

9 AUGUST 2020

Sunday Message

19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



Imagine the disciples' panic. They are in the boat all by themselves when a storm begins to rage. It's so bad the boat is in danger of sinking. They are full of fear. All seems lost... and then they see Jesus walking towards them, on the water.

Eager as ever, Peter asks Jesus if he, too, can walk on the water, and Jesus invites him to come to him. Peter climbs out of the boat, but the wind rises, and he begins to sink. Even Peter, the most important figure in the early church, has a faith that falters in the midst of the storm.

Jesus saves him, and castigates him for his weak faith. As soon as they are back in the boat, the storm eases, the winds calm, and the awestruck disciples acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God.

The message is clear: the boat represents the Church, and the disciples represent all believers, while the storm represents the difficulties and doubts the Church is facing. The boat will face many storms, but if the disciples make sure to recognise Jesus and trust in him, they will always be safe. Trust in God and an adventurous faith have the power to overcome doubting fear. ■

REFLECT

One of the classic songs of the last half century is 'Bridge over Troubled Water'. At the time he wrote it, Paul Simon was influenced by Gospel music, and this influence comes across in the chorus of the song:

When you're weary, feeling small
When tears are in your eyes
I will dry them all
I'm on your side
Oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down...

The words speak of offering comfort, solace, help, refuge. It is the assurance Jesus offers his frightened followers in today's Gospel.

It's what he offers us in our distress and at all times. Jesus is our bridge over troubled water. It's easy to trust in Jesus when life is good and all is plain sailing. Like Peter, we can even begin to think we can walk on water. Nothing can sink us.

Then, suddenly or over time, the skies darken and storm winds blow in. Maybe a relationship crumbles or our health fails, or financial woes overwhelm us, or scandal envelops us, and, like Peter, we flounder. We begin to sink. Our faith is tested. We feel lost and frightened and afraid. But we are not alone. Jesus is with us in every storm in which we find ourselves. He never abandons us. Trust in him, call out to him, as Peter does, and we will be safe. ■

SAY

**"Lord, I believe;
help my unbelief."**

DO

As Christians, we know that Jesus is with us in the midst of any storm in which we find ourselves. But he is more than with us; he calls on us to face that storm. To have courage. To trust. To be not afraid. Think of the challenges and difficulties you and your loved ones are facing at this time. Ask the Lord's help in facing them.



PRAY

Pray for those who feel as if they are caught in a storm – those who are ill, or depressed, or suicidal, or bullied, or suffer from discrimination or intimidation – that they may experience Jesus's soothing, calming, saving presence with them.

LEARN

God is with us always, in good times and bad.

It is okay to experience doubts and difficulties so long as we continue to trust in God.

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

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9th -16th Aug 2020

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 8th 6.30pm Swinford: Bob Doyle, Newpark & dec'd Doyle & Lynskey Families
William O'Connor, Limerick

Sunday 9th 12 noon Swinford: Anne Groarke, Cloontubrid
Mildred & Tom Kavanagh, Riverside & their daughter-
-in-law Catherine

Monday 10th 10.00am Swinford: Josephine Horkan & her parents John & Annie

Tuesday 11th 10.00am Swinford: Special Intention

Wednesday 12th 10.00am Swinford: No Intention

Thursday 13th 10.00am Swinford: John Clancy, Oakdrive

Friday 14th 10.00am Swinford: No Intention

Saturday 15th 10.00am Swinford: Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 15th 6.30pm Swinford: Mary & Pat Brady, Rabawn
Patrick Devaney, Drumshinnagh, Culmore & dec'd
Devaney & Gavaghan Families

Sunday 16th 12 noon Swinford: Michael & Mary Ellen Stenson, Lisbrogan
Eileen & Paddy Maloney, Collagh

Sunday 9th 9.00am Meelick: Joe Thompson, Tower View

Sunday 16th 9.00am Meelick: No Intention

Sunday 9th 10.30am Midfield: James & Delia Frain, Nano & James Peyton & James
Brennan

Sunday 16th 10.30am Midfield: Tom Hanley, Glenamaddy & dec'd Family
Mary & John McLoughlin & their daughter Mary,
Woods

Please pray for Nora McGrath (nee Salmon), London and formerly of Carnacull (sister of Tom Salmon, Oakdrive). May she rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

Sean Joseph Keane, Treenalur who was baptised recently in Midfield Church.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM:

Saturday next, August 15th, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The tradition of the Church teaches that at the end of her earthly life, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was taken up body and soul into heaven and we remember that unique grace and privilege given to her each year on August 15th. Please note that, this year, August 15th is not a holyday of obligation and there is no obligation to attend Mass next Saturday. Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption will be celebrated in Swinford Church on Saturday at 10.00 a.m.

The Sunday Obligation: Since the middle of March, the Irish Bishops' Conference has suspended the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays of obligation due to the restrictions in place to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus. That suspension of the obligation will continue for the foreseeable future. As numbers able to attend Mass in our churches remain limited, anyone who wishes to come to Mass and can do so on a weekday is encouraged to consider leaving the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening in Swinford Church and the Masses on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in Meelick Church, at 10.30 a.m. in Midfield Church and at 12 noon in Swinford Church to those who can only attend Mass on Sundays and to families who have arranged anniversary Masses for loved ones on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Thanks to all parishioners for your continuing co-operation, patience and understanding with the measures we've had to put in place to ensure the safety of all who worship in our churches in these times.

The annual Youth 2000 Summer Festival is Ireland's largest Catholic Youth event, but this year, for the first time, it will be streamed live on the 14th-16th of August. Hear talks and workshops from some of the best Catholic speakers including Fr. John Harris OP, Dr. Scott Hahn, John Pridmore, Petroc Willey (University of Steubenville), Katie Ascough, Sr. Colleen

Mattingly, Sr. Mary Hanrahan, Bill Keimig (University of Steubenville), Beth Davis (Blessed is She) and others from Ireland and around the world. Youth 2000 Ireland 's motto is 'Youth leading Youth to the Heart of the Church' and we do this by leading Eucharistic-centred festivals, retreats and prayer meetings throughout the country. Register Free at www.youth2000.ie/summerfestival2020 .

Cycle for Pete: On the 17th 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 on Sat 29th August. 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 in Swinford.

Magical Minds Montessori Swinford is reopening on August 31st. There are still a limited number of places available for September, if you would like more information please contact Lorraine on 087-7566533 or email magicalmindsmontessori@gmail.com.

Public Involvement in Angel Memorial Name Change: We would like to say thank you to everyone who took the time to vote over the last few days on the new name for our project. The choice was between The Butterfly Garden and Angel Memorial Garden. We are happy to announce we will be changing the name to the Butterfly Garden. Feel free to follow us on our Facebook Page.

Swinford Community Lotto Results 4th August Numbers 4, 18, 20, 30; €70 Voucher Winners: M. Stringer & V. Keall, Barnacogue; John Logan, Oak Drive; 3 numbers Winners: Nellie Tracey, Manulla; Brendan Kenny, Swinford; Jackpot now €11,000.