

27 FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday Message

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



WHAT FILLS YOUR HEART?

(LUKE 6:39-45)

A person's character is revealed in the way they live and treat other people.

We may detect in Jesus' remarks a rebuke to the Pharisee teachers and leaders of his day, but they are also a warning to the Christian community for whom Luke is writing, and therefore to ourselves. We have seen how disciples of Jesus are called to be "children of the Most High" and to treat others as God would. The more aware a disciple is of their own faults and shortcomings, the less likely they should be to judge other people.

The comparison with a tree and its fruit is particularly telling. The fruit is evidence of the state of health of the plant which bears it. So it is with the disciple: how they behave shows the kind of person they really are. ■

REFLECT

It is easy and tempting sometimes to reduce being a believer, a disciple of Jesus, to doing things, to the way we live on the outside. Jesus is telling us today that how we are outwardly is an indication of what we are truly like inwardly. Our fruit should be the result of our relationship with God, not something we put on for show because we think that this is how we should be or act. The term 'hypocrite' comes from the Greek theatre and has the sense of an actor, one who is playing a part, wearing a mask and reciting lines they have already learned beforehand. Jesus is encouraging his audience to be true to their authentic selves and not to claim other levels of knowledge or wisdom. Not the easiest of challenges, by any means.

Perhaps we might remember that at the root of our Christian faith is the idea of Covenant. This is the relationship into which God entered freely with human beings, first with all people through Noah, then in a particular way with one individual and his descendants, Abraham. This relationship was established in a new way in the person and the self-giving of Jesus, which we renew each time we celebrate the Eucharist together. Thus, our Christian life is not primarily a matter of *doing* certain things or living in a certain way. It is more about the person who we are, and this manifests itself in our outward life and behaviour.

The Gospel reading echoes the warning from Ecclesiasticus about what a person says reflecting what is actually in their heart. Nowadays, we appreciate better the meaning of Freudian slips of the tongue and what our sense of humour tells us about ourselves. However, it is only by admitting our faults and prejudices that we can do something about them. So when we say to ourselves, "I shouldn't be thinking like that," we are better to ask where that thought came from in the first place. It is only by bringing them out into the open that we can get rid of things which we have kept hidden and we will be much the better for it. ■

LEARN

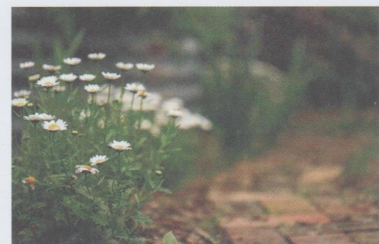
The word 'hypocrite' comes from the Greek verb 'to answer':

It is used in connection with the theatre, to describe an actor;

Greek actors wore masks during the performance, hence the English meaning of a hypocrite being someone playing a part, rather than being themselves.

DO

Look at plants growing as you walk along. Ask yourself what kind of fruit you are bearing: thank the Lord if it is good and ask the Lord's help if it needs improving.



SAY

Open our hearts, Lord,
to accept the words of
your Son.

(cf Acts 16:14)

SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12 AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)

Fr Dermot Meehan Phone: 094-9251790/Urgent Calls: 087-1338200

Fr Victor Akongwale

PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm; Phone: 094 - 9253607

Email: swinfordparish@gmail.com

27th Feb – 6th Mar 2022

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 26 th	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael & Tim Kilroe & dec'd Kilroe & Whelan families Peggy Lyons, Rabawn, her parents Bea Ann & Jim Mulligan, their sons John, James & Tommy, their daughter-in-law Shirley & their daughter Maureen Stack
Sunday 27 th	12 noon	Swinford: Mary Ward, Kinaffe (1 st anniv) Bridie & James P Durkin, his parents John & Mary, Carnacull
Monday 28 th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Tuesday 1 st	10.00am	Swinford: Eileen & John Moore, their daughter Bridie & their son Michael Scanta Maria
ASH Wednesday		
Wednesday 2 nd	10.00am	Swinford: Mass with blessing and distribution of ashes
	7.00pm	Swinford: Mass with blessing and distribution of ashes
Thursday 3 rd	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Friday 4 th	10.00am	Swinford: John & Annie McGloin, their daughters Kathleen & Rita, Kate & Michael Halligan, Cullane
Saturday 5 th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT		
Saturday 5 th	6.30pm	Swinford: Finbar Ruane, Park Road Bernard & Evelyn McDonald, Patrick & Margaret, McLoughlin, Bill & Teresa Reid
Sunday 6 th	12 noon	Swinford: Mary O'Leary (nee Hopkins), Maynooth Co Kildare/ Rathscanlon & her parents Marty & Angela

Sunday 27 th	9.00am	Meelick: No Intention
Sunday 6 th	9.00am	Meelick: No Intention

Sunday 27 th	10.30am	Midfield: James Devine & dec'd family, Tullinahoo Ann Kilgallon, her parents-in-law Thomas & Kathleen, their son Michael & dec'd Kilgallon, Donaghue & Campbell families Paddy Campbell, his parents Pat & Ann & dec'd family, Tullinahoo
Sunday 6 th	10.30am	Midfield: Annie & Paddy O'Malley & their son Chris, Cashelbawn Mary McDonagh (nee McLoughlin), London/Brackloon

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in Swinford Church on Thursdays from 3.00p.m. to 5.00p.m. All are welcome to come and spend some time in silent prayer before the Lord.

