday 17th March. The Theme is "Building a better community". All Community Groups and Individuals are urged to use the Parade to promote their activities and services. Contact Francis on 087-9909863 or Cathal on 087-6412785 for more information.

Health Screening at Swinford Library: Croí will be doing Blood Pressure, Pulse and Waist Circumference Checks from 4.30pm on Tuesday 27th Feb in Swinford Library. This is followed by a talk at 6.30pm by a specialist dietician. Free admission and everyone is welcome. Contact 094-9253120 for more info.

Go For Life Games and Bocce for over 55's will be held in the Cultural Centre Swinford by the newly formed club Swinford Go Getters on Thursday 8th March 10.30 to 12.30. Admission €2, All welcome - Refresements served.

Disability Awareness Training – National Schools interested in availing of this free training please contact Mayo Centre for Independent Living, "My Independent Life – Mayo" Mosaic Centre, Harlequin Plaza, Castlebar on Tel; 094 9034980 or info@mayocil.ie for further information.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Melletts and David Henry of Ashgrove, Swinford won €507. Next draw is in the Gateway Hotel on the 27th February.

Rally For Life: Dublin Saturday March 10th at 2pm. This is the most crucial time for the protection of unborn children in Ireland. Please come to defend their right to life. Local buses and pick up points arranged. For details and to secure a place on one of the buses please call 0861785160 or 0863850607.

Culmore N.S: will be hosting an Open day on Friday 2nd March between 2pm -4pm. All are welcome, anyone who wishes to enrol their child for Sept 2018, please come alone on the day or enrolment forms are available from the school. Contact 094-9252038.

Swinford & District Gardening Club: Paula Cannon who works on the Edible Landscape Project on the Great Western Greenway will speak on her work on February 27th in the Gateway Hotel at 8.30 pm. Everyone welcome, Non members €5.

Age Action: runs beginner/refresher computer classes (iPad/Tablet/Smartphones also) for people aged 55+ who have little or no computer experience or who are apprehensive of technology. New courses in Swinford are running on Wednesdays at 10.00 and run for 5 consecutive weeks. Each class will run for 2 hours. There is no fee. Participants are generally taught on an individual (1:1) basis so this is a great opportunity to have your own tutor to help you 'get connected' in 2018. For further information or to book a place on our waiting list, call Age Action on 091-527831.

Charlestown Swimming Pool AGM will take place on Wednesday 28th February at 8p.m. in the Arts Centre. All are welcome to attend to review plans for the next phase of development at the pool including a Retractable Telescope Cover that will allow for extension of the pool Season and also planning for the upcoming 50th anniversary of Charlestown Swimming Pool.

The Jack Feeney Commemorative Concert will take place in the Gateway Hotel on Fri 16th March at 8pm. Renowed singer S.Ó Flaithearta will be accompanied on piano by T.Cullivan. Tickets €15 with a free raffle for prizes on door tickets. This event is organised by Siámsa Sráide.

Swinford indoor country market is back Sat 3rd March from 9.30 -2pm in the Cultural centre, next door to the library. Our monthly market is proud to regularly boast a wide range of locally sourced produce. We have a fabulous range of breads, cakes, plants, vegetables, photography, Aloe Vera, food and a huge range of crafts. This month again we introduce some new stall holders with excellent products and crafts. You can relax and have lunch or a cuppa in our cafe after your shopping.