

2 AUGUST 2020

# Sunday Message

18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



## A LAVISH GENEROSITY

(MT 14:13-21)

In today's Gospel, Jesus sees that the people are hungry and he responds to their need.

He says a prayer of blessing and then gives the disciples food to share among the crowd. To their amazement, not only is there enough food for everyone but the leftovers fill 12 baskets. He doesn't let the people go hungry. He doesn't just give them food; he gives them more than enough to eat. There is a super abundance of food.

It is a foretaste of the eternal banquet in the Kingdom of Heaven, and a statement of how we too must live. ■

### REFLECT

**T**oday's Gospel speaks of love and generosity. It echoes the kind of lavish love that St Paul writes about in the second reading. Both challenge us in two ways.

First, as individuals. They remind us that to be a Christian means to be generous. We must share – not just our money, but also our time, our love, our very selves with all who are in need. There is no such thing as the private Christian.

Second, they challenge us as a community, a society. As Christians, it is not enough that we are charitable. We are also obliged to build a more just world. We cannot be indifferent to the poor, those who do not have enough to eat. Catholic social teaching is one of the Church's greatest secrets. Most people know where the Church stands on sexual morality. And many think that sex (and money) are all the Church talks about. But the Church has a whole body of wonderful teaching built up over time that speaks about care for the poor, teaching that speaks of solidarity and places the Church and its members firmly on the side of the voiceless and the oppressed. It was because of his fearless defence of the poor of El Salvador that Archbishop Oscar Romero was martyred while celebrating Mass. It was because of her support for the indigenous people of the Amazon that Sr Dorothy Stang was shot dead in 2005. Their fidelity to the Gospel placed them on the side of the poor, even to the extent of losing their lives. The great Brazilian Archbishop Hélder Câmara summed up the distinction between charity and justice in a famous phrase: "When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist."

To be a follower of Jesus is to work for justice. In fact, the Church teaches that action for justice is a constitutive part of living the Gospel. It is not enough for us to tell the poor, the abused, the unjustly treated, that we will pray for them or give money to charity to support them. We must also do whatever we can to address inequality and injustice. There is plenty of food to go around if we are prepared to share. ■

### SAY

**"Lord, help me to be the kind of person you want me to be. Amen."**

### DO

In today's second reading St Paul makes a wonderful profession of faith. He says there is nothing that can separate him from God's love made visible in Christ: not persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger or even death. No matter what he does or doesn't do, God loves him. He is absolutely certain of God's love. Can you say the same thing? Make his profession of faith your profession of faith.

### PRAY

Everything about the Eucharist speaks of solidarity and community. We share the one meal, we call each other sisters and brothers. We offer each other the sign of peace, the sign of unity and togetherness. Pray for a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist.

### LEARN

Jesus is the Bread of Life.

The Christian has a passion for justice.

The Christian is always aware of the needs of others.

**SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12 AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)**

**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: swinfordparish@gmail.com**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Tommy Gallagher, Kilbride Tom & Úna Egan, Main Street, Mary & John Feeney & their sons John, Gerard & Joe, Ballyglass
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Pat Goff, Park Road Úna Doyle & her husband Tony, Tumgesh & dec'd Doyle & Mulrennan Families Mary Thompson-Breen & dec'd Breen & Thompson Families
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Marty & Angela Hopkins, Rathscalon & their daughter Mary O'Leary Séamus O'Hagan & dec'd Family
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Martin & Winnie Molloy, Lisheenabrone John Higgins, Lisbrogan
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Úna & Tom Egan, Main Street Patricia Rodgers & Catherine Schroeder
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Martin & Kate Mellett, their daughter Kathleen Kilgallon & their son Michael & Séan Dolan Cloonlara/Manchester
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Bernie Whelan Patracia Murray, OakDrive
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Bob Doyle, Newpark & dec'd Doyle & Lynskey, Families William O'Connor, Limerick
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Anne Groarke, Cloontubrid Mildred & Tom Kavanagh, Riverside & their daughter- -in-law Catherine

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<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Pat, Anne & Margaret Philbin & dec'd Family, Steeple Village
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<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Joe Thompson, Tower View
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<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> No Intention
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<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> James & Delia Frain, Nano & James Peyton & James Brennan
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**Please pray for** Mary Denis (nee Kennedy), Lismore Waterford and formerly of Kinaffe (sister of Michael & John Kennedy, Kinaffe). May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**We welcome into the Christian community** Orla Annie Lacey, Ashgrove who was baptised recently in Swinford Church and Jack Oisín Higgins who was baptised recently in Meelick Church.

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation:** Due to the restrictions to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus the celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion in our parish had, unfortunately, to be postponed. This was particularly disappointing for the young people who had been preparing for the sacraments, for their families and school communities. New dates will be set for the celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation shortly. Our new Bishop, Paul Dempsey, hopes to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with the young people in the parishes of our diocese after his Ordination as our Bishop in the Cathedral in Ballaghaderreen on August 30<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that the new date for Confirmation in Swinford parish will be announced later this month and, after that, the dates for First Holy Communion will be arranged. The celebrations of the sacraments will, of course, have to be in accord with Government and NPHE guidelines for places of worship.

**Arranging Anniversary Masses:** To arrange anniversary Masses for deceased family members, please contact Anne-Marie in the Parish Office at 094-9253607 or at swinfordparish@gmail.com. As the capacity of each church is now limited, it is important that family members wishing to attend an anniversary Mass, particularly at weekends, come in good time to ensure that they will be able to get a seat in the church.

**Please note:** The Parish Office is open on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9a.m. to 2p.m.

**A new pilgrimage on Lough Derg's lakeshore:** Walk and Pray in the Lough Derg tradition on 16, 18, 22, 26 & 30 August. At times in the 1600s and 1700s when Station Island was closed by the Penal Laws, pilgrims undertook a form of pilgrimage on the lough shore. Walk in

their footsteps. Contact 0 (0353) 71 9861518 or info@loughderg.org for details. Numbers are limited. Advance booking essential.

**Cycle for Pete:** On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, after a long battle with cancer we lost our dear friend Peter "Pete" Durkan to cancer. Pete left behind his wife kasia, two young Kids, Lilly (4) and Alex (2), along with family and many friends. As a group of friends we decided to create an event to raise money for the future of Lilly and Alex along with the Irish Cancer society. Our fundraising channels are via GofundMe (Cycle for Pete) along with the sponsorship cards of each person who has committed to take part in the cycle from Ballynahinch Castle (Pete's last place of work) to Meelick, his home just outside Swinford Co. Mayo. We will have 100 cyclists taking part in the event. We set ourselves a challenge to raise €20,000 for this great cause and we're just over half way there. We hope you are able to support. Sponsorship Cards are available in the Post Office, Credit Union, Moore's and the Gateway Hotel.

**Sean Nós** camp takes place 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August from 10-2pm in the CBD Complex, Charlestown. Learn Sean Nós, Ireland's oldest type of dance, includes barrel and brush dancing. Children and Adults welcome, age 5 and up. Booking essential. Contact Laura on 086-2448392 for more details.

**GAA 50/50:** The clubs 50/50 draw was held in Moores and Rita Lynskey won €315. The next draw will be held in Horkans on the 4<sup>th</sup> August. The club would like to thank everyone for their support.

**Chiropodist:** Martin McNally will attend at The Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August from 10am. Please phone for appointment 087-2226260.