

18 AUGUST 2019

Sunday Message

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4

NOT PEACE BUT DIVISION

(LUKE 12:49-53)



On an initial glance at today's Gospel, this statement from Jesus is truly frightening. More often than not, the image of God Jesus presents to us is a God of love, tenderness and compassion.

Contrast that image with the God that shows a more fearsome, demanding and frightening side. In some Gospel translations, the opening line reads, "I have come to throw fire on the earth." Throwing fire suggests a more judgemental God, unhappy with what he sees in the world. But this scene reveals that something more profound and destructive is about to happen. Jesus is moving towards Jerusalem where a painful death awaits him.

Rather than downplay some of the harsh images of God in today's Gospel, there is a perspective that may help us understand Jesus' journey to Calvary. The fire referred to in Luke's Gospel can be used to describe the power of the Holy Spirit. The fire of the Holy Spirit is thrown into our world so that we might be renewed. The fire can take on even another meaning and expresses how the final judgment of God is near at hand with the death and resurrection of Jesus. We know that the crucifixion weighs heavily on Jesus' mind today because he states, "I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed." This baptism is not the ritual that we all know and part take in. The word baptism in today's Gospel refers to the death that awaits Jesus. He is filled with anxiety at the prospect of what is about to happen in Jerusalem. So if the first part concerns Jesus and his impending death, the second part of the Gospel focuses on the disciples. They and their families must be ready for the disputes and divisions that will take place after Jesus' death. ■

DO

Read the Gospel again and focus particularly on the phrase, "Do you think I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." How does Jesus cause division in your life?

LEARN

"Sometimes truth is not easy to listen to. Prophets have always had to deal with being persecuted for speaking the truth."

(Pope Francis, Mass at Casa Santa Marta, April 2018)

SAY

"Let us pray for peace and let us bring it about starting in our own homes."

Pope Francis



REFLECT

Fr Donal Neary SJ, in a reflection on today's Gospel, states that following Jesus has created divisions among people for generations. The fire of Jesus' message will divide people and sometimes those divisions creep into local communities and families. As St Luke states, "father against son, son against father..." Within societies across the world, these divisions against Jesus and his values are getting stronger and more vocal, especially in the areas of bioethics and migration. These values can cause conflict and division in the face of open debate. The church can be seen as judgemental and the enemy but since the very beginning, Jesus points to this as being fundamental to its existence. There is a certain power or fire that Jesus brought into the world that continues today. Fr Neary points out correctly that arising out of today's Gospel, we reflect on the people who put themselves in danger around the world for the right to religious freedom. Thomas Aquinas once said that "whatever is received is received according to the mode of the recipient". In other words, when God's love breaks into the world with all of its fire and power, how do we receive it - as judgemental or as compassionate and tender? Jesus did not come into the world as a trouble maker. He came to show us God's own values and God's love for his people. ■

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 **18th – 25th Aug 2019**

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 17th	6.30pm	Swinford: Catherine O'Connor, The Orchard Mary & Pat Brady, Rabawn
Sunday 18th	12 noon	Swinford: Patrick Devaney & dec'd Family, Culmore Michael & Breege Gleeson, Cloonlara & dec'd Durkan & Gleeson Families
Monday 19th	10.00am	Swinford: Peadar Cassidy, Brabazon Heights Padraic & Lucy Moran, Carrabeg
Tuesday 20th	10.00am	Swinford: Dec'd members of Swinford Show Society & their Intentions
Wednesday 21st	10.00am	Swinford: Dec'd Lavin, Sloyan & Hopkins Families
Thursday 22nd	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Friday 23rd	10.00am	Swinford: Jason Hennigan, Ballintample Human Life International Ireland
Saturday 24th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 24th	6.30pm	Swinford: Cailian Gallogy, Ballina Road (1 st anniv) Eileen & Tom Price, Cullane John & Winifred Doyle, Lislackagh, their daughter Úna & son-in-law Denis Deacy, Ashgrove
Sunday 25th	12 noon	Swinford: John McNicholas, Sweetwell & dec'd McNichoas & O'Brien Families & Peter Durkan, Cragaballagh & dec'd Family Catherine Burke & dec'd Burke & O'Shea Families

Sunday 18th	9.00am	Meelick: Jim Shiel, Australia/Clooninshin
Saturday 24th	11.00am	Meelick: Joe McGeever, Culleens (MM)
Sunday 25th	9.00am	Meelick: JP McNicholas, his parents Annie & Michael, his sister Nancy & her husband Liam

