

26TH AUGUST 2018

# Sunday Message

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

## YOU HAVE THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE

(JOHN 6:60-69)

You will have noticed over the past number of weeks in the Gospel that Jesus is struggling to convince the crowds of his identity and the significance of his flesh and blood as food for life.

Today, however, it is not the crowds of Jews he is having a problem with, but his own disciples. They describe Jesus' language as intolerable and difficult to accept. They too have been listening to Jesus intently but his sermon on his body being the bread of life is too much for them to take. So Jesus must respond: if such language and imagery upsets you, how are you going to respond when I rise from the dead and return to my Father? This will be the ultimate test of their faith. As he responds to them in this scene, he is looking around and he already knows who will betray him. "There are some of you who do not believe," he says and following this, many of his followers turn their backs on him and walk away. Who can Jesus rely on now? Will the Twelve walk away too, or can they accept this new teaching being offered by Jesus? Simon Peter is the first to speak and it seems that he has full understanding and appreciation for Jesus' teaching. "You have the message of eternal life," he says. In this line, a statement of faith and intent is made. Peter wants to remain with Jesus right to the end. The Holy One of God walks with them and they know that through Jesus, they will find nourishment and life in his body and blood. As we arrive at the end of Chapter 6 of John's Gospel, Jesus' work of evangelisation has just begun. ■

### REFLECT

**W**e reflect today on the famous scene we encountered a number of weeks ago in Mark's Gospel, when Jesus turns his back on his own blood family to begin a life of mission with his new family of disciples. It was a crucial moment of faith from Jesus who understood that in order to move on with his mission, the Twelve would prove crucial for the future of the church and the message of redemption. Today's Gospel vindicates this decision of Jesus. Peter's statement is spoken on behalf

of the disciples. They don't turn their backs on Jesus like the other followers do. Instead, this family of believers stay together and begin a journey that will test them at every turn. They will scatter when Jesus is tried before the authorities, before returning again with the power of the Holy Spirit to be preachers and teachers in the early church. Simon Peter's question, "Lord, who shall we go to," exemplifies their commitment to Jesus. They find their home through his presence and love. ■

### SAY

**"He is generous even to exhaustion; and what is most wonderful is, that He gives Himself thus entirely, not once only, but every day, if we wish it. Every fresh Communion is a new gift which Jesus Christ makes of Himself."**

(St Ignatius Loyola)

### LEARN

Pope Francis responding to Peter's question, "Lord, who shall we go to?":

"We understand that faithfulness to God is a question about faithfulness to a person. All that we have in this world will not satisfy our hunger for the infinite. We need Jesus, we need to remain with Him, to nourish ourselves at His table, on His words of eternal life."

(Angelus address, August 23, 2015)

### DO

The next time you attend Mass, concentrate more fully on the Word of God (first reading, Psalm, second reading and Gospel). Allow the words to affect you and take one message home with you, something that will help you in your relationship with 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;**  
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**26<sup>th</sup> Aug - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2018**

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Denis, Kathleen, Matthew & James McCarthy, Kilbride Pat Goff, Park Road Michael & Breege Gleeson, Cloonlara & dec'd Durkan & Gleeson Families Phyllis Pidgeon, Park Road
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford: No Mass</b>
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Dec'd of Lavin, Sloyan & Hopkins Families
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Tony Cunningham, Rabawn (MM) Salvador Murphy, Dublin Road (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv)

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary & Edward Tunney, Cloonlara & Johnny & Maureen Keegan & sons Michael & Gerry & daughter- in-law Penny, Abbeylara Alice & Lex Creedon, Circular Road
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> John & Nora Graham & son Thomas, Roscrea & granddaughter Martina Doran, Thurles Co.Tipperary Kathleen & Paddy Campbell, Cloonfinaun & Anne & Thomas Dunne, Birmingham

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<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick: No Mass</b>
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> No Intention

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<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield: No Mass</b>
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Tony Kelly & his brother Andy & parents Tony & Ellen & dec'd Moran Family, Tavnaglass

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**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

**Swinford Church:** Sundays: 2pm-6pm & Thursdays 10.30am-8pm

**Midfield Church:** Mondays 11am-12noon

**Meelick Church:** Mondays 7pm-9pm

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**Please pray for** Kathleen Rowley, Killasser (mother of Tom and Michael Rowley). May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**We welcome into the Christian community**

Aidan James Lafferty, Castlebar who was baptised recently in Swinford Church.

