



## JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

(JOHN 6: 1-15)

We recall last Sunday's scene from Mark's Gospel where a large crowd of people gathered on the shoreline to greet Jesus and to hear his Word. A similar scene is presented in John's Gospel today as 5,000 people are waiting for Jesus after he crosses to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee.

They have heard about the signs he had performed by healing the sick and although the Gospel doesn't say it, we can presume that Jesus is moved with compassion and sits with them to share food. On the hillside, Jesus has a great view of the crowd around him, and instructs his disciples to organise the food. He is testing Philip when he asks, "where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?" Jesus already knows the answer but Philip is confused. Where would we get the money to feed such a crowd? "Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each." We can probably understand and identify with Philip's reservations. However, the solution is close at hand. There is a boy with five barley loaves and two fish. Jesus takes the food, gives thanks and then proceeds to give the food to the waiting crowd. Jesus is the giver of life. He satisfies their hunger and performs a miracle. Such are the vast quantities of food produced that twelve hamper are filled with the leftovers. The enthusiastic crowd acknowledge that something extraordinary has happened and begin to say amongst themselves that "this really is the prophet who is to come into the world". They want to make him their King but Jesus retreats to the hills by himself. ■

### REFLECT

After spending the last number of weeks reading Mark's Gospel, we have now moved onto John's Gospel for the next four weeks. The interesting thing about John's Gospel is that we never read about the Last Supper, where Jesus takes bread, breaks it, and says "this is my body given up for you". Such words are reserved for the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. However in today's Gospel, we are presented with a scene that resembles a celebration of the

Eucharist. Every Mass is an encounter with God, and here we see Jesus go up a mountain, the place of meeting between God and humanity. Jesus sat down with his students at his feet. Sitting down is the way of the teacher, and the crowd is invited into intimacy with him. The same activity happens during the Mass as we sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to the Word of God being read. Then follows the sacred meal that defines us as Christ's people. Jesus knew that the crowds were

### SAY

"Sweetest Jesus,  
Body and Blood most Holy,  
be the delight and pleasure of  
my soul,  
my strength and salvation in all  
temptations,  
my joy and peace in every trial,  
my light and guide in every  
word and deed,  
and my final protection in  
death. Amen"

St Thomas Aquinas (*The Aquinas Prayer Book*, Sofia Institute Press, 2000)

### DO

Place yourself into the scene of the Gospel where you are sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to his Word. Imagine the attentiveness of those present and the fulfilment when the bread is shared and the miracle is revealed.

### LEARN

"This is the miracle: rather than a multiplication it is a sharing, inspired by faith and prayer. Everyone eats and some is left over: it is the sign of Jesus, the Bread of God for humanity."

(Pope Francis, Angelus – St Peter's Square, June 2, 2013)



Pope Francis at the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican

hungry, but so is the whole human race. We are hungry for meaning, purpose, joy. We are all in that crowd waiting to be fed. Jesus takes the bread, he breaks it, he gives thanks and distributes the food. Bishop Robert Barron describes this as 'the Eucharistic Rhythm'. We read about this activity of Jesus in the other Gospels and we experience it during the Mass. This is John's account of the Eucharist through the loaves and fishes. ■

**SWINFORD MEELICK MIDFIELD**  
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**PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.30am-2.30pm; Tues: 9.30am-1p.m;**  
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**29<sup>th</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018**

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Baby Amy Kate O'Sullivan, Knoxville Manor Charlestown Mary Thompson/Breen, Rathunas & dec'd Thompson & Breen Families
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> James & Anne Rooney, Ardlee Tommy Gallagher, Kilbride
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Patricia Murray, 19 Oak Drive
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Pat Scally, Curryane/Manchester & dec'd Family Nora Regan, Tumgesh & dec'd Regan & O'Brian Families
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Martin & Kate Mellett & daughter Kathleen Kilgallon & son Michael & Sean Donlon, Cloonlara/Manchester
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Tom & Una Egan, Main Street John & Bridie Doherty & daughter Christine Carroll, Ballydrum
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Anne Groarke, Cloontubrid (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv) Mike & Mary O'Brian & dec'd Family, Logcurragh

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Tom & Mildred Kavanagh, Riverside Bob Doyle, Newpark & dec'd Doyle & Lynskey Families
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Úna & Tony Doyle, Tumgesh & dec'd Doyle & Mulrennan Families Eileen & Paddy Maloney, Collagh

