16 FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday Message

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

TACKLE THE ROOT, NOT THE SYMPTOM!

(MATT 5:17-37)

The Hebrew handwritten Torah on a synagogue altar in Jerusalem

SAY

Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart

(Psalm 118:34)

The passage in today's Gospel reading is often interpreted as Jesus' teaching being superior to the Law of Moses, and therefore Christian Gospel love being higher than Jewish legalism.

This is, in fact, a distortion of Matthew's presentation, in which Jesus says that he has not come to abolish but to fulfil the Law. The Torah is the revelation of God's will, and to observe it is to respond in covenant devotion to God: it is not a burden to be carried with fatalistic resignation.

There were many schools of thought about how the Torah could be lived out, and Jesus' teaching is more in line with the more liberal rabbis, except for his teaching on divorce. (It is not possible to give a definitive interpretation of what is called the exception clause, that is, except for the case of fornication.) Jesus urges his hearers to look at their inward emotions and not allow negative feelings to build up until they manifest themselves in action: lust can lead to adultery, anger to murder. It is not a question of Jesus bringing a new law or morality: he is interpreting the Torah commandments in a truly radical fashion, tackling the roots of sinful action.

The sayings about self-mutilation are not meant to be taken literally but to stress the urgency of taking seriously the source of sin: this is not located in the physical body, but in the mind. ■

LEARN

Jesus' teaching on divorce is (unusually) closer to the strict interpretation of the Rabbi Shammai.

His interpretation of the Torah is normally nearer to that of the more liberal Rabbi Hillel.

In every period, there were two main teachers of the Torah, one strict, the other less so.

DO

Think about Jesus' teaching on being reconciled with someone before coming to worship God. If this teaching applies to you, go and do something about it.

REFLECT

The Law of Moses which we find in the Bible bears the hallmarks of development and adjustment to different situations due to the changes in Israelite society. The Pharisees in the synagogues of Jesus' time sought to interpret the Torah in such a way that the values it proposed could be put into practice in people's daily lives. There were different views on the subject, some strict, others more accommodating, but there was no one, official line which everyone was expected to follow in the name of 'orthodoxy'.

One of the frequent complaints about politicians and other public figures is that people find it hard to believe what they say. Jesus tells us today that we should be straightforward and honest in our dealings with others. Swearing by anything as a guarantee of our truthfulness is to rely on an external object, whereas our own personal integrity should be sufficient. That is the message coming through the various diverse sections of today's Gospel.

It might also be helpful to reflect that the Judaism of the time of Jesus was broad enough to accommodate all shades of opinion. One of the distressing aspects of discourse in the church (and beyond) is the lack of charity and the attributing of bad faith to people with whom there is disagreement. Jesus was not condemned by people of differing theological opinions, but by conservative religious authority figures who interpreted the Law literally, accepted no development of understanding and were mainly interested in preserving their political position. In essential matters, unity; in uncertain matters, liberty; in all matters, charity. ■

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 **16th – 23rd Feb**

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 15th	**6.30pm**	**Swinford:**	Joan & Johnny Philbin, Lislackagh Michael & Ellen McNulty, their grandson Jason & Sr Rosalie Rowley
Sunday 16th	**12 noon**	**Swinford:**	Mary & Martin Foote, their son Peter & their daughter Marian, Tullinacurra Madeleine Forkan, Chapel Street
Monday 17th	**10.00am**	**Swinford:**	William A Hughes & Julia Stenson Hughes
Tuesday 18th	**10.00am**	**Swinford:**	Mary Lynskey, her daughters Jacqueline & Gertie & her grandson Jim
Wednesday 19th	**10.00am**	**Swinford:**	No Intention
Thursday 20th	**10.00am**	**Swinford:**	No Intention
Friday 21st	**10.00am**	**Swinford:**	Austin Meehan, Cloontubrid & his sister Bridie
Saturday 22nd	**10.00am**	**Swinford:**	Brian Henry, Barnacogue (MM) Special Intention

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 22nd	**6.30pm**	**Swinford:**	Michael & Bridget Muldowney, Cashelsheenaughane Michael & Tim Kilroe & dec'd Kilroe & Whelan Families, Market Street
Sunday 23rd	**12 noon**	**Swinford:**	Úna & Denis Deacy, Ashgrove & her parents John & Winifred Doyle Bernard & Evelyn McDonnell, Curryane, Patrick & Margaret McLoughlin & Bill & Teresa Reid