Sunday 18th	10.30am	Midfield: Paddy Oliver, Tullinacurra, his parents Paddy & Mary, his sisters Mary & Noreen & his brother Mike
Sunday 25th	10.30am	Midfield: Anne & Martin McDonagh, Cashelsheenaughane & dec'd Lavin & McDonagh Families Tom Hanley, Glenamaddy & Teresa Lavin, Manchester & dec'd Families

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 James Niland, Tumgesh and Jim Shiel, Australia and formerly of Clooninshin (brother of Bernadette Ryder, Dublin Rd and Dan Shiel, Clooninshin) and Mark Walsh, Claregalway (son of John & Linda Walsh -nee Conwell). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community Wesley Alexander Bell, London, Eoin Patrick Dixon, Leytonstone, England and Robert Séan Whyte, Aclare and Australia who were baptised recently in Swinford Church.

Grandparents Pilgrimage, Knock Shrine 2019: Sunday 8th September. The Pilgrimage begins with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at 2.30pm, followed by Mass at 3.00pm for more information, please email info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com or phone 085-8704722.

Medjugorje Conference and Day of Prayer: Special Guest Speaker Sr. Briege McKenna on Saturday August 31st, Neptune Stadium, Cork. Tickets €20 available from Veritas and online at Eventbrite.ie. Contact Sean on 086-2959380.

Mayo/Sligo/Roscommon Fatima Pilgrimage (last remaining seats) 10th October 2019 ex Dublin, 7 nights includes two trips to the seaside and Tour of Lisbon. Contact James Treacy 086-0572216 for more details.

Paddy Bollingbroke Commemoration Night to mark the 30th anniversary of the death of the late Paddy Bollingbroke (Gollie), four times All Ireland Handball Champion and all round sportsman, a commemoration ceremony to celebrate his life will be held in Mellett's Emporium on Friday August 30th at 7pm. The event is open to all.

Swinford Agricultural Show: takes place on Sunday 25th August on Heerans Farm on the Kiltimagh Rd. Show schedule available in Swinford 250 office on Market St. Entertainment by The Irish Knights & Pat's Country Roadshow. More info at www.swinfordagrishow.com

Killasser/ Callow Heritage Tour: On Sunday 25th August at 3pm the annual heritage tour of the parish conducted by Bernard O'Hara will begin at Killasser Community Centre. A bus will be provided so that everybody will be able to listen to the commentary. The tour usually lasts between 2 and 3 hours and refreshments will be provided in the Community Centre

afterwards. This is a free event, Contact Maureen on 087-2389786 for more details.

The Coleman Traditional Festival dedicated to the world renowned fiddle player Michael Coleman takes place in the Coleman Music Centre, Gurteen from August 21st -25th. All concerts commence at 8.30pm with the official opening at 7.30pm on August 21st in the Coleman Centre and on Friday August 23rd in the Rambling House with Fear an Tí Martin Donohue at the Coleman Cottage, Mount Irwin commencing at 8.30pm. Festival organised by Craobh Coleman C.C.E. Contact 071-9182599 for more information.

Hopscotch, Horsehoes and Jack Stones: Learn how to play traditional games such as hopscotch, horseshoes and Jack Stones for Heritage Week at the National Museum of Country Life, Turlough, Castlebar. This free, family activity takes place on Tuesday, August 20th from 2pm-4pm. No booking required.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for 13th Aug Numbers 06 07 14 22; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; Tom Henry, c/o Melletts; Maura Courell; 3 Number Winners; Josie Siggins c/o Melletts; Kieran Doherty, Killasser. Next Draw for €3800 on the 19th of August in Moore's Pub.

Meelick Community Council :Wish to thank all who contributed to the Cemetery fund on Cemetery Sunday. A total of €573 was collected and will go towards the upkeep of the Cemetery.

Swinford Golf/ Soccer 250 Draw: Draw no 11 €1000 was won by Bobby Brennan, Midfield €300 was won by Tom Grufferty, Swinford €200 was won by Sean & Philip Mc.Grath c/o The Sheepwalk Bar, Swinford.

Thank you for supporting our draw and all results are available on our websites.

A Centering Prayer retreat entitled Heartfulness will take place at Kylemore Abbey from Sunday 25th August to Wednesday 28th August. For more information contact Mary at 095-52011 or Email mary@kylemoreabbey.ie

Swinford Foroige: Registration will take place in the Community Centre on Friday 23rd Aug at the following times. Existing members: 7.30pm-8.30pm, New members 8.30pm-9.30pm. Please note in order to guarantee continuation of this club we will need more leaders.