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<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> No Intention
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Úna & Tom Egan, Main St & John & Mary Feeney, Ballyglass & sons John, Gerry & Joe

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<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Tom Kelly & dec'd Family, Brackloon
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> J.P Heaney, Australia/Cashelbarnagh
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Martin Costello, Midfield

**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** Tony Cunningham, Rabawn; Mary Duffy, Tullinacurra and Tadgh Lynch, Dingle Co. Kerry (husband of Kathleen Murtagh, Tullinacurra). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**We welcome into the Christian community**

Ellen Sophia and Michael Martin Conlon, Laughtadurkan who were baptised recently in Meelick Church and Abigail Maggie Smith, Rosyth, Scotland who was baptised recently in Swinford Church.

**Congratulations** and every blessing to Vicky Gallagher and Fergal Gilmore who were married recently in Swinford Church.

**Swinford Comhaltas Pageant:** Swinford Comhaltas ( Michael Davitt CCE ) and friends are delighted to present our third annual show on Bank Holiday Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 8.30pm in the culture centre. The show, based on events around Swinford from 1918 to 2018, is called "Reeling in the Years".

**Summer workshops: music and singing**

The annual Comhaltas week of classes will run all this week from July 30<sup>th</sup> to Friday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Classes will be held in Swinford NS. Email- cceswinford@gmail.com/ Tel. 087-7454032.

**Seisiún na nÓg:** The annual Siamsa Seisiún na nÓg will be held at Campbell's Main Street on Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> from 1pm. Swinford Comhaltas (Michael Davitt CCE) with Rob Thornburgh will be delighted to welcome young musicians and their families to a lively friendly trad session of music, song and dance. Everyone welcome.

**Cycle for Mayo Cancer Support:** The annual Greenway Cycle for Mayo Cancer Support, Rock Rose House takes place on Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> departing at 10am from Westport Leisure Centre. Registration is €20 and takes place from 9am. Sponsorship Cards are also available upon request. For more info contact John Tiernan on 087-2246147 or Rock Rose House on 094-9038407.

**Swinford Community Lotto** Results for 23<sup>rd</sup> July Numbers: 12 22 25 27; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Joe Benson, Swinford; Shane & Thomas, C/o The White House. 3 Number Winners: Mary Mangan C/o Pat Clarke Bohola; Jackpot €4, 000; Next Draw on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July in The Gateway Hotel.

**A Night of Dancing:** Tuesday July 31<sup>st</sup> in the CBD Complex Charlestown, Music with Carmel McLoughlin, Dancing from 9pm, Refreshments served - All Welcome.

**Bofield Céilí band:** The ever popular Seisiun with Bofield Céilí band continues in Fr. Peyton centre Attymass every Thursday night to the end of August.

**Mayo Roscommon Hospice:** We are looking for your help. We are looking for Volunteers to help out in our Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis and Swinford shops. If you or anyone you know may be able to help out we would be hugely grateful. You can contact the individual shops to find out more or call us on 094-938 8666. Thank you - your support is greatly appreciated.

**Full of Grace - CD by Caroline Burns:** A beautiful collection of songs dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, celebrating her courage, her love, and her power in our lives. Songs include Lady of Knock, As I Kneel before You, and Ave Maria, as promoted on Midwest Radio. All proceeds go to Pieta House. CDs cost €10 and are available from Corrib Oil and Moore's Supermarket, Swinford or contact carolineanne.burns@gmail.com.

**Swinford Drama Group:** Presents for better, for worse. A three act comedy in the Gateway Hotel on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August. Doors open at 8pm Admission €10. All welcome.

**Important Notice to all on Midfield Group**

**Water Scheme:** There is serious pressure on our water source at Kilkelly which means water may be switched off at night to conserve. Shareholders are asked to please work with us to protect our water supply. Thank you G.W.S committee.

**Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw:** Results of Draw No.17: €1000 was won by Caroline Irwin & Marie Whelehan, Swinford; €300 was won by Sean Molloy, Dooagh, Achill €200 was won by Tom Mc.Daniel, Boradruma, Castlebar. Thanks for supporting our draw.

**Swinford Youth Memorial Garden** official opening takes place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 4pm at the Culture Center in Swinford. On the day the centrepiece monument, designed by architect Mark Rode, will be unveiled. Thank you to everyone who helped us create an area we hope the community can be proud of.