

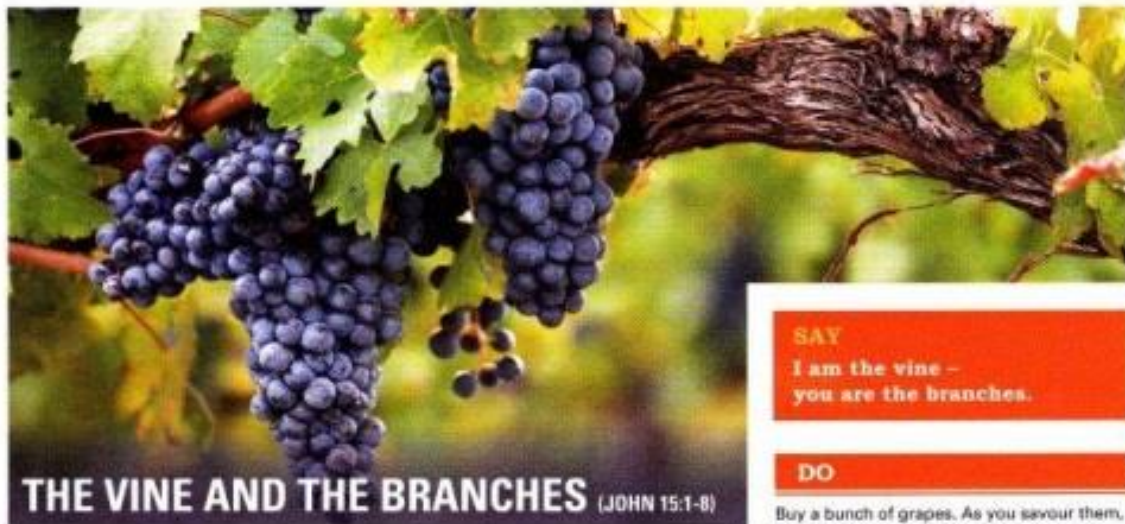
29 APRIL 2018

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES (JOHN 15:1-8)

The image of the vine and the branches is one which speaks of close union and intimacy. It is one of life flowing from one part of the plant to the others.

For disciples to bear fruit means their remaining united to Jesus, the true vine. They are pruned, or made clean, by the word of Jesus which they have accepted. But the Father is involved in this process, pruning those branches which are fruitful so that they will bear even more, and cutting off those who have become separated from the source of vitality and fertility. The harvest Jesus is referring to is the result of the disciples' carrying out Jesus' command to love. This remaining in Jesus is therefore something which the disciple actively does: it is not a state of being. Being a disciple also involves growth, as suggested by the image of the vine. The vine and its branches are living: if something stops growing, it dies. If the disciple remains in Jesus and his words, which are God's revelation, then they will give life. But the disciple must remain connected to Jesus and his teaching.

This fruitful union between Jesus and his disciples, then and now, leads to the glory of the Father. It is to the Father that Jesus always looks and refers. The disciples are to repeat, in their relationship with Jesus, what Jesus had with the Father: a loving mutuality shown by the unconditional observing of his commandments. ■

REFLECT

On these Sundays in Eastertide, the Scriptures invite us to reflect on our personal relationship with Jesus. It is easy to think of being a disciple as doing certain things or living in a certain kind of way, perhaps one which distinguishes us from the people around us. But if we read the Gospel of John carefully, we find that there is very little of what we might call moral instruction: there is no long Sermon on the Mount as in Matthew's account. The only command which we find is one which sums up

everything: "Love one another as I have loved you."

It is no accident that the Fourth Evangelist has chosen the image of the vine and the branches to illustrate what the Church, the People of God, should be. The vine is alive and growing. It is fruitful, producing grapes which give wine, a source of joy and conviviality to human beings. To be at its most healthy, the branches need to be tended, pruned where necessary, to keep them at their most productive. But the branches are not self-sufficient:

SAY

I am the vine –
you are the branches.

DO

Buy a bunch of grapes. As you savour them, reflect on how they are the product of the close union of the branch which produced them and the trunk which provided the nourishment. Think about your personal relationship with Jesus.

LEARN

The vine is a common image for the people of Israel in the Hebrew Scriptures.

The vineyard is used by Jesus as a metaphor for the people of Israel.

The only moral command given in the Fourth Gospel is "Love one another as I have loved you."

Wine in abundance is used as a symbol of the Messianic Kingdom; this is the meaning of the first Sign at Cana, where Jesus turns water into wine.

they draw their life from the trunk. This is the lesson the evangelist wants to put before us: unless we as individuals keep the personal channel of communication open between ourselves and Jesus, then our life as a disciple is compromised and the life and fruitfulness of the community, of the vine, is diminished; it is not as healthy as it ought to be. Pope John XXIII said that "we are not here to look after a museum, but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life." Is our corner of the vineyard a museum or a flourishing garden? ■

