

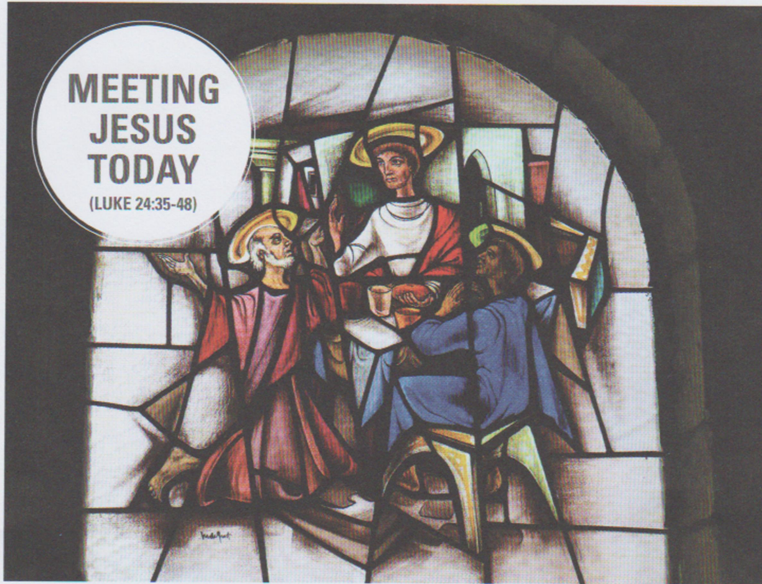
18 APRIL 2021

# Sunday Message

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3



**MEETING  
JESUS  
TODAY**  
(LUKE 24:35-48)

Stained glass window in the 15th-century Elzenveld Chapel in Antwerp, Belgium, depicting Jesus and two disciples at Emmaus

Our gospel passage follows the encounter of the two disciples with the risen Jesus on the way to Emmaus and his making himself known to them in a setting with a Eucharistic background.

The episode today echoes the previous reading from John, in which Jesus makes himself present to the group of disciples in Jerusalem. Cleopas and his possibly female companion have to return to the holy city, because that is the place where God's plan of redemption is to be worked out and, as yet, it is not completed: that will come with Pentecost.

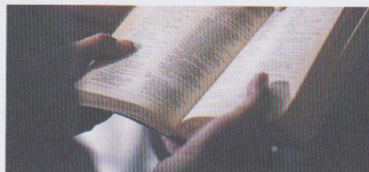
The appearance of Jesus emphasises that he is the same person as was crucified and laid in the tomb. The detail that he ate the piece of grilled fish 'in their presence' is an indication that the disciples are authentic witnesses to the resurrection: it is the same Jesus whom they knew before the crucifixion, but now he is transformed; he is not a ghost or a resuscitated corpse. The mention of fish recalls the feeding of the five thousand, which has Eucharistic overtones.

The risen Jesus then "opens their minds to understand the scriptures", another Eucharistic allusion. The earlier Emmaus episode shows the importance of the Hebrew Scriptures in making sense of the story of Jesus. Here the same message is reinforced, underlining that the paschal event is part of God's plan.

Luke's gospel narrative of Jesus is set in the context of a journey with Jerusalem as its focus: Jesus now tells the disciples that Jerusalem will become the hub from which the preaching of the Gospel will radiate out to the whole world. But not quite yet: the Holy Spirit will be the driving force and the Spirit has still to come. ■

## DO

Look up the references in the Jewish Scriptures to some Sunday gospel passage. See if this helps your understanding of the reading and, more importantly, of the person of Jesus.



## REFLECT

Luke is concerned to show that the risen Jesus is present when his disciples gather together to share a meal in his memory. The three essential elements in this celebration are setting what happened to Jesus in the context of the Hebrew Scriptures and the breaking of bread.

In our Sunday readings, the first reading and the gospel are thematically linked: sometimes the connection is more obvious than on other occasions, but the fundamental point remains, that the gospels can only be fully understood against the background of what we usually call the Old Testament. A homily is an explanation of the Scripture readings: a sermon is more of a class or lecture on some specific point of Church teaching. It is an interesting point from the Emmaus story that Cleopas and his companion are homilising as they make their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They are focussed on Jesus and what happened to him, but, without the Hebrew Scriptures, this remains an insoluble puzzle. The same message is forcefully conveyed in today's passage.

There is much more interest now in Catholic circles in the study of the Bible: a version with cross-references in the margin is a great help in making the links between gospel passages and their Hebrew counterparts. ■

## LEARN

In the Bible, people never discover God: God always reveals Godself.

