

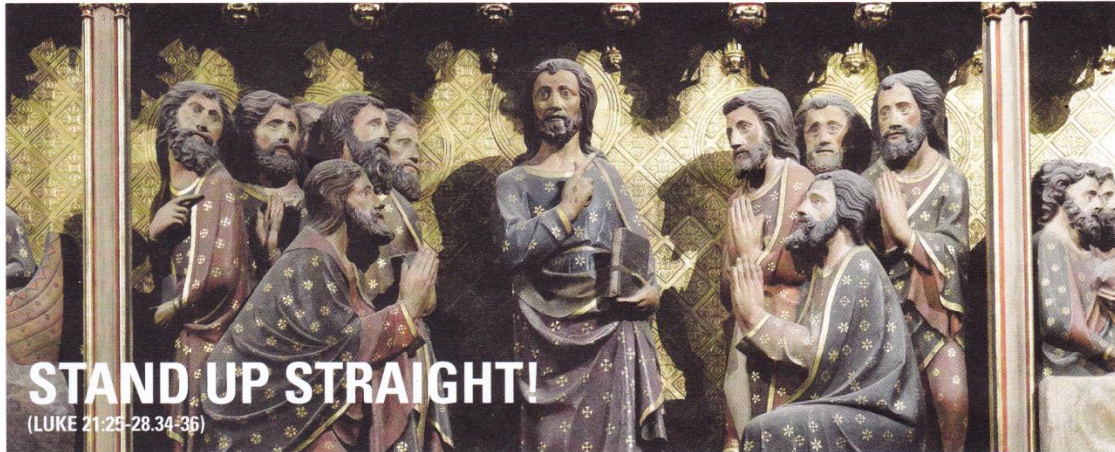
2 DECEMBER 2018

Sunday Message

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



STAND UP STRAIGHT!

(LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36)

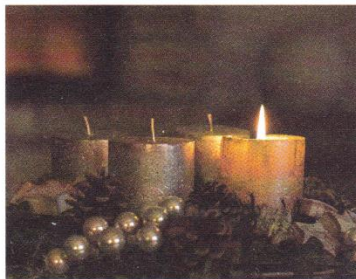
Intricately carved frieze inside Notre Dame Cathedral depicting Jesus' appearance to the disciples in Galilee

Today, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new cycle of readings from the Gospel, this time from the account presented to us by Luke.

The text for today concerns the coming of the Son of Man at the end of time, an event heralded by fearful signs which engulf the natural world. The effect on the human world will be one of confusion and panic. When this will happen is unknown, so how should the disciples of Jesus live in the meantime?

We find the figure of the coming of the Son of Man in glory in the Book of Daniel, which speaks about the final victory of God over the forces which oppose God's rule, God's vision of what human life should be. In the Gospel story, these forces are identified with Satan, and with anything which endangers or adversely affects human life: for example, Luke earlier has described the plight of a crippled woman, "whom Satan has bound" for 18 years and is unable "to stand up straight". Jesus delivers her from this condition, and in this way illustrates the universal deliverance from evil which the Son of Man will bring. The disciples must hold themselves ready to meet the Lord whenever this event takes place. Jesus has warned them about the dangers facing the likes of the complacent house manager who imagines that he or she has plenty of time to indulge in self-centred abuses of their position. There is also the risk that disciples may allow their awareness of the Word of God to be drowned out by the daily concerns of life. Such an attitude will mean that the arrival of the Son of Man will cause panic, guilt and shame.

But this need not be so. Jesus tells the disciples to be alert, constantly praying, and then they will be ready to greet him joyfully. Like the woman whom Jesus has liberated from her suffering, they should stand up straight, knowing that their deliverance from all the evil which threatens them is imminent. Then his coming will be a source of joy, good news indeed. ■



LEARN

The word 'Advent' means 'coming' or 'approach'.

The biblical posture for speaking to God in prayer is standing, not kneeling.

The term 'Son of Man' is taken from the Book of Daniel.

The Book of Daniel is apocalyptic writing, which describes events at the end of time.

SAY

To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.

DO

Use the frantic advertising for Christmas as a reminder of what is really important to you as a Christian person. Imagine it all as froth on the surface and find a quiet place in your heart to reflect on the place which Jesus occupies in your life today.

REFLECT

Advent is the period of the four weeks leading up to the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, or the Birth, of Christ. During this time we are invited to reflect not simply on the historical event which took place in Bethlehem, but also, and more importantly, on what that event should mean to us personally today. How would I feel if I realised that Jesus was arriving later today? Would this be good news?

Each time we pray "Thy Kingdom come", we are in fact praying that God's rule (or God's will) should be established in our world: so, we ought to live our lives believing that this is in fact a reality. We might also consider our daily cares and concerns in this light, so that when we celebrate Christmas, we will be welcoming Christ into our lives today as a real and living presence, in a spirit of deep joy. ■

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 **2nd - 9th Dec 2018**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 1st **6.30pm** **Swinford:** Delia & Patrick McGrath & daughter Margaret,
Newpark
Tom & Mary McHugh & Paddy & Marie Lynskey &
Kate & Paddy Kenny & their son Kevin

Sunday 2nd **12 noon** **Swinford:** Brendan Geary & his brother-in-law Fr Vincent Kelly
Anne O'Brien & dec'd Family, Cullane

Monday 3rd **10.00am** **Swinford:** The Holy Souls

Tuesday 4th **10.00am** **Swinford:** Brian, John & Debbie Gavin, Carracanada

Wednesday 5th **10.00am** **Swinford:** No Intention (**Padre Pio Devotions after Mass**)

