

24 FEBRUARY 2019 **Sunday**  **Message** 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



At the end of his version of the Beatitudes, Luke spoke about how the disciples should be glad when other people abuse them; in today's Gospel passage he shows Jesus telling them how to react in such cases.

The law of love is to be the bedrock of the disciples' moral code. This standard goes way beyond what might be expected; it is in fact rooted in the love of God towards human beings, the Lord who is "kind to the ungrateful and the wicked". It is not a case of virtue being its own reward; the disciples' reward will lie in thus being truly "children of the Most High", who reflect in their own lives, attitude and behaviour what the God in whom they believe is like.

Jesus tells his listeners to be "compassionate as your Father is compassionate". If they do not judge others, then God will not judge them. So it is we who set the standard for God's treatment of ourselves. If we are compassionate, if we feel involved in some way in the other person's situation and treat them accordingly, then God will be astonishingly generous towards us. What shopkeeper or merchant would force an overflowing amount of their stock on a bewildered customer? Yet that is the image Jesus gives of God's reaction to the person who forgives and refuses to judge or condemn others. The way the disciple treats others is the measure by which God will treat them. ■

REFLECT

Not many people will find today's Gospel reading comfortable. The usual standard, known as the 'Golden Rule' – 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you' – which we find in this extract, appears rather easier and more palatable than the demanding teaching of Jesus about loving enemies and doing good to those who hate you. Humanly speaking, that seems unreasonable.

But God and God's attitude are the norm by which we should gauge our own attitude and treatment of people. This is part of the covenant relationship which is summed up in the expression, "You will be my people and I will be your God". This relationship is not something abstract, it has to be lived out. The reason for the prophets' denouncing of the people's immoral behaviour was that it brought the Lord into disrepute among the heathen nations round about. The non-Israelite population would think, 'If this is how the people of Israel behave, what sort of God can they believe in?' It is the familiar problem about disciples not showing by their own lives the kind of Master they claim to follow. If we believe in an over-generous, loving and forgiving God, then that is the benchmark by which we should measure ourselves. The motive for living a moral life, then, would be gratitude for what God has done for us in history, on God's own initiative, in the person of Jesus, and which we celebrate in the Eucharist. ■

SAY

The Lord is compassion and love.

LEARN

The expression "Do not judge and you will not be judged" actually means "Do not judge and God will not judge you".

The idea of our setting the standard for God to judge us is found in the 'Our Father': "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" means "Forgive us to the same extent as we forgive others".

The teaching about loving enemies is shown in action by Jesus' praying for forgiveness for his executioners at the cross.

DO

Look at the news: how much of the trouble and strife is due to people being unwilling to forgive? Ask the Lord to help you not to add to the sum total of the negative atmosphere in the world and to contribute to the positive aspects of life.



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 **24th Feb - 3rd Mar 2019**

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 23rd	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael & Tim Kilroe & dec'd Kilroe & Whelan Families Market Street Jack & Bridie Moran, Achill Betty Casserly, Kilkelly Road & dec'd Family
Sunday 24th	12 noon	Swinford: Úna & Denis Deacy, Ashgrove, her Parents John & Winifred Doyle Bernard & Evelyn McDonnell, Curryane, Patrick & Margaret McLoughlin, Bill & Teresa Reid
Monday 25th	10.00am	Swinford: Mary Kathleen Murphy, Dublin Road (1 st anniv), her sister Angela & her parents Tom & Annie Kate
Tuesday 26th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 27th	10.00am	Swinford: Paddy Campbell, Tullinahoo (1 st anniv)
Thursday 28th	10.00am	Swinford: Sr Anne Houlihan Ned & Mary Campbell, Newpark , their son Ted & daughter Virginia
Friday 1st	10.00am	Swinford: Eileen & John Moore & daughter Bridie, Santa Maria Maureen & Séamus Banks, Market Street & dec'd Banks & Mulrooney Families & Peggy O'Reilly
Saturday 2nd	10.00am	Swinford: Sr Dolores Gallagher (1 st anniv)

