

4 MARCH 2018

# Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 3



Jesus Cleanses the Temple: scene in the church Chiesa di San Gaetano, by unknown painter from 17th century.

The episode in today's Gospel reading, usually called *The Cleansing of the Temple*, shows Jesus in an unfamiliar and unusual light: he is angry, in a rage which leads him to violent behaviour.

He refers to the Temple in Jerusalem, as "my Father's house". This place, the focus of Jewish worship, was intended to provide privileged access to the divine presence: however, it is being used as an opportunity for making money. The activities described were all in fact legitimate: whether they were appropriate in that sacred setting seems to be the question.

One of the themes running through the Fourth Gospel is that Jesus in his person replaces the important feasts and institutions of Judaism. The Temple, known in Hebrew as *the house of the Lord*, was the place where God was present in the inner sanctuary known as the *Holy of Holies* (that is, the Holiest Place). The dialogue between Jesus and the Jewish leaders uses the literary method of misunderstanding, in which the word *sanctuary* is taken by Jesus' listeners to mean the Temple building, whereas he is speaking of his body. John is telling us that as a result of Jesus' being lifted up on the cross, he will himself become the place in which people will be able to encounter the living God.

The Jewish authorities, referred to in the Fourth Gospel as *the Jews*, represent people of a hostile attitude who will not accept Jesus and his message. Throughout the Gospel we find different types of people who demonstrate different reactions to Jesus. Here, the disciples have a limited belief in Jesus which will only be resolved by the resurrection. For John, true faith means believing in the word of Jesus: and this faith requires the person to decide whether or not to believe. ■

## REFLECT

Anyone who has visited Lourdes or a similar shrine knows what it is like to run the gauntlet of rows of stalls selling religious objects and souvenirs of doubtful artistic merit. The story of Jesus driving out the merchants might come to mind on such occasions and we can sympathise with him losing his temper. In both situations traders are coming between the pilgrims and their destination and the scene is one of clutter and chaos. Jesus is saying, *Take these things out of here! Get rid of this mess!*

Perhaps this is one message we might think about today as we make our way through Lent. What things are cluttering our lives and coming between us and our feeling the presence of the Lord? Sometimes it is more comfortable to leave things as they are, to settle for the familiar ways of thinking and acting that we are used to. But Lent is a time to reflect and to take drastic action where it is needed. St Paul tells us that the body of the Christian is the Temple of the Holy Spirit: what is there in your life which is not worthy of that Temple – and what are you going to do about it? ■

## LEARN

In the Fourth Gospel, the term *the Jews* refers to the Jewish leaders who are hostile to Jesus and his message: it does not refer to the Jewish people as a whole.

The Fourth Evangelist uses the term *signs* to denote the works of Jesus commonly called *miracles*.

In the Synoptic Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, miracles are described as *works of power*.

The noun *faith* does not occur in the fourth Gospel: the verb *to believe* is found well over one hundred times. Faith for John is not something we possess but something we do or put into action.

## DO

The next time you are tidying up or throwing out the rubbish, think of Jesus cleaning up the Temple: apply this to your Lenten practice.



## SAY

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

**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** **4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Peter Bredican, Kilbride & Paddy Kelly Mary Doyle, Cloonfinaun & dec'd Doyle & Lavin Families
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> John & Margaret Gavaghan, Derryronane & dec'd Gavaghan & Devaney Families Eileen Gaffney, Kinaffe/Swinford & parents Tom & Mary McNulty & dec'd Family
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Special Intention
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> John, Elizabeth & Delma Swords <b>(Padre Pio Devotions after Mass)</b>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Nora & Charlie Oliver, Ballyglass & son Paddy, Larch Hill
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Conor Walsh, Main St
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Billy Kilgallon, Lisheenabrone (MM)
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Michael Durkin, Culmore (MM)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Michael Waters & parents Mick & Annie & parents-in- -law John & Kate Howley Finbar Ruane, Park Road & dec'd Ruane & Gallagher Families
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Eddie Ruane, Kilkelly Road Joan Goldrick, Liseratish/London (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv)

