

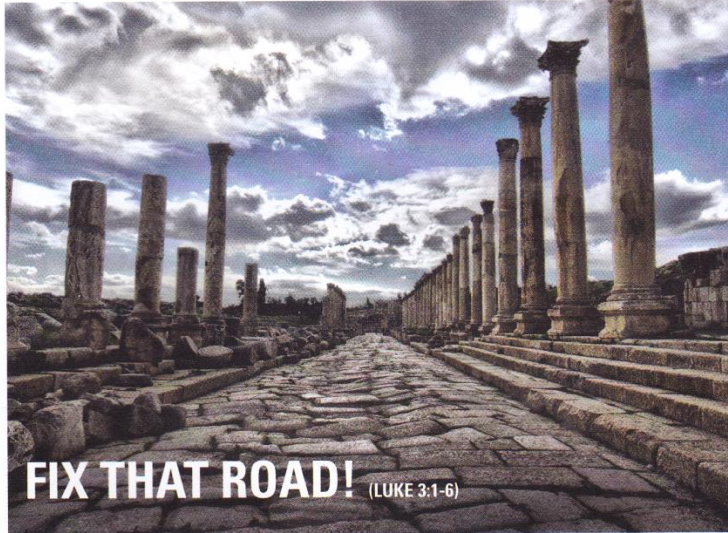
9 DECEMBER 2018

# Sunday Message

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year C • Season colour: Purple • Psalter Week 2



## FIX THAT ROAD! (LUKE 3:1-6)

Roman road in Jeresh

John the Baptist is an important figure in the Gospel tradition. In Luke's version of the story of their conception and birth, we find he is presented in parallel to Jesus, but always at a lower level: for instance, John is conceived, against all the odds, like significant figures in the Hebrew Bible such as Isaac, Jacob and Samuel, in the natural way: Jesus' conception, however, does not involve a human father.

Luke sets John and his ministry in the wider setting of human history by mentioning the chief political and religious leaders of the time: the emperor, the governor of the area and the chief priests of the people. In this way, Luke tells us that the birth of Jesus has a meaning for the world beyond the geographical and religious world of the land of Israel. The Gospel message is for everyone who will accept it.

John the Baptist is in some ways the last of the Old Testament prophets and the first of the New Testament saints. He is an uncomfortable figure, like all of the prophets, but his preaching is intended to bring people to their senses, to help them realise that they have lost their way in life and to do something about it. The end result should be that his hearers decide to change their attitude and behaviour and to express this resolution publicly by being baptised. In this way, they are reconciled to God: this surely is good news.

John's ministry is earlier and similar to that of Jesus. It is also preparing the way for the arrival of the Saviour. His word may be critical and uncomfortable, but its aim is positive. ■

### LEARN

The New Testament term for 'conversion' is *metanoia*.

*Metanoia* has the sense of changing the way we think.

Conversion involves a change of attitude which manifests itself in our behaviour.

The result and purpose of conversion is to be reconciled to God.

### REFLECT

Many ancient roads were a marvel of engineering. They were straight and level: the engineers overcame every obstacle in their way, whether they were slopes going up or down, streams, trees and the like. Nothing was allowed to interfere with the swift and smooth progress of troops or trade. They were so well constructed that many still remain, thousands of years later.

This is the vision of Second Isaiah, who was writing 500 years or so earlier than the birth of Christ, when the Roman Empire was at the high point of its power. The prophet calls for the construction of such a road so that all people will see the salvation of God. We might recall that in the story of Jesus' being presented in the Temple, Simeon had spoken of "a light of revelation for the Gentiles", and here we are told that "all people will see the salvation of God". Luke emphasises that God's message is for all who will accept God's word declared through the prophet, but this conversion, or 'turn-around', is not something purely intellectual or interior: it must show itself in the way the person lives and treats others. Advent is the time for us to "prepare a way for the Lord" into our hearts, minds and lives. ■

### SAY

Prepare a way for the Lord!

### DO

As you walk along the street, look at the road. What condition is it in? How might the state of the road reflect the state of your life in relation to God? Are there potholes? Are major repairs being carried out? Or is the road well maintained and an asset to the local and wider community?