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 2nd	6.30pm	Swinford: Peter Bredican, Kilbride & Paddy Kelly Pat & Anne Bredican, Lisheenabrone
Sunday 3rd	12 noon	Swinford: John & Margaret Brennan, Carracanada Patrick Durkan, Clooninshin, his sister Bridie & Mary Kate & Richard Durkan & dec'd Durkan & McGeever Families & Mary Howley

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, Collagh
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Sunday 3rd	9.00am	Meelick: No Intention
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Sunday 24th	10.30am	Midfield: Ned & Teresa Rice & dec'd Family Annie & Jimmy Devine, Midfield & dec'd Devine & Conlon Families
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Sunday 3rd	10.30am	Midfield: Mary McDonagh (nee McLoughlin) Edgware London/ Brackloon Gerald Forkan & dec'd Family, Midfield
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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 Margaret Groarke, Cloonegallon; Johnny Lavin, Cashelsheenaughane; Kathleen Naud, (nee Costello), California and formerly of Castlebawn, (sister of Thomas Costello, Lisheenabrone); Jerry Groarke, Bridgend, Wales (brother of Paddy Groarke, Cullane) and Seamus Galvin, London and formerly of Carracanada, (brother of Kathleen Moore, Carracanada). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

Noah Séan Golden, Meelick who was baptised recently in Meelick Church and Ada Jane Quinn, Fraunhill who was baptised recently in Swinford Church.

Visit of Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima:

On Friday, March 8th, the Centennial Image of Our Lady of Fatima will visit Swinford Church, beginning with a ceremony of welcome at 7pm., followed by Mass and family consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All welcome.

Are you finding it difficult to cope with life's problems? Perhaps Grow can help you. Grow is a free confidential support group, promoting positive mental health using a 12 step program. Meetings run weekly in 4 locations across Co Mayo on Thursdays at 8pm in the Pastoral Centre Charlestown. Contact Emily on 086-4183543 or www.grow.ie for more details.

First Saturday Devotions are being hosted in Knock Old Parish Church on Saturday March 2nd. Starts at 11.00am with Rosary, Meditations and concludes with Holy Mass at 12 noon, Confessions and Enrolment of the free brown scapulars. Everyone is welcome.

Mayo Cancer Support Group: next meeting takes place at Rock Rose House Castlebar on Thursday 28th February at 7pm. Guest speaker on Nutrition and a Healthy Lifestyle, There will also be a demonstration on Juicing. Contact 094-9038407 for more information.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in The Sheepwalk. Ellen & Sean McDonagh of Midfield won €525. Next draw is Tuesday 26th February.

Knock Drama Group: presents 2 Plays (performed on the same night). Courting Matters & The Three Musketeers starting on Fri 8th, Sat 9th & Sun 10th, March in Carty's Lounge, Knock Co. Mayo. Doors open at 7.30pm with show at 8pm. Tickets are €10

Available from the following outlets: Carty's Bar, Kilkenny's Bar, Burkes Shop, The Thatch Bar & Costcutter. Knock. Strictly over 18's, we look forward to seeing you there.

Mayo launch of Daffodil Day at 10.30am on Monday 25th February at the Manor Hotel Ballina. There will be speakers from Irish cancer society there on the day. Daffodil Day is Friday 22nd March. Please support this worthy cause.

Mayo Stroke Support Group will hold its next meeting on Thursday 28th February from 11.30am-1.00pm in Macalla Hall, Lough Lannagh Holiday Village, Castlebar. Topic: Dietary tips to help prevent and manage Diabetes. This information session is for anyone who has experienced stroke, and their spouses/partners, wider family members, carers. Admission is free of charge. No booking required. For further information, contact Barbara on 096-80451 or Ailish on 094-9049172.

Barnacogue NS is now accepting Enrolments 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 to 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.

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

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 is 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.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for 18th February Numbers 11 14 22 26; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: James Grey, Swinford ; Madeline Horkan, Swinford ; 3 Number Winners; Andy Madden, Swinford; Maria Grufferty, Curryane ; Jackpot €10,000; Next draw is on Monday the 25th February in the Gateway hotel.