

6 MAY 2018

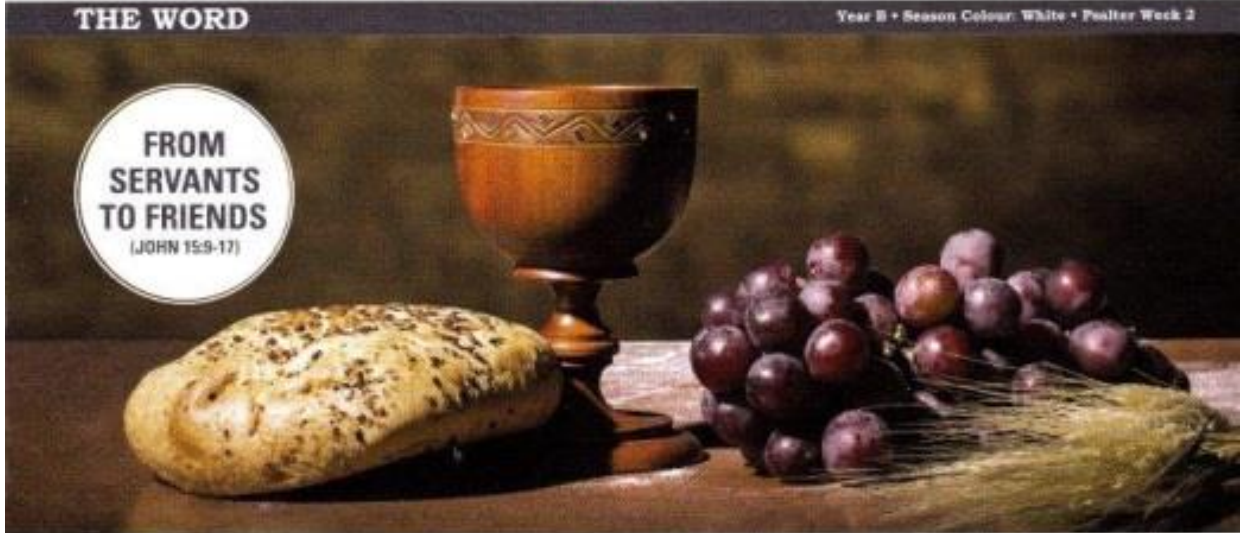
Sunday Message

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 2

**FROM
SERVANTS
TO FRIENDS**
(JOHN 15:9-17)



The Fourth Gospel opens with the declaration that "In the beginning was the Word." Words are a means of communication and the Bible is the record of God's self-revelation to human beings.

One of the ways in which God communicates with humans in the Jewish Scriptures is by the female figure of Wisdom. She is the means by which God creates and by which God invites people into a personal relationship. Her purpose is to teach people about the things that are above, to pronounce the truth, to instruct in what pleases God and how to do his will and thus lead them to life and immortality.

The symbols Wisdom employs for her instruction are food (bread) and drink (water and wine) and she invites people to eat and drink. Her educating of her disciples involves instructing her disciples (her children), testing them until they love her and become friends of God. All of these characteristics we find in John's presentation of Jesus, and in the Gospel reading today Jesus tells his disciples that he is not calling them servants any more but friends. Their instruction is complete. Now it is time for them to change from being merely disciples to being apostles. One of the major differences between John's account and those of the other three evangelists is that in the Fourth Gospel the disciples have no active part to play during the ministry of Jesus. Once Jesus is glorified on the cross and bestows his Spirit on the disciples, then they will carry on his work, but only then. During their final meal, Jesus sets this in context by speaking of laying down his life for his friends, a signal that his death is at hand. By bearing much fruit, the disciples will join Jesus in glorifying the Father. The condition for this is to love one another. ■

REFLECT

The Church is not a democracy! So we are reminded from time to time. It is easy to think of the Church as an institution, a hierarchical structure. However, our Gospel reading recently presented us with the vision of the vine and the branches, something organic, living, fruitful and interdependent. The expression used in the official teaching of the Church is that of the People of God, within whom ordained ministers have their place.

In this time between Easter and Pentecost we are invited to reflect on our choice to be a member of the People

of God, a disciple of Jesus, that choice which we reaffirmed at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday. The Gospel today reminds us that to be a Christian does not simply mean having been baptised: it involves a personal relationship with Jesus which should manifest itself in a fruitful Christian life. In some ways, it can be more comfortable to envisage the Church as an institution because then we can minimise our part in it and our responsibility for its life and mission. Perhaps between now and Pentecost we might all reflect on what it means to be a disciple among disciples and how we can make our local church more of a communion. ■

DO

Look at a book or newspaper. Listen to a programme on the television or radio or through your headphones. Think of how words are important for people communicating with one another. Jesus is the Word of God. The Bible is the Word of God. What is your reply?



LEARN

There are no apostles in the Fourth Gospel, only disciples.

The female figure of Wisdom is presented in the Jewish Scriptures as God's agent of creation and communication with human beings.

Jesus is presented in the same way in John's account of the Good News.

God's purpose in self-revealing is to invite human persons into a relationship perhaps best described as friendship.

SAY

Speak, Lord: your friend is listening.

