

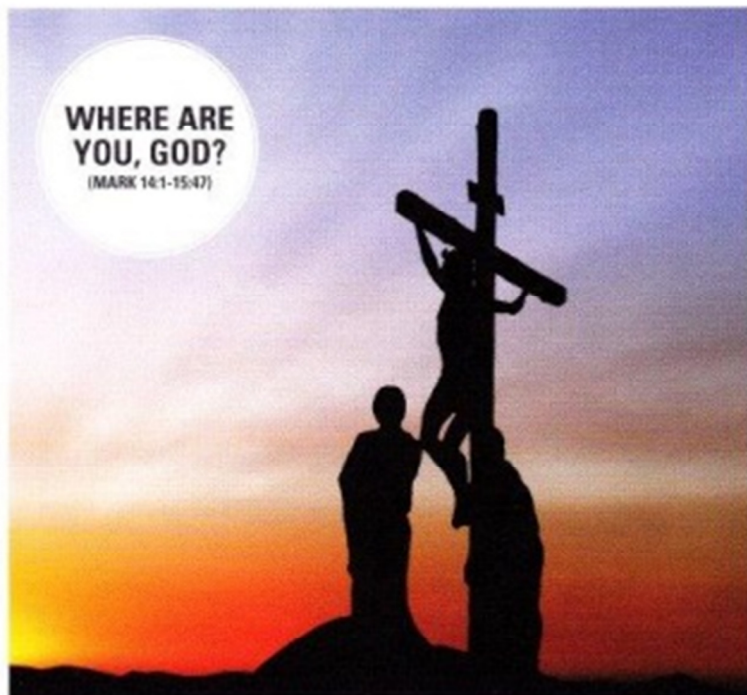
25 MARCH 2018

# Sunday Message

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Red • Psalter Week 2



Mark's version of the Passion of Jesus is unremittingly bleak: as one author puts it, Jesus is "abandoned by his disciples, betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, accused of blasphemy by the priests, rejected in favour of a murderer by the crowd, mocked by the Sanhedrin and by Roman troops and by all who came to the cross, surrounded by darkness and seemingly forsaken by his God."

He suffers and dies alone and in utter desolation: there are none of the human touches that we find in the other accounts which relieve the picture of Jesus' being utterly forsaken.

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus has refused to allow people to refer to him as the Messiah. The probable reason is that if we read the Gospel of Mark carefully and ask ourselves why any human being would come to that conclusion about Jesus, we would have to say that the reasoning was that Jesus could perform works of power which we usually call miracles. But for Mark, the sign of Jesus being the Messiah is the cross. It is at the cross that the Gentile centurion can finally make the well-founded declaration that "in truth this man was a son of God". This is the answer to the devil's testing at the outset of Jesus' ministry, where he challenges Jesus, "If you are the Son of God..." The Roman soldier can make the valid confession about Jesus now because there can be no possible further misunderstanding about what it means to be the Son of God. It is Jesus' commitment to his mission, his obedience to the will of the Father which has brought him to this.

God's answer to Jesus' desperate cry comes after he dies: the veil of the Temple is ripped from top to bottom. It is now Jesus, not the Temple, where Jew and Gentile will encounter God, and these two groups are represented by the Roman centurion, Joseph of Arimathea, the women and the other people from Galilee who were present at Calvary. The name Jesus means God saves. God has saved people from their sins in the person, ministry, passion and death of Jesus. And through this dedication to his mission from the Father, Jesus will be glorified. ■

## REFLECT

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews tells us that in Christ we have a high priest who understands our human weaknesses because he has been tested in exactly the same way that we have, except for sin. In Mark's account of the Passion, we can see that Jesus has experienced the most extreme form of loneliness, feeling abandoned by everyone including those closest to him, even by God. It might not be stretching the point to say that Jesus experienced despair, if we take his final cry as it stands and accept the most obvious meaning without trying to qualify it.

All too often people find themselves in a similar situation and state of mind. In the most tragic cases, it can lead to suicide. Perhaps we can see from Mark's account of the Passion that Christ has plumbed the depths of that emotion and can understand the pain people experience there. After the cross came the resurrection: no situation is so bad that there is never any hope. ■

## LEARN

Calvary, or Golgotha, was a mound near the city wall of Jerusalem, not a green hill.

Crucifixion caused death by suffocation or asphyxiation, not by bleeding.

Criminals were crucified near to the road so that passers-by would be warned that they would suffer a similar fate if they committed a crime similar to that advertised on a notice above the crucified person.

The veil of the Temple was a curtain across the entrance to the Holy of Holies and separated the divine presence from the worshippers in the Temple courts.

## DO

During Holy Week, carry your palm, or a piece of it, with you to remind you of the lengths God is prepared to go to reach out to you personally.

## SAY

Truly, this was the Son of God.

