

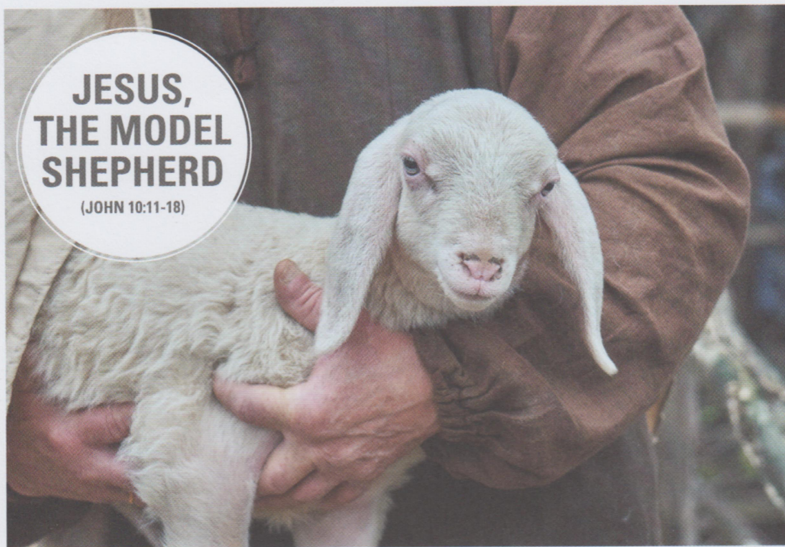
25 APRIL 2021

# Sunday Message

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 4



## JESUS, THE MODEL SHEPHERD

(JOHN 10:11-18)

The readings from the Gospels continue to reflect on Jesus' fulfilling the mission given to him by the Father. He reflects on the difference between himself as 'the model shepherd' and the one who simply does the job for money and is not committed to the members of the flock for any other reason.

The essential factor is that the paid employee has no meaningful relationship with those entrusted to his care: elsewhere, Jesus likens himself to the shepherd who knows all the sheep by name, illustrated by his addressing Mary Magdalene by name at the tomb on Easter Day. We might note that, although the Hebrew Scriptures talk about the messianic shepherd who will gather the scattered people together, there is no notion of one who will give his life for the flock.

Jesus' commitment to the Father is shown by his being willing freely to lay down his life and take it up again, as he will demonstrate later in the washing of the disciples' feet at the Last Supper. Thus, what happens to Jesus is not some tragic accident, but rather "the command I have been given by my Father". It is in this mystery that the love of the Father will be revealed, difficult though it may be for us to understand. ■

## REFLECT

One reason why farmers apparently are reluctant to give names to their animals is that it makes them in a sense into pets and so would cause all sorts of problems when the time comes to send them to be slaughtered for their meat. On the other hand, there are stories of tough and seasoned shepherds being reduced to tears when their dog, which has been their companion perhaps for many years, has to be put down to spare it further suffering. The difference in reaction reveals the contrast in relationship. In our reading today, we

are invited to reflect on what the Easter mystery tells us about Jesus, ourselves and what being a disciple means.

In our reading today, Jesus is not saying that he has power to lay down and take up his life again, so much as that he has authority to do so. He stresses that this is his own decision, freely taken. We might consider that what matters in the end is our own personal relationship with Jesus. It is easy to imagine the Church as a sea of anonymous faces, for example as pictures of St Peter's Square

## SAY

Jesus is the model shepherd: he knows my name.

(see John 10:11)

## LEARN

There is only one commandment in the Fourth Gospel: "love one another".

There is no equivalent to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew) or on the Plain (Luke) in the Gospel according to John.

The figure of the shepherd is used in the Hebrew Scriptures to refer to the leaders of Israel, often in a context of criticism.

## DO

Notice the people in the street as you walk along: do you imagine Jesus having a general interest in their well-being or his having a personal interest in each one? How do you feel he relates to yourself?



suggest: there is truth in this, that the Church is the people of God, but not in the sense of an amorphous crowd: John's thought is that of a community of committed individuals, each with a personal relationship to Jesus, a relationship marked by love. There is very little ethical teaching, such as we find in the Synoptic Gospels, in the version according to John. This means that it can be more demanding: love is often more challenging – and exhausting – than simply living by rules imposed from outside ourselves. ■

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 25<sup>th</sup> Apr -2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

**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 Mary Gardner (Niland), The Orchard Tom Jordan, Culleens Paddy & Kathleen Mc Donagh & 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
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Micheál Mulligan, Park Road
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Josephine Campbell & her parents James & Bridget
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Sr Mairéad (Mercedes) Murray, (MM)

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Andrew & Andy Mulligan & dec'd Family Jack & Nellie Regan, Tullinacurra, their daughter Eileen & her husband Eddie & dec'd Regan & Gavaghan Families Tom Lavin & dec'd Family, Carnacull Dec'd Durkin & Clarke Families, Carnacull & EyreCourt, Galway
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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** Patsy Maloney, Sancta Maria and London and John Dunne, Cloonfinish and Wales. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**Update:** Under Government guidelines, from this Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 25 people can attend a Funeral Mass. Since current restrictions were introduced at Christmas the number had only been 10. Unfortunately, there are no changes yet in the number who may attend Baptisms and Weddings. Attendance at Baptisms is limited to parents and godparents only and for Weddings the attendance remains at the couple and their two witnesses. Indications at the moment are that churches may be able to re-open for public worship during the month of May. It is expected that the Government will issue guidelines on re-opening of churches in the coming week.

