

14 APRIL 2019

# Sunday Message

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Red • Psalter Week 2



Throughout the account of the Passion of Jesus, which takes us from the Last Supper to his burial, we find that many of the themes which characterise Luke's Gospel narrative recur.

Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives while he is tested as to whether he will be obedient to his mission from the Father and finds it a struggle, which the sweat falling *like great drops of blood* indicates. He heals the wound inflicted on the servant of the high priest by one of his disciples, and curtails the use of violence. Herod and Pilate are reconciled after their separate examinations of Jesus. Women have played an important part in Luke's version of the story, and Jesus takes time to speak to the *Daughters of Jerusalem* as he makes his way to Calvary. He prays for forgiveness for those who are crucifying him out of ignorance. He promises a place in Paradise to the criminal on the cross who appeals to him. His final words are a prayer of confidence in the Father. His death results in the conversion of those who witnessed it and return to the city *beating their breasts*, both of these verbs suggesting conversion. Luke omits the mention of the crown of thorns, which is an instrument of ridicule rather than torture. Finally, we have the women as witnesses to the place of Jesus' burial, thus setting the scene for the events of Easter day. ■

## SAY

Father, into your hands I commend myself.

## DO

Take a palm cross home and look at it during the week. Notice how one arm is horizontal, the other vertical. It may suggest that where the vertical (divine) world meets the horizontal (human) we find the cross. Make sure you attend the Holy Week services, if you can.

## LEARN

Crucifixion was a *vindictive* punishment: it was not intended to reform the person.

It was also a deterrent to anyone who might be contemplating a similar crime.

Calvary was a mound just outside the city walls not far from a main road so that the warning would be most effective.

The upright bar of the cross may have been the trunk of an olive tree still rooted in the ground.

## REFLECT

As we read or listen to Luke's account of the Passion of Jesus, we might be aware of a certain note of serenity about it. Jesus' ministry of healing and teaching by word and example continues. His death is of a piece with his life. His final words are a prayer of confidence in the care of the Father, not the cry of despair about being abandoned which we find in Mark. Jesus is very much in charge of himself and what happens to him. There is often a tendency to treat the Gospel accounts of the Passion and crucifixion of Jesus as simply different versions of the same event, in the way that witnesses to a traffic accident might give wildly differing accounts of the one incident. But the differences are due to the individual evangelists' understanding of who Jesus is. At the heart of our redemption is Jesus' willingness to accept the will of the Father, an acceptance which finds its clearest and most dreadful expression on the cross. During Holy Week, we are given the opportunity to contemplate the human cost to God and to Jesus of God's reaching out to human beings to invite us into a covenant relationship of life and love: this we do as we celebrate in the liturgy the events at the climax of Jesus' life and ministry. As a result, may we respond positively to God's initiative at the Easter Vigil ceremonies. And the reason for our positive response, hopefully, will be that we are overcome with wonder and gratitude. ■

**SWINFORD MEELICK MIDFIELD**  
**Fr Dermot Meehan Phone: 094-9251790/Urgent Calls: 087-1338200**

**PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm; Phone: 094 - 9253607**  
**Email: swinews@hotmail.com 14<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Swinford:** John & Winifred Doyle, Lislackagh & their daughter  
Úna & son-in-law Denis Deacy, Ashgrove  
Josephine Campbell, Rathdubh (1<sup>st</sup> anniv)

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Swinford:** Delia & T.J Solan & dec'd Family, Cullane  
Pat Campbell, Tavnaglass & formerly The Lounge  
Swinford

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** No Intention

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** No Intention

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** Mary & Michael Doherty, Eileen Healing, Mary & Peter  
Tuff & dec'd Greenan Family

**HOLY THURSDAY**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** Morning prayer

**7.30pm Swinford: Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** Morning prayer

**3.00pm Swinford: Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

**HOLY SATURDAY**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** Morning prayer

**9.00pm Swinford: The Easter Vigil (Please note: No Mass at 6.30pm)**

**EASTER DAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 12 noon Swinford:** Johnny Pidgeon & dec'd Pidgeon & Collins Families  
Mary & Michael Moore & dec'd Clarke & Moore  
Families