**Congratulations** and every blessing to Luke and Mary Tunney, Tullinacurra who recently celebrated their Golden wedding Anniversary.

**Visit of Pope Francis:** This weekend, for only the second time in our history, a Pope will visit Ireland. We welcome Pope Francis wholeheartedly to our country, particularly to Co Mayo and Knock Shrine. We pray for him in his mission of guiding the Church in challenging times, asking that God will be close to him and continue to guide him with his Holy Spirit. We pray that his days among us will be a time of blessing for all.

**Visit of Pope Francis to Knock:** For those attending the Papal Visit to Knock on Sunday morning, you might find the following link useful to consult in advance: <https://www.knockshrine.ie/wp-content/uploads/knock-shrine-Angelus-Hymns.pdf> It gives the text of the hymns and prayers that will be used during the Pope's visit.

**The First Saturdays Devotion** is being hosted at the newly renovated knock Old Parish Church next Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September. 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.

**Basketball in Swinford:** We are in the early stages of setting up a basketball club catering for boys & girls, U8 and U10 initially. We are looking for volunteers to get involved. Our next meeting will be held in the Community Centre on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept at 8pm. In the meantime please contact Sinead 087-0564689. A background in Basketball is not essential. All are welcome.

**Swinford Community Lotto** Results 20<sup>th</sup> August Numbers 08 13 20 22; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; J&J Swinford; P.Geraghty C/O Mellet's; 3 Number winners; none; Jackpot €4,800; Next Draw 27<sup>th</sup> August in Mellet's.

**O'Dwyer Arts Centre:** New date for Zumba Dance Classes 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 7pm-8pm. Contact 085-

1311135/089-2321529 for more details.

**GAA 50/50:** This week's draw was held in Melletts and Teresa Sweeney won €532. Next draw is in Julians on the 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Day Retreat to Lough Derg:** Killasser Community Care Group are organising a one day retreat to Lough Derg on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. More details regarding price and times later. Contact Sarah on 087-9494342, Vera 087-6354880 or Kathleen 087-6179317.

**O'Dwyer Arts Centre:** Yoga classes on Thursday mornings 11 am - 12pm cost €6 starting on 6<sup>th</sup> September all levels welcome. Contact Pat Kirby on 087-2617309.

**Crochet classes** starting on 6<sup>th</sup> September contact Teresa 087-0559537 beginners welcome.

**Computer and Business Course for Unemployed Adults:** Swinford VTOS is currently seeking applicants for their Computer and Business course which is due to commence in September. The course which leads to QQI award at level 5 provides unemployed adults with the opportunity of returning to education, updating their skills and improving their employment prospects. The Course is free and adults who are over 21 and in receipt of social welfare for at least 6 months are eligible for the course. Participants aged under 26 may be entitled to the maximum jobseekers rate of €198 per week. Childcare support is also available contact Emer at 094 9251928 or email [emermullins@msletb.ie](mailto:emermullins@msletb.ie)

**Swinford agricultural show:** takes place on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> September at the Heeran farm Kiltimagh Rd. Loads to see & do, fun & entertainment for the kids. Music on the day by Seamus Moore. More info & show schedule at [www.swinfordagrishow.com](http://www.swinfordagrishow.com).

**Maths Grinds:** (Individuals & Groups) Teacher with over 10 years experience teaching Maths and Applied Maths to all levels. Get in touch if you would like to discuss the coming year 2018/19. Call 087-9064865, Places limited.

**Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw:** Draw No 19 €1000 was won by Connie Gillespie, Swinford €300 was won by Marie Fallon, Carracanada €200 was won by Frances Jordan, Lislackagh, There are two draws every month for 12 months. Thanks for supporting our draw. All results are available on our websites.