**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**

**25<sup>th</sup> Mar - 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2018**

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Hubert & Catherine Gallagher & dec'd Family, Cloonfinaun Jim & Mary McCann & daughter Margaret & son Jim, Kilbride
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Annabel Lynn, Dorothy O'Brien & Betty & George Hennessy Richard & Pat Gallagher & parents & dec'd Family, Carrowreagh
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Phil & Jim Dunleavy, Johnsfort/Coventry
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary Kathleen Murphy, Dublin Road (MM)
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Dominic Bryne, Sancta Maria & dec'd Bryne & Lavin Families Tom Swords, Agnes O'Neill & Helen McCarthy

**HOLY THURSDAY**

<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Morning prayer
	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford: Celebration of the Lord's Supper</b>

**GOOD FRIDAY**

<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Morning prayer
	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Swinford: Celebration of the Lord's Passion</b>

**HOLY SATURDAY**

<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Morning prayer
	<b>9.00pm</b>	<b>Swinford: The Easter Vigil (Please note: No Mass at 6.30pm)</b>

**EASTER DAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION**

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Joe Cummins, Brabazon Heights Jack & Betsy Campbell & son Michael, Tyrone
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<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Feena & Seamus Durkan & his parents Kathleen & Peter, Ardhoome Martin & Mary Doyle & daughter Teresa Higgins & dec'd Doyle & Murphy Families
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<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Ann & William Murphy, Bothaul & dec'd Killilea, Murphy & Roche Families
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<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Tom & Mary Doyle & son-in-law John Fahey, Kinaffe Paddy & Noreen Ryan, Johnsfort & granddaughter Tara
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Maisie & John Fahey & dec'd Family, Brackloon Mary, Kathleen & Michael Philbin & Julie & Pat Campbell & Ellie, Jim & John Murtagh, Woods & Tom, Kevin & Niamh Basquill

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**Please pray for** Anne O'Donnell, Logcurragh; Elizebeth McGuinness, Culmore; Tom Comer, Rathscanlon; Francie Gallagher, Mill Street/London; Michael Sheedy, Ennis and formerly Leytonstone London (father of Peter Sheedy, Collagh). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**We welcome into the Christian community**

Alicia Mary Duffy, Culmore who was baptised recently in Swinford church & Joseph Foy who was baptised in Midfield church recently.

**Holy Week:** Today, Palm Sunday, we begin Holy Week, the most important week in the Church's yearly calendar. We remember the last days of Christ on earth in the liturgies we celebrate over these special days. We recall in these liturgies that out of love for us and for our world, Jesus suffered severely and died on the cross and was raised to life by God the Father on Easter Day. These events are at the core of our Christian faith and all are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the church ceremonies that mark Holy Week and Easter. The liturgies lead us more deeply into the mystery of Christ and its meaning for us now. Please do consider attending the following ceremonies: The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening at 7.30p.m. The Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday at 3.00p.m. The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night at 9.00p.m. All these ceremonies will take place in Swinford Church.

**Adoration at the Altar of Repose:** On Holy Thursday evening after the Mass of the Lord's Supper, there will be adoration at the Altar of Repose, finishing with Night Prayer of the Church at 11p.m.

**Special Ministers of Holy Communion** from the parish are invited to renew their commitment to their ministry during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening.

**Stations of the Cross:** will be held on Good Friday outdoors, in the Brabazon Woods at 7p.m. (weather permitting. Please assemble in the carpark at the children's playground).

**Please note that there will be no 6.30p.m**

**Mass in Swinford Church on Holy Saturday.**

Instead, the Easter Vigil will take place at 9p.m.

**Cleaning church for Easter:** Cleaning will take place in Midfield Church on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March. All help most welcome.

**Confessions for Easter:** On Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be visiting priests in Swinford Church from 6-7p.m for those who wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Easter.

**Glas Training Day:** Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April for Glas 1, 2 & 3 participants, Call Siobhan Ward 087-9193371.

**Basic payments scheme:** Applications have to be filed online this year, If you have been informed that your application must be filed online call Siobhan 087-9193371. We are available to help on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Midfield Development Association:** BeAlert is part of the Community Text Alert Service, Should you wish to have your name included in the Alert Scheme please contact Margaret Julian 087-4134998 or Kathleen Brennan 087-2787381. Our next meeting shall take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 9pm in Midfield National school.

**Swinford District & Gardening Club:** next meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30pm in the Gateway Hotel. Alan Mortimer will be in attendance. Please note that there is a change of speaker and topic from that previously advertised. All are welcome to attend. Non members €5.

**Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for March 20<sup>th</sup> Numbers: 05 10 11 19; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Michelle Spain, Rathunas; Vincent McDonnell, Killasser; 3 Numbers Winners: John Carter, Market St; Margaret Julian, Midfield; P. Horkan, Main St; Gerty McNulty, Railway Terrace; Jackpot €4,200 Next Draw on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**GAA 50/50:** This week's draw was held in Quinns and Ciaran Owens of Rathunas won €571. Next draw is on the 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Table Quiz:** There will be a GAA Fundraising Quiz in the Sheepwalk on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 9pm.

**Swinford A.C:** Hugh congrats to Kevin Henry, Curryane who was last Tuesday night's winner of our lotto draw winning €315.

**Trip to Medjugorje:** Join us on Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 flying from Knock for 7 nights, half board, with Fr Gerry Davey as Spiritual Director. Contact Isabel on 086-2151338 for further details.