

7 APRIL 2019

# Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



There are several occasions in the Gospel story in which Jesus' opponents lay a trap for him. They employ the familiar device of asking for a simple Yes/No answer to a question which may be far more complicated.

Today's apparently innocent request for his opinion about the punishment due to the guilty woman has echoes of the question about paying tribute to Caesar: whatever answer Jesus gives, it will get him into trouble either with the Romans or with certain sections of his own people.

It is clear that this episode rests on bad faith: John tells us that it is a test. Whatever the actual background, it seems that this is not a case of genuine legal doubt but of an imminent lynching. Jesus' opponents may well have the letter of the Law on their side, but not its spirit. It is extremely, perhaps suspiciously, convenient for the prosecutors that the woman in question has been caught in such a way that the legal requirement for two witnesses can be fulfilled: it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that she is the victim of a set-up by her husband. Jesus is rejecting the unjust process by which this woman has been brought to the brink of execution. He has said just before this that he judges no-one: this story illustrates his teaching perfectly. ■

## REFLECT

We can all appreciate the injustice of this scene, particularly the fact that the man involved does not have to share in the punishment. We can deplore the connivance of the judges, witnesses and perhaps of the husband in this perversion of due process. But we are all caught up to some degree in the court of public opinion where people can be accused, tried and condemned with no chance of defending themselves. We can also become frustrated with politicians and others who will not answer a simple question but bluster their way through a reply which is no answer at all. Point-scoring becomes the purpose of debate.

In all of this, truth is the real casualty. Some questions can be answered Yes or No. Others are not so simple. The woman's accusers do not seem to be interested in the real purpose of the Law, or whether she is sorry for her actions, and she is certainly being given no opportunity to put things right.

This is the danger of fundamentalism of any sort. In the Christian setting, it usually involves the lifting of biblical references out of their context and interpreting them literally. This normally applies to sexual matters: the clear and critical message of the prophets about cheating workers, accumulating wealth and land at the expense of others does not usually receive the same attention or emphasis. When we hear someone declare that *the Bible says...*, then we should be on our guard, as the biblical text is the Word of God, written by human authors according to their own culture and background. What we need to do is to apply the *spirit* of the Bible to our own time and place. ■

### SAY

Who am I to judge?

### DO

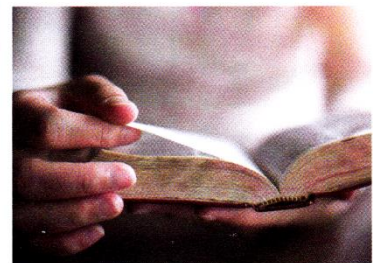
Pick up a stone. Look at it. Put yourself in the scene from today's Gospel. Would you throw it at the woman? What about other people in your life: do you throw stones (metaphorically) at them?

### LEARN

There are two authors involved in the writing of Biblical text: These are the Holy Spirit and the human author.

The inspired text of the Bible is the original text written in Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek.

No translation of the Bible is divinely inspired.



**SWINFORD MEELICK MIDFIELD**  
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**PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm; Phone: 094 - 9253607**  
**Email: swinews@hotmail.com** **7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Bernadette O'Connor, Larch Hill & dec'd O'Connor & Hegarty Families Tony Moore, Newpark & dec'd Family
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Jack & Betsy Campbell, their son Michael, Co.Tyrone Michael McNulty, Carnacul
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> James & Mary Kate O'Malley, their son Tony, Kitty & Sonny Hanley & Jim Gallagher Killaturley
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Tom Kelly, Brackloon/London
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Winnie Cunningham (nee Gallagher), Mansfield, Nottinghamshire/Killaturley (MM)

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

<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> John & Winifred Doyle, Lislackagh, their daughter Úna & son-in-law Denis Deacy, Ashgrove Josephine Campbell, Rathdubh (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Delia & T.J Solan & dec'd Family, Cullane Pat Campbell, Tavnaglass & formerly The Lounge Swinford

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<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Peter & Delia Murphy, their son Pete & dec'd Woodlock Family
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Josie & Anthony Carney & dec'd Family

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<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Mary & James Keane & dec'd Family, Faheens Michael, Mary & Kathleen Philbin, Tom & Kevin Basquil, Julia & Pat Gallagher, Curryane, Rose & Jack Kelly, Ellie, John & Jim Murtagh & dec'd Moran & Kelly Families
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Kevin Morley, Fraunhill (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv) Tom Lavin & dec'd Family, Carnacul

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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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**Please pray for** Andrew Kelly, Beechmount, Swinford and Anne Thornton (nee Murtagh), England and formerly of Castleroyan (aunt of John & Michael Murtagh). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**We welcome into the Christian community** Aoibhín Isabelle Henry, Cloonfinaun and Alex James Moran, Kiltimagh who were baptised recently in Swinford Church.

**Palm Sunday:** Next Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week in the Church's yearly calendar when we recall the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Palms will be blessed at all Masses on Palm Sunday.

**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.

**Preparing our churches for Easter:** There will be a clean-up in preparation for Easter in Swinford Church on Wednesday next, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 3p.m. and in Midfield Church on Wednesday evening at 7p.m. All help welcome!

**Congratulations** and every blessing to Kevin & Evelyn McLoughlin from Lislackagh who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary recently.

**National Holy Face Public Vigil** takes place on Good Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at the Square, Swinford to make reparation to the holy face of Jesus and for protection of life, faith & family in Ireland.

**Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service** is currently recruiting volunteers to train as Facilitators of its Marriage Preparation Courses. Accord is looking for people who have a positive attitude towards Catholic marriage, enthusiasm to be part of the accord team in supporting couples preparing for Sacramental Marriage. Successful applicants will receive professional training, and will deliver courses locally. Contact Aisling on 01-5053112 or info@accord.ie for more information.

**Swinford Go Getters:** are holding the next go for Life and Boccia Games on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30 to 12.30 at the cultural centre Swinford. Admission €3

**Meelick ICA Guild:** Their next meeting will be held in Meelick Community Centre on

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 8p.m. Please contact Peggy at 086-8347023/Angela at 087-9934820 for more information. New members welcome.

**Michael Davitt CCE:** Swinford Comhaltas is proud to present a Spring Show "Anois teacht an Earraigh" in the Cultural Centre on Sat April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm. Adm Adults €5, Children €3.

**Midfield Development:** are having their annual clean up of the village on Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have a couple of hours to spare we are meeting at the crossroads at 6 pm.

**Thank You:** Thanks to everyone who gave generously on Daffodil day, we raise a total of €9,125. To the volunteers who gave their time and energy we really appreciate your continuous support.

**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.

**Home Sharers Required:** Would you be interested in sharing your home and supporting an individual with a disability for a few hours per day, a couple of days per month, or longer term? Western Care are looking for single people, couples, families to provide respite breaks for children and adults across Co Mayo, in their own home. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Ruth Kneafsey, Home Share Co-ordinator on 094 9029148.

**Western Alzheimers:** Paddy Campbell is hosting his Annual Tea Day on the 12<sup>th</sup> April at his home in Brackloon, Midfield from 9am-9pm. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

**Swinford Golf/Soccer 250:** Results from Draw No.2 which was held on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

€1000 was won by Ciari Moore, Main St, Swinford, €300 was won by Kelda Moore, Sydney, Australia, €200 was won by Paul McNeela, Main St, Swinford. All results available on our websites.

**Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for 1<sup>st</sup> April Numbers 14 16 23 26; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Declan O'Connor c/o P. Horkans; M P Gleeson Swinford; 3 Number Winners: Collette Burke c/o Quinn's; The A team c/o Eurospar; Jackpot €11,200.