**Offertory envelopes:** Thank you to all who have collected their boxes with envelopes for the weekly offertory collection and other collections from the Parish Office over the past few weeks. Boxes for those in the Meelick Church area will be available for collection from the porch of Maura Lavin's house on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Boxes for those in the Midfield Church area will be available for collection in Midfield Church on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament will resume in Swinford Church on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Anyone who can commit to an hour of adoration during those times on Thursdays is asked to contact Isabel Gallagher on 086 2151338.

**Vocations:** "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,

Email [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)

**North Connaught College Tubbercurry** are hosting a Virtual Open Evening over three evenings beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May where teachers give information about their different courses, and our facilities and support systems are also outlined. We offer a range of full-time one and two year courses. They include Beauty Therapy, Business, Childcare, Equine Studies, Healthcare, Nursing, Security Studies and more. Information can be found on our website [www.northconnaughtcollege.net](http://www.northconnaughtcollege.net). Further details on our website at [www.northconnaughtcollege.net](http://www.northconnaughtcollege.net) or on facebook at [www.facebook.com/northconnaughtcollege](http://www.facebook.com/northconnaughtcollege) or ring us on 071-9185035 for more details.

**Swinford Community Lotto** Results 19<sup>th</sup> April Numbers: 5, 12, 15, 17; €70 Voucher Winners; Michael Neary, Ballina Road; Tierney's , Ardgullen; 3 Number Winners; Kathleen Neary, Aclare; Brian Lord, Circular Road; Patricia Tunney, Cloonlara; Therese Hennigan, Cloonfinish; Michael Campbell, Park Road; Ann Kirrairie, Circular Road; Jackpot €18,400.

**Enable Ireland Mayo Services** require volunteers to work with children with disabilities in the home or community. This is a great opportunity to give something back to your community while also learning new skills, making friendships and having fun. 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 [fsully@enableireland.ie](mailto:fsully@enableireland.ie) for more details.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;  
by the word of the Lord the heavens were  
made, 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**

Almighty ever-living God,  
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,  
so that the humble flock may reach  
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Acts 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said:  
"Rulers of the people, and elders! If you  
are questioning us today about an act of  
kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he  
was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and  
would indeed be glad to tell the whole people  
of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus  
Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified,  
whom God raised from the dead, by this  
name and by no other that this man is able  
to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your  
presence today. This is the stone rejected by  
you the builders, but which has proved to  
be the keystone. For of all the names in the  
world given to men, this is the only one by  
which we can be saved."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** Ps 117

Response:

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

or  
Alleluia!

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in men:  
it is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes. (R.)

- 2 I will thank you for you have given answer  
and you are my saviour.  
The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

- 3 Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
I will thank you for you have given answer  
and you are my saviour.  
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;  
for his love has no end. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Jn 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John.  
Think of the love that the Father has lavished  
on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.  
Because the world refused to acknowledge  
him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.  
My dear people, we are already the children  
of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not  
yet been revealed;  
all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him  
because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my own sheep and my own know  
me.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Jn 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John.

Jesus said:

"I am the good shepherd:  
the good shepherd is one who lays down  
his life for his sheep.  
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd  
and the sheep do not belong to him,  
abandons the sheep and runs away  
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,  
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the  
sheep;  
this is because he is only a hired man  
and has no concern for the sheep.  
I am the good shepherd;  
I know my own  
and my own know me,  
just as the Father knows me  
and I know the Father;  
and I lay down my life for my sheep.  
And there are other sheep I have  
that are not of this fold,  
and these I have to lead as well.  
They too will listen to my voice,  
and there will be only one flock  
and one shepherd.  
The Father loves me,  
because I lay down my life  
in order to take it up again.  
No one takes it from me;  
I lay it down of my own free will,  
and as it is in my power to lay it down,  
so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been given  
by my Father."

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**

Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that we may always find delight in these  
paschal mysteries,  
so that the renewal constantly at work within  
us  
may be the cause of our unending joy.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Good Shepherd has risen,  
who laid down his life for his sheep  
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,  
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures  
the sheep you have redeemed  
by the Precious Blood of your Son.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.