

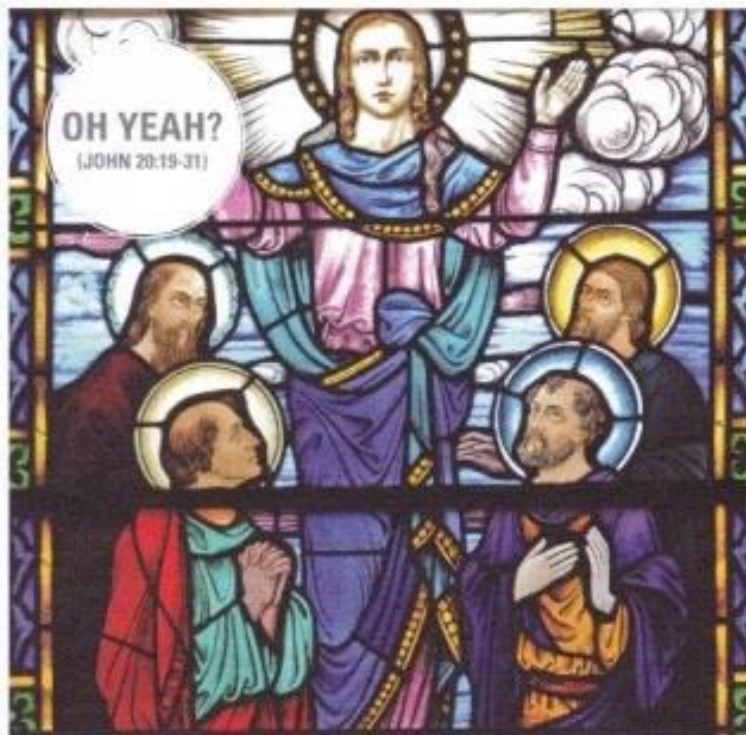
8 APRIL 2018

Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



Stained glass window from 1899 depicting the Risen Christ with his disciples

Faith is a journey. The disciple Jesus loved came to believe when he saw the empty cloths in the empty tomb. Now Jesus makes himself present to the wider group of disciples.

Mary Magdalene has brought them the news of the resurrection, in which she now believes because she has herself encountered the risen Lord, so they are aware of it, but they have not experienced for themselves the risen Jesus. They are still fearful and hiding from the authorities. Jesus' showing of the wounds in his body emphasises that the person who was crucified and buried is one and the same with the one now present among them. However, this person is no longer bound by time and space. Jesus confers on them the gift of his peace and then commissions them to continue his mission. It is at this point that the disciples become apostles: up to now, in the Fourth Gospel, they have had no share in Jesus' ministry. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on them to support them in their task, as he had already promised.

Thomas, the sceptical disciple, has also to complete his journey. Like the other characters in the story, he does not come to full belief simply on the word or testimony of other people. He demands proof, which Jesus offers. There is no evidence in the Gospel text, however, that Thomas actually touches Jesus; the experience of his presence is enough to bring him from a place of unbelief to faith. Mary Magdalene had also to let go of her desire to hold on to the Jesus she had known. The only one who believes without seeing Jesus is the disciple Jesus loved, the figure who represents the individual persons who commit themselves to Jesus in later times without seeing.

Those who believe in later generations do so on the authority of the Scriptures, including the word of the Gospel that Jesus rose – as do Peter and the other disciple at the empty tomb. And they do this in the physical absence of Jesus. The Gospel tells us that even those who apparently had the advantage of experiencing first-hand the risen Lord still struggled, like us, to believe. ■

REFLECT

The opposite of faith is not doubt but certainty. Doubt or questioning is one of the ways in which our understanding of what we believe actually grows: it makes us think about God and the way in which we appreciate our faith. Very often this does not involve questioning the basics but rather the way in which doctrine is presented and how we have always understood it. What is valid for a child is not usually sufficient for an adult. Thomas the apostle could have accepted the word of the others that Jesus was risen, but then he would not have had the powerful experience which the evangelist describes. He is sceptical of their message and it is this attitude which allows Jesus to lead him into a deeper faith and relationship with him. Perhaps we need to keep faith with our doubts and questions. ■

LEARN

The opposite of faith is not doubt but certainty.

For John the Evangelist, there is a moment when the person decides to believe: but that is only the beginning of their journey in faith.

The forgiving or retaining of sins refers at the time of the writing of the Gospel to baptism: to accept baptism means to have one's sins forgiven. To refuse baptism means that sin is not forgiven.

The characters in the Fourth Gospel represent different kinds of people and their reaction to Jesus and his message.

DO

After Communion today, reflect that Jesus is as close to you now as he was to the disciples when he appeared to them after his Resurrection.

Pray each day this week for the gift of a more lively faith.

If you do not have a copy of the Bible, buy at least a copy of the New Testament this week and read part of it each day.