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Sunday 16th	**9.00am**	**Meelick:**	John & Mary Browne, their son Anthony & dec'd Family, Collagh
Saturday 22nd	**11.00am**	**Meelick:**	John Lawrence (MM)
Sunday 23rd	**9.00am**	**Meelick:**	John & Ann Brennan, their daughter Sr Joanna & son-in-law Michael O'Grady Martin Ryder, Dublin Road & his daughter Elizabeth

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Sunday 16th	**10.30am**	**Midfield**:	Annie & Paddy O'Malley, Castlebawn & their son Chris Ann Kilgallon, her father-in-law Thomas, his wife Kathleen & their son Michael
Sunday 23rd	**10.30am**	**Midfield:**	Johnie Lavin, Cashelsheenaughane (1st anniv), his parents Pat & Sarah, his brothers Pat, Jimmy & Tom & his sister Mary Ned & Teresa Rice

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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 Daniel Cassidy, Bollingbrook Drive and formerly of Barnacogue. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

Preparing for Lent: In preparation for the season of Lent, there will be a talk in the Pastoral Centre in Charlestown on Monday, February 24th by Fr Matthew Martinez, a Dominican priest based at the Dominican Friary in Sligo. Fr Matthew is a well-known and popular speaker and is worth hearing. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Offertory envelopes: The boxes of envelopes for the weekly offertory and other collections during the year are available for collection in the churches. Many thanks to those who contribute to the offertory collection each week.

Anam Cara Mayo the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on the 25th February at 7.20pm in the TF Royal Hotel Castlebar. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. As Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for teas, Coffees, etc please RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Monday 24th February or call 02895213120.

Thank You: The Alliance of the Two Hearts of Jesus & Mary Apostolate wish to thank everyone for their generosity at our recent Church Gate collection to aid missionary work. Total collected in Swinford Parish was €398.50.

New Shared Office Space Co-Work@Swinford is a new shared office space on Main St, Swinford. You can rent a desk/workstation by the day, week, month or year and our meeting room with Video Conferencing facilities is available to rent by the hour, 1/2 day or day. Our entire facility is also available to rent at weekends for training events, presentations, team meetings etc. Visit https://www.coworkswinford.com or call 083-1026964.

Thank You: On behalf of Mayo Cancer Support/ Rock Rose House we would like to thank everyone who donated to our Church Gate Collection. Amounts raised €139.43 in Meelick and €120.86 in Midfield.

The Railway Players Variety and Drama group and friends look forward to welcoming you to their fundraising Table Quiz in Boland's on Saturday night February 22nd. Tables of 4 €10 per person, 9pm start.

25 Card Drive in aid of Cancer Care West takes place on Tuesday 25th February at 8:30pm in the Brown Memorial Hall, Foxford. Tickets €10 Contact Christina Doherty on 086 3696568.

Mayo North East is organising a free Healthcare Support Training Course in Swinford for unemployed people or people in part-time employment. On successful completion of the course learners will have gained a Healthcare Support QQI Level 5 Major award. Please contact Dolores on 087-7704251 or 094 9256745 for more information.

O'Dwyer Arts Centre: Printing Workshops available in centre contact 089-2321529 or email: odwyerarts@gmail.com.

GAA 50/50: This weeks draw was held in Melletts and William Groarke of Derryronane, won €387. The next draw is on 18th February.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for 10th Feb Numbers 12 13 25 28; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; Anne Tierney, Ardgullen; (Mary) KLCS Sheedy, Collagh; 3 Number Winners; Pamela Niland, c/o Wavelengths Next draw is on Monday the 17th February.

Culmore N.S: Please Aldi Shoppers out there we are collecting rugby stickers for our school please drop them into the post office. We would be so greatful.

Enter A parade Float: Organisations, Community Groups and Individuals are invited to enter a float in the Swinford St. Patrick's Day parade being held on 17th March. Entries must be received by 6th March and can be left into the Gateway Hotel or sent to Francis Brennan Contact 087-9909863.

Swinford Golf/soccer 250 Draw: Draw No 22 €1000 was won by Tara Kavanagh, Brabazon Heights; €300 was won by Rose & James Harte, Carrabeg; €200 was won by Michael Grufferty, Curryane. Thank you for supporting our draw.

Tractor Run for Hospice and in loving memory of Tracey Brennan takes place at Roscommon Mart on Sunday 8th March. Registration from 10.30a.m with run commencing at 1pm.Please support this worthy cause.

Please note: New e-mail address for parish office – swinfordparish@gmail.com for all notices for newsletter and parish business.