

17 FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday Message

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



Jesus has been praying on the mountain, after which he selects his twelve close disciples.

Then, like Moses the prophet, he comes down and teaches the people, who have come from far and wide, even from Gentile territory, to hear him. Luke's version of this scene is sometimes called The Sermon on the Plain, as his setting and account are different to that of Matthew. Luke has four Beatitudes and four Woes. His description of those who are poor is not spiritualised, but Jesus speaks to those whose actual material condition puts them at a disadvantage in society. The term "poor" includes all those who are marginalised in any way, who are pushed to the edge of civil and religious society. When Jesus tells them that "Yours is the kingdom of heaven", he is saying that God accepts them as members of the restored people, not because they are especially pious or devout, but simply because they are poor. This is Jesus putting into practice the mission statement from Isaiah about "bringing good news to the poor".

But in Luke's thought, salvation means the reversing of the social order. It is not just a matter of attending to the needs of poor people, but of overturning those who are secure and powerful and so responsible in some ways for others being in need or neglected. This he has outlined in the Song of Mary, the *Magnificat*. He tells us that God is at work in the ministry of the prophet, challenging people's values and preconceptions, not for the sake simply of criticising, but of transforming society, so that we respect people first and foremost as human beings, not because of their wealth or social status. For Luke, salvation is a force at work in our world in the here and now, not some future ideal state of being. ■

SAY

Our Lord is the God of justice.

LEARN

For the prophets, the situation of poor people was an indictment of the society.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus, and therefore God, is particularly concerned with the weak and vulnerable members of the community.

Luke has four Beatitudes: Matthew has nine.

In the Bible, salvation involves the overturning of the social order: this is the Great (or Divine) Reversal.

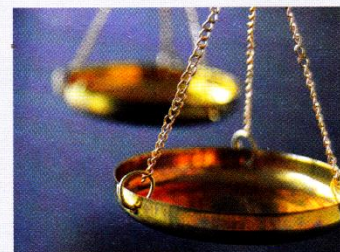
DO

See how you can support the work of the likes of the St Vincent de Paul Society. What could you do to influence social policy in your area or beyond?

REFLECT

One of the criticisms people make of Christianity is that it can breed an attitude of fatalism and resignation in those whose lives take an unfortunate turn, or who find themselves in situations which others would describe as tragic. The extreme form of this outlook is that the worse life is in this world, the better it will be in the next; God will reward you in heaven for all the suffering and deprivation you experienced on earth. This is not the view of the biblical prophets, and Luke is presenting Jesus

as a prophet. The biblical answer to the plight of any disadvantaged person is not charity but justice. It may be necessary to meet someone's immediate needs, but the real problem is the reason why the person is in such straits to begin with. Archbishop Helder Camara said once, "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!" The Word of God is tough on poverty and tough on the causes of poverty. ■



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 **17th -24th Feb 2019**

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 16th	6.30pm	Swinford: Annie & Patrick O'Neill & dec'd Family, Tullinacurra & John Durkan & dec'd Family, Culmore Joan & Johnny Philbin, Lislackagh
Sunday 17th	12 noon	Swinford: Madeleine Forkan, Chapel Street Mary & Martin Foote, their son Peter & daughter Marian, Tullinacurra
Monday 18th	10.00am	Swinford: Kevin Nestor, Market Street
Tuesday 19th	10.00am	Swinford: James Reddington, Ballina Road
Wednesday 20th	10.00am	Swinford: Bartley Mullen, Inis Mór, Aran Islands
Thursday 21st	10.00am	Swinford: Austin Meehan, Cloonturbid
Friday 22nd	10.00am	Swinford: Kevin Morley, Fraunhill Thomas Callahan, Philadelphia
Saturday 23rd	10.00am	Swinford: Adelle Gavin, Carracanada (MM)

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 23rd	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael & Tim Kilroe & dec'd Kilroe & Whelan Families, Market Street Jack & Bridie Moran, Achill
Sunday 24th	12 noon	Swinford: Úna & Denis Deacy, Ashgrove, her parents John & Winifred Doyle Bernard & Evelyn McDonnell, Curryane, Patrick & Margaret McLoughlin, Bill & Teresa Reid

Sunday 17th	9.00am	Meelick: Martin Ryder, Dublin Road & his daughter Elizabeth Timothy & Sabina Mulroy, Laughtadurkin & dec'd Mulroy & Burke Families
Sunday 24th	9.00am	Meelick: Margaret & Tom Walsh, their sons Bartley & Pat & dec'd Family, Laughtadurkin Mary & John Browne, their son Anthony & dec'd Family, Culleens