The official teaching of the Catholic Church places the Scriptures in the context of God's self-revelation as the Word of God.

The liturgy of the Word is an essential element in the celebration of the Eucharist and of equal importance to the sacramental part.

## SAY

The Word of our God stands for ever.  
(Isaiah 40:8)

SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12 AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)  
Fr Dermot Meehan Phone: 094-9251790/Urgent Calls: 087-1338200

PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm; Phone: 094 - 9253607  
Email: swinfordparish@gmail.com 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Apr 2021

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Molly & Ned Tunney & dec'd Family, Derryronane Bridget Mulroy (nee Doyle), her husband James, & dec'd Family, Ardhoome Kevin Morley, Fraunhill & dec'd Morley & Moran Families
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Johnny Pidgeon, Dublin Road & dec'd Pidgeon & Collins Families
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Myra Moran, Brabazon Heights (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv) & her husband Francie
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Colm Morgan Margaret McDonnell & dec'd Corley Family
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Pat & Mary Quinn & Marie Mellon

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Willie & Bea Mellett, Dr Kevin Mellett & dec'd Mellett & Roddy Families John & Mary Durkan, Cloonacannana & dec'd Durkan & Gavigan Families Mary & Tony Basquil, Lisheenabrone Tom Jordan, Culleens Paddy & Kathleen McDonagh & their son Tim, Laughtadurkin Annie & George Brogan, their son John & his wife Mary & their grandson John Keevans Ambrose & Mary Lavin, Woods, her brother Pat Cunnane & dec'd Lavin, Heaney & Cunnane Families
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While there will be no public Masses this week, the intentions above will be remembered at Mass on the designated day except for Sundays. On Sunday, the intentions for the Vigil Mass, 9a.m. Mass in Meelick, 10.30a.m. Mass in Midfield and the 12 noon Mass in Swinford will be remembered together at 12 noon Mass in Swinford. Though families will not be present, please be assured that your loved ones will be remembered at Mass.

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All of the Masses above will be broadcast via live streaming on our webcam at [www.Churchservices.tv](http://www.Churchservices.tv). Just click on the icon for Swinford Church.

Useful updates and resources available on our diocesan website: [www.achonrydiocese](http://www.achonrydiocese).

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**Please pray for** Bridie Moran, Brabazon Heights and Sr Bridget (Philip) Sherlock, Sisters of Mercy. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**Thank you:** Sincere thanks to all who have been dropping in their contributions for the weekly offertory collection and other collections and to all who are making their contributions on-line. Your continuing generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you also to all who have collected their boxes of envelopes for the collections from the Parish Office.

**Vocations Sunday 2021:** Bishop Paul Dempsey will celebrate Mass on Saturday next, 24th April, in the Cathedral for Vocations Sunday. You are invited you to join and pray with him via the Cathedral webcam for vocations within Achonry Diocese. <https://achonrydiocese.org/cathedralwebcam/> or [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv)

“The Lord’s call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a “cage” or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch.” – Pope Francis. Priesthood in Achonry Diocese – Have you the courage to take a risk for God's promise?. Contact Our Vocations Director, Fr Paul Kivlehan, The Presbytery, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. Tel. 094 - 9860011, Mobile 087 - 3683535, E-mail [pkivlehan@achonrydiocese.org](mailto:pkivlehan@achonrydiocese.org) or contact any local priest for more information.

**Overseas Volunteers Training Course** September 2021. Viatores Christi, a faith-based development organisation has specialised in the recruitment, training and deployment of overseas volunteers since 1960. VC runs an online volunteer preparation course covering Community Development, Health, Global Awareness, Mission, etc. This is open to all! Once completed, participants can be considered for volunteer roles through VC EU Aid Volunteers #EUAVI programmes. If you want to know more, visit the News section of our website [www.vcvolunteers.ie](http://www.vcvolunteers.ie) or email [info@viatoreschristi.com](mailto:info@viatoreschristi.com)

**GAA 50/50:** The club 50/50 draw was held in Moores and Mary Kate Skeffington won €240. Envelopes are available in business premises in town and online through [www.swinfordgaa.ie](http://www.swinfordgaa.ie).

**Enable Ireland Mayo Services** require volunteers to work with children with disabilities in the home or community. Training and support provided. If you would like to become involved please contact Fiona at ‘Enable Ireland’ at ‘The Safari Club’: 094 9060234 or 087 6808350 or email [fscully@enableireland.ie](mailto:fscully@enableireland.ie) for more details.

**Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for 12<sup>th</sup> April Numbers: 4, 13, 24, 25; €70 Voucher Winners: C.A.R, Swinford; K.McNulty, Killasser; 3 Number Winner: Don Miller, Oak Drive, Jackpot now €18,200.

**Living Well** is a free online group programme delivered over six workshops (2.5 hrs x 6). It is delivered by trained leaders, most of whom are also living with a long-term health condition. Our next programme commences on Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Tues 18<sup>th</sup> May & Wednes 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Galilee Spirituality Centre On-line** will host four conversations for Eastertide, Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. Speakers: April 20<sup>th</sup> Rev Dr Ruth Patterson, April 27<sup>th</sup> Bishop Paul Dempsey, May 4<sup>th</sup> Dr Cathriona Russell, May 11<sup>th</sup> Rev Patsy Kelly MSC. Booking and Zoom Link: [info@galilee.ie](mailto:info@galilee.ie) €5. All welcome.

**Meals on Wheels Service:** A meals on wheels service is available for older convalescing, or vulnerable people delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Swinford. For details, please contact 094-9649484.

**Footwork’s** have set up a new clinic in Louisville Physiotherapy & Exercise clinic in Kiltimagh. We are there on Wednesdays only and offer a range of Chiropody and Podiatry services Bookings can be made on our website at [www.footworks.ie](http://www.footworks.ie) or by calling the Ballina clinic and requesting a Foxford appointment on 096 - 60100.

**New befriending service in the Swinford area.** We will make weekly contact with anyone who is lonely and would like a weekly chat. All volunteers are fully trained and Garda vetted and all calls are completely confidential. If you would like to avail of this service please contact 094 9370653.

**Swinford Golf Club 250 Centenary Draw:** Draw No 11: €1000 won by Vincent Roughneen, Swinford; €300 won by Michael Connaughton, Athlone Rd, Roscommon; €200 won by Aidan Benson, Convent Rd, Claremorris.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

May your people exult for ever, O God,  
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,  
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of  
our adoption,  
we may look forward in confident hope  
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
Peter said to the people: "You are Israelites,  
and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and  
Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has  
glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus  
you handed over and then disowned in the  
presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided  
to release him. It was you who accused the  
Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded  
the reprieve of a murderer while you killed  
the prince of life. God, however, raised him  
from the dead, and to that fact we are the  
witnesses.

"Now I know, brothers, that neither you  
nor your leaders had any idea what you were  
really doing; this was the way God carried  
out what he had foretold, when he said  
through all his prophets that his Christ would  
suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God,  
so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** Ps 4

Response:  
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.  
or  
Alleluia!

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;  
from anguish you released me, have  
mercy and hear me! (R.)

2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those  
whom he loves;  
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.  
(R.)

3. "What can bring us happiness?" many  
say.  
Lift up the light of your face on us,  
O Lord. (R.)

4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes  
at once,  
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in  
safety. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Jn 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John.  
I am writing this, my children,  
to stop you sinning;  
but if anyone should sin,  
we have our advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ, who is just;  
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,  
and not only ours,  
but the whole world's.  
We can be sure that we know God  
only by keeping his commandments.  
Anyone who says, "I know him",  
and does not keep his commandments,  
is a liar,  
refusing to admit the truth.  
But when anyone does obey what he has said,  
God's love comes to perfection in him.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.  
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk  
to us.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Lk 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke.

The disciples told their story of what had  
happened on the road and how they had  
recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when  
Jesus himself stood among them and said  
to them, "Peace be with you!" In a state of  
alarm and fright, they thought they were  
seeing a ghost. But he said, "Why are you  
so agitated, and why are these doubts rising  
in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet;  
yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for  
yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones  
as you can see I have." And as he said this  
he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy  
was so great that they could not believe it,  
and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to  
them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And  
they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which  
he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, "This is what I meant  
when I said, while I was still with you, that  
everything written about me in the Law of  
Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms,  
has to be fulfilled." He then opened their  
minds to understand the scriptures, and he  
said to them, "So you see how it is written  
that the Christ would suffer and on the third  
day rise from the dead, and that, in his name,  
repentance for the forgiveness of sins would  
be preached to all the nations, beginning

from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this."  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;

through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Receive, O Lord, we pray,  
these offerings of your exultant Church,  
and, as you have given her cause for such  
great gladness,  
grant also that the gifts we bring  
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Christ had to suffer and on the third day  
rise from the dead;  
in his name repentance and remission of sins  
must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Look with kindness upon your people,  
O Lord,  
and grant, we pray,  
that those you were pleased to renew by  
eternal mysteries  
may attain in their flesh  
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.