We welcome into the Christian community Cillian Joseph Cosgrave, Kiltimagh who was baptised recently in Midfield Church.

Ash Wednesday: Next Wednesday, March 2nd, is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of the penitential season of Lent for Christians. There will be two Masses in Swinford Church on Ash Wednesday – 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. – during which ashes will be blessed and distributed. The marking of our foreheads with ashes as we begin our Lenten journey reminds us that everything we have and everything we are has been given to us by God and also indicates our intention to turn from sin and follow more closely the way of the Gospel. The season of Lent continues until the Easter Triduum in Holy Week when we commemorate the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Pope's appeal for Ash Wednesday: At his General Audience in Rome last Wednesday, Pope Francis issued this appeal: 'I invite everyone to make this coming 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a day of Fasting for Peace. Let believers dedicate themselves intensively to prayer and fasting. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of War.'

Pope's message for Lent: Pope Francis based his Message for Lent 2022 on a passage from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians, "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (6:9-10).

Beginning with the image of sowing and reaping, the Holy Father points out that "Lent invites us to conversion, to a change in mind-set, so that life's truth and beauty may be found not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing and sharing goodness." God, he explains, is the first to sow, sowing "abundant seeds of goodness in our human family." During the period of Lent, "we are called to respond to God's gift" by listening to His Word, so that it might "bear fruit in our lives." In this way, we become "God's co-workers," which is a grace of sharing in God's own "bountiful goodness." This, in turn, leads to a harvest. When we sow seeds of goodness and kindness, "no matter how small," in our own lives, we radiate light and carry "the fragrance of Christ to the world."

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: In addition to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Swinford

Church on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., for the season of Lent there will also be adoration on Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, March 9th. All are welcome during times of adoration to come and spend some quiet time praying before Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Africa Container Donations: Donations would be very much appreciated for an Orphanage in Africa. Any of the following items: Cots, prams, Blankets, towels, Flat large blackboards, School supplies, Sewing machines [old foot pedal Singers] Sewing supplies. Pots and pans, Trays for cooking, Plastic plates. Plastic cups. Monetary donations toward shipping. Monetary donations for Drilling boreholes to provide drinking water which is massively lacking. Please contact Mary if you can help 087-6276874.

GAA 50/50: The club 50/50 draw was held in Melletts and the winner was Eithne Banks who won €363. Envelopes are available in business premises in town and online through www.swinfordgaa.ie our next draw will be in The Whitehouse on the 1st March. Membership is now due. You can log into www.foireann.ie using your existing profile from last year to review membership options for the year ahead. Any queries please contact pro.swinford.mayo@gaa.com or call Gearoid on 087-6421630.

Swinford Community Lotto Results 21st February Numbers 19, 26, 27, 29; €70 Voucher Winners; Ken Spragg, Oak Drive; Marina Byrne, Park Road; 3 Number winners; Reddingtons, c/o Moore's; Angela Leonard, Killedan; Jackpot now €5,600.

Pendant Alarm: If you are aged 65 years or over you are entitled to receive a pendant alarm through the SAS (Seniors Alert Scheme). Installation is free along with free monitoring for the first year. If interested in this service or for any further queries or information please contact the Kilmovee/Urlaur community alert group on 083- 414 5159. Please note change of number.

Volunteers Wanted: First Choice Credit Union with branches in Achill, Balla, Ballyhaunis, Castlebar, and Swinford is seeking volunteers to assist with achieving our goals and continue to deliver a strong service within our communities. If you would like to volunteer, please email volunteer@fccu.ie or alternatively download Volunteer Application Form and send to Nomination Committee, First Choice Credit Union, Market Square, Castlebar.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that the course of our world
may be directed by your peaceful rule
and that your Church may rejoice,
untroubled in her devotion.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Ecc 27:4-7

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus.
In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged
on the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 91

Response:

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most
High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the
night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Cor 15:54-58

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians.

When this perishable nature has put on
imperishability, and when this mortal nature
has put on immortality, then the words of
scripture will come true: Death is swallowed
up in victory. Death, where is your victory?
Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of
death is sin, and sin gets its power from the
Law. So let us thank God for giving us the
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never
admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's
work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you
cannot be labouring in vain.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleuia, alleuia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleuia!

GOSPEL

Lk 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, "Can
one blind man guide another? Surely both
will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior
to his teacher; the fully trained disciple
will always be like his teacher. Why do you
observe the splinter in your brother's eye and
never notice the plank in your own? How can
you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take
out the splinter that is in your eye,' when you
cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite!
Take the plank out of your own eye first, and
then you will see clearly enough to take out
the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

"There is no sound tree that produces
rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that
produces sound fruit. For every tree can
be told by its own fruit: people do not pick
figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from
brambles. A good man draws what is good
from the store of goodness in his heart; a
bad man draws what is bad from the store of
badness. For a man's words flow out of what
fills his heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your
name
and count our oblations as signs
of our desire to serve you with devotion,
we ask of your mercy
that what you grant as the source of merit
may also help us to attain merit's reward.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I will sing to the Lord who has been
bountiful with me,
sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most
High.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by your saving gifts,
we beseech your mercy, Lord,
that by this same Sacrament
with which you feed us in the present age,
you may make us partakers of life eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We thank you Father for the life and
knowledge which you have made known to
us through Jesus your Son. As this bread
which we have broken was once scattered on
the hillside and was gathered and became
one again, so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.
For yours is the glory and the power through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Didache 2nd century