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**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Meelick:** Josie & Anthony Carney & dec'd Family

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 9.00am Meelick:** Paddy & Kathleen McDonagh & their son Tim,  
Laughtadurkan

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**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Midfield:** Kevin Morley, Fraunhill (1<sup>st</sup> anniv)  
Tom Lavin & dec'd Family, Carnacul

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Midfield:** William & Bridget Heaney & dec'd Heaney & Gallagher  
Families, Midfield  
Maisie & John Fahey & dec'd Family, Brackloon

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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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**Confessions for Easter:** There will be visiting priests in Swinford Church on Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6p.m. to 7p.m. for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for Easter.

**Holy Week:** Today, Palm Sunday, we begin Holy Week, the most important week in the Church's yearly calendar. We remember the last days of Christ on earth in the liturgies we celebrate over these special days. We recall in these liturgies that out of love for us and for our world, Jesus suffered severely and died on the cross and was raised to life by God the Father on Easter Day. These events are at the core of our Christian faith and all are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the church ceremonies that mark Holy Week and Easter. The liturgies lead us more deeply into the mystery of Christ and its meaning for us now. Please do consider attending the following ceremonies: The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening at 7.30p.m. The Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday at 3.00p.m. The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night at 9.00p.m. All these ceremonies will take place in Swinford Church.

**Adoration at the Altar of Repose:** On Holy Thursday evening after the Mass of the Lord's Supper, there will be adoration at the Altar of Repose, finishing with Night Prayer of the Church at 11pm.

**Special Ministers of Holy Communion** from the parish are invited to renew their commitment to their ministry during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening.

**Stations of the Cross:** will be held on Good Friday outdoors, in the Brabazon Woods at 7.30p.m. (weather permitting. Please assemble in the carpark at the children's playground).

**Please note that there will be no 6.30p.m.**

**Mass in Swinford Church on Holy Saturday.** Instead, the Easter Vigil will take place at 9p.m. **National Holy Face Public Vigil** will take place on Good Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at the Square, in Swinford. All are welcome.

**Anam Cara Mayo:** the organisation that supports bereaved parents is holding a Parent Evening on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.20pm in the T.F Royal Hotel Castlebar. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of

their death, or whether their death was recent or not.

**Lough Derg:** One Day Retreats begin on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May and continue on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. Why not take some time and space on Lough Derg personally or as a parish group this May? A new event for those who serve in lay parish Ministry, is on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, Booking is essential. Contact 071-9861518 for more details. Or [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org)

**Easter egg hunt:** takes place at Brabazon woodlands on Easter Sunday at 2pm sharp. Meet at children's playground.

**Swinford Spring Clean** takes place on Good Friday at 11am meeting at the Swinford 250 office on Market Street. Litter pickers, bags and vests will be provided. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

**Swinford & District Gardening Club:** next meeting will take place in the Gateway Hotel on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Non members €5.

**The Stoma Support Group** meeting takes place in Rock Rose House Castlebar on Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. All are Welcome. For more information please call 094-9038407.

**Swinford Golf/Soccer 250:** Results from Draw No.3 which was held on 7<sup>th</sup> April in the Golf Club. €1000 was won by Swinford GAA Club, €300 was won by Sally & Paula Dunleavy, Castlebar, €200 was won by Lorna Benson, Claremorris. Results available on our websites.

**Memorial Tractor Run:** JJ McHugh Memorial tractor run takes place on Easter Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April from Julians of Midfield at 2pm sharp. Entry fee €20. Contact Mary on 085-7477678 or Jarlath on 086-4045133 for more information.

**Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for 8<sup>th</sup> April Numbers 11 13 18 22; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Terry Mellon, Meelick; MA & M.Clarke, c/o Andy Madden; 3 Number Winner: B.Henry Midfield; Jackpot €11,400 Next draw is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation** Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Meeting Room at the Parochial House Swinford. Free and open to all over 16 years. Contact 086-0700681 if you require further information.