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<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Paddy & Winnie McGowan & daughter Mary, Lughtadurkin & Tommy O'Grady John & Ann Brennan & daughter Sr Joanna & son-in- -law Michael O'Grady
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Margaret Gallagher, Oldcastle (MM)

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<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Mary McDonagh (nee McLoughlin) London/Brackloon Maureen Gallagher, Tavnaglass
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Jimmy & Annie Devine, Tullinahoo

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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** Patrick Campbell, Tullinahoo; Mary Kathleen Murphy, Dublin Road; Tom Leonard, Julianstown (husband of Marie Grealy, Rathscanlon). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The March meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 8.30 p.m. (Please note change of date and time).

**Rally For Life Dublin:** Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Midfield Group Water Scheme AGM** takes place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March in Julians Lounge at 9p.m. All Shareholders please attend.

**Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation** Monday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House . Free and open to all over 16 years. Contact 086-0700681.

**Chiropodist:** Martin McNally will attend at the Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Fri 9<sup>th</sup> March from 10 a.m.

**A Special General Meeting** followed by the AGM of Callow Lake Group Water Scheme Co-operative Society Ltd will be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March in Meelick Community Centre. All members are invited to attend.

**Go For Life Games and Bocce** for over 55's in the Cultural Centre Swinford by the newly formed club Swinford Go Getters on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 to 12.30. Admission €2.

**ISPC Childline Mayo** will be holding Group Information dates in Castlebar on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 6-8pm. where you can come along and hear all about volunteering with us & what's involved. Training is due to commence in April 2018 – which will be held over evenings & Saturdays. Call 094-9025254 for more info.

**Mayo Cancer Support Association** thanks all who contributed to our recent Church Gate Collection, raising €411.63 in Swinford, €120.48 in Meelick and €183.85 in Midfield. All services to people living with cancer & their families are provided free of charge thanks to your generosity

**Foxford Day Care Centre:** Western Alzheimers with the support of Foxford Alzheimers Trust have opened a new dementia day care centre in Foxford. It runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-3 and offers caregivers much needed respite and support. For information contact Winnie at 087-9981061 or email [foxforddaycare@westernalzheimers.ie](mailto:foxforddaycare@westernalzheimers.ie)

**Glas Training Days:** Ward Agricultural Consultants are holding Glas Training Days locally on Saturdays only for GLAS 3 participants. Call 087-1913371 to book a place. DAFM pays you €158 for completing the days training.

**Swinford F.C:** will hold their registration night for Girls U12 and U14 and U12 Boys in the Gateway Hotel on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March from 7.p.m. Parents please attend on the night.

**Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw:** Results of Draw No.7: €1000 was won by Brenda Ormsby Park Rd, Swinford; €300 was won by Michael Evans Hodson Bay , Athlone; €200 was won by Tara Kavanagh 33 Brabazon Heights, Swinford. Thanks for supporting our draw.

**Swinford GAA:** In this week's draw €421 was won by the Muldowney family, Carnacul. Club meeting on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Gateway Hotel. All members are asked to attend.

**Midfield Development Association AGM** was held recently and it was agreed to continue with the existing committee. BeAlert is part of part of Community Text Alert Service and should you wish to have your name added please contact one of the committee: Margaret Julian, Kathleen Brennan, TJ Kelly, Robert Quinn, Tony Fahey, Sue Fahey. Next meeting, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 pm in Midfield NS.

**Race Night** in memory of Tom Ansboro, late of Claremorris & Swinford in the Western Hotel, Claremorris on Fri., March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 pm. Proceeds to new Mayo Hospice Palliative Care Unit in Castlebar. Please support.

**Arthritis Ireland Mayo Branch** host a workshop on 'Getting the best nutrition when living with arthritis & fibromyalgia' in Cultural Centre on Thurs, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Places limited. Call Margaret on 087 4150663 or email [arthritismayobranh@gmail.com](mailto:arthritismayobranh@gmail.com) to book a place.