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 **6th -13th May 2018**

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
Monday 7th	10.00am	Swinford: Mary & Michael O'Donnell, Logcurragh Nora Durkan & her brother Paddy Joe & sister Maureen & dec'd Durkan & Hastings Families
Tuesday 8th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 9th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Thursday 10th	10.00am	Swinford: Carmel & Frank Reape & Margaret & James Turbitt & dec'd Families, Sancta Maria
Friday 11th	10.00am	Swinford: Nellie Gavin (1 st anniv) Marian McDonnell, Rathscanlon
Saturday 12th	10.00am	Swinford: Thomas McGuinness, Sancta Maria (MM) Tom Loftus, Davitt Place (1 st anniv)

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Saturday 12th	6.30pm	Swinford: Martin Sweeney, Tullinacurra Jack Irwin & dec'd Molloy Family, Carracanada
Sunday 13th	12 noon	Swinford: Jane & Joe Gallagher & son David, Rathscanlon & Grandson Kevin Gerry Callaghan, Tullinacurra

Sunday 6th	9.00am	Meelick: Séan McHugh, Knockavilla
Sunday 13th	9.00am	Meelick: No Intention

Sunday 6th	10.30am	Midfield: Hannah, James & Tommy Quinn, Midfield & Margaret Quinn/Cunnigham, Australia John & Mary McLoughlin & daughter Mary, Woods
Sunday 13th	10.30am	Midfield: Frank Brennan, Cashelroyan

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 Ambrose Lavin, Woods; Mary Grennan, Tullinahoo; Katherine Devine, Laughtadurkin; Michael Rice, Derryronane. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Congratulations and every blessing to Lisa Mellon and Mark Heverin who were married recently in Meelick Church.

Confirmation: Fifty-one young people from all five schools in our parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday during Mass at 1.30p.m. We pray for them this weekend as they take this important step on their Christian journey. May the gifts the Holy Spirit brings them guide them throughout their lives.

Parish Pastoral Council: A meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council took place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, April 30th at 8p.m. Among the items discussed were preparations for the Corpus Christi Procession on June 3rd and a parish event to prepare for the World Meeting of Families 2018.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima- Day of Prayer and Reflection on Sunday 13th May in the Fr. Peyton Centre. 12noon-joyful Mysteries and Chaplet of Divine Mercy; 1.30pm-Refreshments available; 2.15pm-Sorrowful Mysteries; 3pm-Mass followed by the Glorious Mysteries; Confessions available. Contact Fr. Peyton Centre on 096-45374 for more details.

Midfield N.S – Enrolment for Sept 2018 is taking place at present. Contact 087-9014451.

Swinford Football Club: Registration for U8 & U10 boys will be held on Tues 8th & Fri 11th May at 4pm at Mc.Evaddy Park Cloonaghboy.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for April 30th Numbers: 1 14 18 26; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Eileen Garrett, Kilkelly Road, W. Kilgallon, Swinford; 3 Number Winners: No Winners; Jackpot €5,400; Next Draw on Tuesday 8th May in Bolands.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in the Gateway Hotel and for the second week running Mick and Eileen of Lislackagh won €414. Next draw is on the 8th May.

Under 14 Trip to Birmingham: On the weekend of the 7th- 9th June our under 14 players are heading to Birmingham to take part in the Annual Coley Folan Memorial Tournament. The

team have organised a fundraising table quiz for Friday 18th May in the Gateway Hotel.

Go For Life Games and Boccia for over 55's will be held in the Cultural Centre Swinford by the Swinford Go Getters on Thursday 10th May 10.30 to 12.30. Admission €2. All welcome - Refreshments served. We will also have our cake sale on Sunday May 6th from 11.00am-1.00pm in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House. Please support.

Chiropodist: Martin McNally will attend at the Gateway Hotel on Fri 11th May from 10am.

Swinford Gardening Club and Swinford Social Services: are organising a trip to Tipperary from 25th – 27th June, staying in the Anner Hotel, Thurles. Some of the hi-lights include visiting Fancroft Mill and Gardens, Holy Cross, Rock of Cashel, a garden centre and taking part in a pottery workshop. The cost is €250 pps single supplement extra. Contact Angela on 087 6520311 to book your place.

Meelick ICA Guild next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th May at 8.30pm at Meelick Community Centre. Enquiries: 086- 0749103.

Come and pray to keep abortion out of Ireland on Sunday May 13th. Adortion in the main Church from 1pm -6pm.

May Procession will be held on Saturday evening May 12th in the Church after 6.30pm Mass to honour Our Lady of Fatima.

AMORIS Programme as part of the preparation to the World Meeting of Families 21 -26 August 2018. You are invited to the Pastoral Centre in Charlestown for three Monday evenings 14th , 21st and 28th May from 7.30pm to 8.30pm for a short presentation on some of the themes contained in Amoris Laetitia (*The Joy of Love*) which is the letter written by Pope Francis about the reality of family life today. These three evenings in Charlestown will mainly comprise of watching two short video clips of interviews with people from around the world and their experience of what belonging to a family means to them in their lives. It will also look at what encouragement and hope Pope Francis is offering to individuals and families at this time as we prepare for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin. Please consider coming along with some members of your family, neighbours, and friends. You will be very welcome!