**SWINFORD MEELICK MIDFIELD**  
**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: swinews@hotmail.com** **9<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Joe Moran, Brabazon Heights Attracta Gavin, & her parents & dec'd Family
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Tony & Úna Doyle, Tumgesh & dec'd Doyle & Mulrennan Families Irene Lambe, Main Street & Baby David Dee & dec'd Mullis & Lambe Families
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary & Michael Durkan, Cragaballagh
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> James & Margaret Reddington & sons Séamus & Michael & grandson James & dec'd Family, Carton
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Eddie & Molly Higgins, Market Street & dec'd Higgins & Nyland Families Francie Moran, Brabazon Heights
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Kathleen & Pat Grifferty & son Tom
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Kathleen Peyton Coe & dec'd Family, Ballydrum
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Stephen Slattery (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv)

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary & Martin Furey, Derryronane/Manchester & Michael & Delia McNicholas, Carracanada Martin & Bridget Muldowney & dec'd Family, Tullinacurra
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Delia, Jimmy & Catherine Neary & dec'd Neary, Tolan & Reynolds Families, Carracanada James Smyth & daughter Maura, Fraunhill & his sister Roseanne

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<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Maria Ruane/Ronayne & dec'd Ruane Family Newcastle & Christine Murphy, Dublin Jimmy & Kathleen Conwell, Tullyroe
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Pat Ward, Bothaul John & Agnas McGowan & their parents Pat & Catherine & dec'd Family

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<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Bea, Michael & Bríd Gavin & dec'd Family, Tullinahoo Tom Lavin & his parents Pat & Sarah, his brothers Pat & Jimmy, his sister Mary, Cashelsheenaughane
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Mary & James Keane & dec'd Family, Faheens

**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** Mary Howley, Charlestown and Woodlands, Swinford and Kevin Dalton, Cleveland Ohio USA (brother of Deirdre Coyne, Circular Road). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**We welcome into the Christian community** Aoife Brennan, Doughiska, Galway who was baptised in Swinford church recently.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The December meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council took place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 8.00p.m. Among the items discussed was a review of the November Prayer Service for the Dead and preparations for the celebration of Christmas in our parish. The members of the Parish Pastoral are Maud Begley, Padraic Cafferty, Isabel Gallagher, Columba Holleran, Diane Lavin, Maura Lavin, Tom Lavin, Imelda Kelly, Mary McLoughlin, Fr Dermot Meehan, Elaine Muldowney and Séamus O'Hara.

**Preparing our churches for Christmas:** There will be a general clean-up of Swinford Church on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.30p.m. Help will be greatly appreciated. Also, on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6.30p.m. help will be needed to decorate Swinford Church and all assistance will be much appreciated. A Clean-up in Midfield Church will take place on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 3.30p.m. and again, help will be greatly appreciated.

**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 16<sup>th</sup>). 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.

**GAA 50/50:** This week's draw was held in Quinns and Mary Halley of Tourlestrane won €544. The winning envelope was sold in the Gateway Hotel. Next draw is on the 11<sup>th</sup> December in the Sheepwalk .

**Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Numbers: 06 15 18 22; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Chris Finn, Swinford; Niall Armstrong, c/o Wavelengths;

3 Number winners: Lavin Boy's c/o Susan; Breege Hunt, c/o Melletts; Jackpot €7,800; Next draw on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> December in Bolands Pub.

**Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation:**

Monday December 10<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 for more information.

**Swinford Go Getters** are holding a Cake Sale/ raffle and tombola on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Meeting Room at the Parochial House before and after 12 noon mass.

**Christmas Go For Life Games** with music and refreshments are on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30 to 12.30 in the Cultural Centre Swinford. All over 55's welcome. Entry is free for this xmas event.

**Killasser Church Jubilee Book:** All Saints Church Killasser 1868-2018 "A Parish and its People" is a beautiful new book produced in commemoration of the 150th Jubilee of Killasser Church. Copies are available in Melletts or in Mace or by contacting Micheál Murphy on 087-9743174 or email Maureenm679@gmail.com.

**Swinford Conference of St Vincent De Paul:** wish to thank everybody who contributed to our recent Church Gate collection. Your generosity is much appreciated and will be used to help local families.

**Annual card Game:** 25 card Drive to be held in Knock Airport on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9pm. This is a fundraiser for Cloonlyon N.S. All support is greatly appreciated.

**Swinford Golf Club:** The Annual mass for all Deceased members of Swinford Golf Club will be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in the Club House. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw: Draw 24** €1000 was won by Ollie Gaughan, Brackloon €300 was won by Austin Meehan, Cloontubrid €200 was won by John Forkan, Mans shop, Swinford. Thanks to all who support our draw.

**Thank You:** Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to our church gate collection last Sunday in Meelick for Gorto & Africa. A total of €122.40 was raised.

**The Chapel Street Gospel Choir** will perform their Christmas concert at Christchurch on the Mall, Castlebar on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm and 7pm. Contact 087-6230164.