SAY

My Lord and my 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;
Phone: 094 - 9253607
Email: swinews@hotmail.com **8th – 15th April 2018**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 7th	6.30pm	Swinford: Daniel McGee, Dungloe, Co.Donegal Tony Moore, Newpark
Sunday 8th	12 noon	Swinford: Mona & Martin Tunney, Cloonacannana Michael McNulty, Carnacul
Monday 9th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Tuesday 10th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 11th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Thursday 12th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Friday 13th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Saturday 14th	10.00am	Swinford: Paddy Kneafsey, Sweetwell (MM)
Saturday 14th	4.00pm	Swinford: Anne O'Donnell, Logcurragh (MM)

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 14th	6.30pm	Swinford: John & Winifred Doyle, Lislackagh & Úna & Denis Deacy, Ashgrove Bernadette O'Connor, Larch Hill & dec'd O'Connor & Hegarty Families
Sunday 15th	12 noon	Swinford: Delia & T.J Solan & dec'd Family, Cullane Molly & Ned Tunney & dec'd Family, Derryronane

Sunday 8th	9.00am	Meelick: No Intention
Sunday 15th	9.00am	Meelick: Peter & Delia Murphy & son Pete & Mai, Jim & Jimmy Woodlock

Sunday 8th	10.30am	Midfield: Winnie & Martin Gorman & dec'd Family, Woods William & Bridget Heaney & dec'd Heaney & Gallagher Families, Midfield
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Midfield: Tom Lavin, Carnacul/Crossmolina Paddy Campbell, Tullinahoo (MM) & his brother-in-law Patrick Campbell

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 Josephine Campbell, Rathdubh; Eileen Brady, Kilkerrin, Galway (sister of Anne Henry, Barnacogue); Pat Carley, Fourmilehouse, Roscommon (father of Regina Mullaney, Kilbride); Billy Brennan, Tullinahoo/Manchester (brother of Lizzie Ward, Derryronane); Sr Mary Martin Mulroy (Florrie), California (sister of the late Nellie McDonagh & Timothy Mulroy, Laughtadurkan). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Thank You: A sincere word of thanks to all who made our Holy Week ceremonies and our celebration of Easter so special this year: to those who cleaned and decorated our churches, our sacristans, our altar servers, our Readers and Special Ministers of Holy Communion, and those who helped with the collections, to our stewards, to all involved in the music ministry for adding so much to our celebrations. I am deeply grateful to all who helped in any way. Thank you also to all those who attended the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies. Please God, they have been days of blessing and grace for us all.

Easter collection: I am very grateful to all who contributed to the Easter collection last weekend for the support of the priest of the parish. This is one of the collections during the year that goes towards payment of the monthly salary of the parish priest. Your generosity is very much appreciated always.

Parish Pastoral Council: The April meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, April 9th at 8.30p.m. Please note change of time.

Parking at Swinford Church: A reminder, in the interests of health and safety, to please park only in the parking bays provided outside Swinford Church. Please be considerate of those who need to park at the church and disabled spaces are strictly reserved for cars with disabled parking permits.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for April 3rd Numbers: 3 24 26 29; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Sean Tuffy, Swinford; Lynda Hopkins, Rathscallon; 3 Number Winners: Sean Glesson, Cullane; Sharon O'Brien, Ballydrum; Jackpot €4, 600; Next Draw on Monday 9th April

Swinford Show: A Fundraising card game will be held in the Gateway Hotel on Sunday, April

8th and Sunday, April 15th at 8.30pm. Your support is very much appreciated.

Mayo Cancer Support, Rock Rose House: are looking for ladies to take part in the West of Ireland Women's Mini Marathon in Castlebar on Sunday 6th May, T-shirts and Sponsorship Cards available from 094- 9038407.

Swinford & District Gardening Club: On Tuesday 17th April, at 8.30pm in the Gateway Hotel, Roy Mortimer will give a talk on growing your own potatoes and vegetables. All welcome to attend. Non members €5.

Western Alzheimers Annual Tea Day takes place on April 20th. We ask you once again to Support us by holding a Tea Day in your home, place of work or community. Donations towards the Tea Day will also be gratefully accepted. Contact 094 93-64900.

Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation: Monday April 16th at 7pm in the Parochial House Swinford. Free and open to all over 16 years. Contact 086-0700681.

Meelick ICA Guild: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th April at 8pm in Meelick Community Centre. Contact Judith on 086-0749103 for more information.

Donor Week: Forget-Me-Not flowers will be on sale this week in Swinford. Volunteers needed for Thursday morning 12th April meeting at B.O.I at 10.00am. Please support Donor week.

Go For Life Games and Bocce for over 55's will be held in the Cultural Centre Swinford by the Swinford Go Getters on Thursday 12th April 10.30 to 12.30. Admission €2, All welcome Refreshments served.

Public Information Evening on understanding Stroke as a Family will take place in the TF Royal Hotel on Thursday 26th April from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Admission is free. No booking required. Contact 096-80451/094-9049342

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

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Horkans and Michael O'Neill of Sweetwell won €568. Next draw is in Bolands on the 10th April.

Table Quiz: There will be a GAA fundraising Quiz in The Sheepwalk Bar on Friday 27th April at 9pm.

Swinford A.C: Huge congrats to Noel Roache, Foxford who was last Tuesday night's winner of our 50/50 lotto draw.