Thursday 6th **10.00am** **Swinford:** Michael Callaghan & dec'd Callaghan, Foote & Oliver
Families, Tullinacurra

Friday 7th **10.00am** **Swinford:** Mary McCann, Kilbride (MM)

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF B V M

Friday 7th **6.30pm** **Swinford:** Nuala McManus, Carracanada
Fiona McDermott, Cloonaghboy

Saturday 8th **10.00am** **Swinford:** Lucy Moran, Carrabeg (1st anniv)
Andrew & Andy Mulligan, Sweetwell
Helen Ronayne, Culmore

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 8th **6.30pm** **Swinford:** Joe Moran, Brabazon Heights
Attracta Gavin & her parents & dec'd Family

Sunday 9th **12 noon** **Swinford:** Tony & Úna Doyle, Tumgesh & dec'd Doyle &
Mulrennan Families
Irene Lambe, Main Street & Baby David Dee &
dec'd Mullis & Lambe Families

Sunday 2nd **9.00am** **Meelick:** John Feeney & his parents Mary & John, his brothers
Gerry & Joe, Ballyglass & Tom & Úna Egan, Main St
Kathleen Groarke, Ballinvoher

Saturday 8th **9.00am** **Meelick: Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of BVM**

Sunday 9th **9.00am** **Meelick:** Maria Ruane/Ronayne & dec'd Ruane Family,
Newcastle & Christine Murphy, Dublin
Jimmy & Kathleen Conwell, Tullyroe

Sunday 2nd **10.30am** **Midfield:** Janet Galvin
Tom & Molly Muldowney & son Thomas & grand-
daughter Catriona Campbell

Friday 7th **8.00pm** **Midfield: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of BVM**

Sunday 9th **10.30am** **Midfield:** Bea, Michael & Bríd Gavin & dec'd Family, Tullinahoo
Tom Lavin & his parents Pat & Sarah, his brothers Pat &
Jimmy, his sister Mary, Cashelsheenaughane

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 Peyton, Midfield. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

Tom O'Connor, Carrabeg, Swinford who was baptised in Midfield church recently.

Advent: This Sunday, we mark the beginning of the Church year with the season of Advent.

Advent focuses Christians on the coming of Christ, and the Church understands the coming of Christ as a three-fold process: Christ, the son of God, came on earth long ago, as the scriptures tell us, to reveal God's love for us.

We believe also, as we say each Sunday in the creed, that Christ will come again at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. In the meantime, he will come into our lives, if we invite him, and make his home in our hearts.

The weeks of Advent then, are a time for opening our hearts to Christ, inviting him into our lives so that we may be ready to welcome him when he comes again and also be prepared to celebrate his first coming among us as a child in Bethlehem at Christmas. To help mark the season of Advent, at the back of the church this weekend you will find a candle and a prayer card. Each household is invited to bring home a candle and card and take time to pray the prayer for each day of the week over the weeks of Advent. Hopefully that will help us prepare our hearts to truly celebrate Christmas.

Blessing of figures of Baby Jesus: Have you a crib in your home for Christmas? If so, you are invited to bring the figure of the Baby Jesus from your crib to be blessed during Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent (December 16th). Anyone in the household may bring the figure of the Baby Jesus forward for the blessing- perhaps the children may like to do so. This is an old Italian custom which has been suggested to parishes here this year by the Irish Grandparents Association.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

Saturday next, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We believe that from the first moment of her life, the moment of her conception, God preserved Mary from all stain of sin in preparation for her becoming the mother of his divine Son. Saturday is a holyday of Obligation and Masses will be as follows: Vigil Mass, Friday December 7th at 6.30p.m. in

Swinford Church and in Midfield Church at 8p.m. On December 8th, Mass will be in Meelick Church at 9.a.m. and in Swinford Church at 10a.m.

Parish Pastoral Council: The December meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Wednesday, December 5th at 8p.m.

(Please note change of day).

Swinford 250: The next meeting will be held on Monday Dec 3rd in the Gateway Hotel at 8pm.

Carol Service and Christmas Lights: A Carol Service will be held in Swinford Parish Church on Thursday, Dec 6th at 7pm. Following the Carol Service Swinford Christmas lights will be officially turned on. Everyone is invited to attend.

Swinford & District Gardening Club are presenting a Christmas Floral Demonstration by award winning florist Judi Roche from Balla Flowers at 8pm on Tuesday 4th Dec in the Gateway Hotel. This event is being held in aid of the conversion of the new Down Syndrome Regional Centre on the Kilkelly Rd, Swinford. Please support and experience an enjoyable, festive evening. Ticket €10.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Moore's and Maria Groarke of Derryronane, Swinford won €488. Next draw is in Quinns on the 4th December.

Club Table Quiz: There will be a club table Quiz and social night in Whitehouse on Saturday 8th December at 9pm.

Swinford Community Lotto Results for 26th November Numbers 01 12 18 29; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; Marie Mellett, Market Street; Hospice Shop, Main Street 3 Number winners; None; Jackpot €7,600 Next draw on Monday the 3rd December.

Swinford Go Getters (Go for Life and Boccia): are holding a Cake Sale/ raffle and tombola on Sunday 9th December in the Meeting Room at the Parochial House Swinford before and after 12 noon mass. Everyone is welcome.

Looking for something fun to get involved in?

A new Variety Group for Swinford and the surrounding parishes, "The Railway Players," will be taking to the boards in the near future. We look forward to welcoming you to our Launch Night in Boland's at 7pm on this Sunday night 2nd December.