Sunday 17th	10.30am	Midfield: Paddy & Teresa Brennan & dec'd Brennan & Mulligan Families Patrick & Julia Lavin, their daughter Margaret & dec'd Family, Cashelbarnagh
Sunday 24th	10.30am	Midfield: Ned & Teresa Rice & dec'd Family Annie & Jimmy Devine, Midfield & dec'd Devine & Conlon Families

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 Bartley Mullen, Inis Mór, the Aran Islands (brother of John Mullen, Oak Drive); John Loftus, Nottingham, England and formerly of Rabawn (brother of Kathleen Jennings, Cloonaboy & Margaret Rowley, Cloonfinish); Mary Fuller, Tralee, Co. Kerry (mother of Ann Loftus, Rathscalon); Mgr Vincent Keane, New York (cousin of the Forkan, Murtagh & Ginty Families). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

Olivia Ann Campbell, Brabazon Heights who was baptised recently in Swinford Church.

A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Healing: with hymns, readings, reflections and quiet prayer will take place in Charlestown Church this Sunday 17th February at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.

The Railway Players wish to express their gratitude to everyone who took part in or in any way supported our Table Quiz on Feb 8th. Congratulations to our winning team and also our runners up. Thanks to Seamus Boland for the use of his premises and thanks to all those who so generously donated spot and raffle prizes. Thanks also to the people who contributed even though they didn't take part. We are now looking forward to organizing our first Variety Show and anyone who is interested is very welcome to join us in Bolands on Tuesday nights at 9pm.

Swinford to Host Darkness into Light: Swinford 250 are Delighted that Swinford has been chosen as one of the Venues for the National Darkness into Light Walk this coming May 11th. If you would like to get involved there will be a meeting in the Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Thurs 21st February at 8pm. Contact John Kennedy or Cathal Kelly for more info or email swinford250@swinford.ie

Culture of Recovery: Would you like to be involved in creating a culture of Recovery? Do you want to improve your quality of life? Mayo Recovery College, GMIT, Castlebar is inviting people with mental health challenges, their families, friends, health professionals and the community to check out the Spring Summer Prospectus 2019 www.recoverycollegewest.ie

Achonry Regional P.T.A.A: Annual Dinner Dance will take place in the Gateway Hotel on Friday, 1st March. Dinner at 8pm sharp, music

by The Duets, Tickets €25 and can be got from Yvonne in Moores Supermarket.

Swinford Gardening Club: next meeting takes place on Tuesday 26th February at 8.30pm in the Gateway Hotel. Dave Langford will speak on spring in the Garden. Everyone is welcome to attend. Non members €5.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Quinns and Mary Waldron of Urlaur won €435. The next draw is on Tuesday 19th February.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for 11th February Numbers 13 14 16 22; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; John Burke c/o The Sheepwalk Pub; Christy Reddington c/o Campbell's Pub; 3 Number Winners; Joe and Carmel Dunne, Swinford; Jackpot €9,800.

Foxford Traditional Singing and Poetry Group will meet in Guiry's Bar on Thursday, February 28th at 9.15pm. All welcome.

Barnacogue NS: is now accepting enrolment for the 2019/2020 school year. Enrolment forms are available from the school or on our school website. There will be open days from February 26th – 28th from 10am to 2pm. Please feel free to come along on any of those dates or contact the school on 094-9367440 or email barnacoguens@gmail.com.

Thank You: Alliance of the two hearts of Jesus and Mary want to thank everyone for giving so generous at our recent church gate collection to aid missionary work. A total of €346.20 was raised.

Swinford Golf/Soccer 250: A new draw will begin in March. Tickets are selling very well so please contact Donal Benson or Philip Irwin to purchase a ticket. Contact 087-9785987 for more information.

Mayo Cancer Support Association: sincerely thank all who contributed to our recent Church Gate Collection. It was a great success raising €370.44 in Swinford, €163.36 in Midfield and €44.86 in Meelick. It is only with your help and generosity that we can continue to offer support to people living with cancer and their Families. All services are free of charge.

The Stoma Support Group: meeting takes place in Rock Rose House, Castlebar on Thursday 21st February at 7pm. Guest Speaker will attend. All are Welcome. For more information please call 094-9038407.