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

29th Apr – 6th May 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Saturday 28th | 6.30pm | Swinford: Julia & Anthony Lynskey & dec'd Family, Newpark Willie & Bea Mellett & Mary Mellett, Market Street & dec'd Mellett & Roddy Families & Mary Hopkins |
| Sunday 29th | 12 noon | Swinford: Mary Nolan & parents & Mick Neylon, Derryronane Patrick Mc Elhatton |
| Monday 30th | 10.00am | Swinford: No Intention |
| Tuesday 1st | 10.00am | Swinford: No Intention |
| Wednesday 2nd | 10.00am | Swinford: No Intention (Padre Pio Devotions after Mass) |
| Thursday 3rd | 10.00am | Swinford: Michael Callaghan & dec'd Family, Tullinacurra |
| Friday 4th | 10.00am | Swinford: Patrick & Mary Loftus, Lisanumera |
| Saturday 5th | 10.00am | Swinford: No Intention |
| SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | | |
| Saturday 5th | 6.30pm | Swinford: James & Ellen McNicholas, Logcurragh & son Patrick & daughter-in-law Catherine & son-in-law Kevin Moran Fr Anthony Conlon |
| Sunday 6th | 12 noon | Swinford: Patrick & Anne Bredican & daughter Mary Boyd & dec'd Bredican & Loftus Families Mary Jane & Tom Tunney, Culmore |

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|-------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Sunday 29th | 9.00am | Meelick: Theresa O'Hara & Tom O'Neill & dec'd O'Neill Family, Knockavilla |
| Sunday 6th | 9.00am | Meelick: Séan McHugh, Knockavilla |

| | | |
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| Sunday 29th | 10.30am | Midfield: 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 |
| Sunday 6th | 10.30am | Midfield: Hannah, James & Tommy Quinn, Midfield & Margaret Quinn/Cunnigham, Australia John & Mary McLoughlin & daughter Mary, Woods |

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 Mary Gardiner, The Orchard and Tumgesh. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

First Communion: Prayerful good wishes to the children from Culmore and Swinford schools who received their First Holy Communion in Swinford Church on Saturday, April 21st and to the children from Midfield school who received their first Communion on Sunday, April 22nd in Midfield Church.

Confirmation: On Sunday next, May 6th, fifty-one young people from all five primary schools in our parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during Mass in Swinford Church at 1.30p.m. We pray for them in this coming week as they prepare to take this important step on their Christian journey.

Parish Pastoral Council: There will be a meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, April 30th at 8.p.m.

Lough Derg 2018: Season opens for one Day Retreats on Saturday May 5th. Retreats continue on 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 20, 22, 26, 27, & 28. Advance booking is essential. Contact 071-9861518 or email info@loughderg.org. (Three Day Pilgrimage season begins on Friday 1st June).

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

Public Mini Vigil at Knock takes place on Friday 4th May with confessions at 8pm and Vigil from 9pm until Midnight in the Basilica. Log on to www.knockshrine.ie for more information.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for April 23rd Numbers: 2 11 15 28; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Carmels Café, Swinford; Hanna Taylor; 3 Number Winners: Martin Feeney, C/O Tara Café; N. Gallagher, 18 Fraunhill, Swinford; Jackpot €5,200; Next Draw on Monday 30th April in Julians.

Mobile Information Service: Mayo Citizens Information Service manages a number of Citizen Information Centres across the county, which provide information and advice to members of the public on their rights and entitlements. Our service is free and confidential and we cover a range of services.

We will be visiting Swinford on Thursday 3rd May from 10.00a.m - 1.00 p.m.

Car Boot Sale on May 5th from 11am-4pm, in Swinford Boxing Club, Bridge St. Sellers pitch is €15 and all public admission is free. Please contact Karen on 087-9287036 for more info.

25 Card Drive: In the Gateway on Sunday night at 8.30pm. All proceeds of the game will go to help Sarah Scully in her upcoming trip to Uganda with Lámha Suas.

Guitar and Keyboard/Piano lessons are being held near Swinford. These are 1 to 1 lessons with a qualified and experienced music teacher. Contact: Tony on 087-7625254 for more info.

Go for Life Games: Swinford Go Getters are having a Cake Sale on Sunday May 6th from 11.00am-1.00pm in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House Swinford. All welcome.

Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw: Draw no 11: €1000 was won by Caroline Gordon, Swinford; €300 was won by Michael & Marie Dunleavy, Charlestown; €200 was won by Martin O'Grady, Meadow Park, Swinford. Thanks for supporting our draw. There are 2 draws every month for 12 months. All results are on our websites.

Swinford A.C: Last week's winner of our lotto draw was Peter McGann, Carnacross.

Thank You to everyone who supported the Great Irish Bake in aid of Temple Street Childrens Hospital which was held recently in Tesco. Through the generosity of the local community, €891 was raised.

O'Dwyer Arts Centre are hosting Alzheimer's Tea Day on Thursday the 3rd May from 10.30am. Please Support.

Free Training: IT & Business Skills, Sports and Gym Instructor Studies, Personal Development, Jobstart, Employer Based Training and more. QQI and ECDL accredited courses. If you have an additional support need and are registered with the Department of Social Protection you could be entitled to the free training. Contact: Castlebar@nln.ie; (094) 9022770;

Gardening Club Day Trip to Galway on Saturday 5th 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 cost €48. To book contact Angela 087-6520311.