

28 FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday Message

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 2



Stained glass in Votivkirche in Vienna, Austria depicting the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor

In the Gospel tradition, the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus stands at the beginning of Jesus' journey to Judea and Jerusalem, where the events of the paschal mystery will take place.

This incident corresponds to the narrative of Jesus' baptism, which inaugurates his mission in Galilee. There are several significant details: the high mountain is traditionally a place of revelation and the cloud is a sign of the divine presence; Elijah and Moses represent the Prophets and the Law of Jewish heritage; the heavenly voice speaks to the disciples, whereas the baptism was a personal experience of Jesus himself; Jesus commands the disciples to keep silent about what has transpired, this time, until he is risen.

Mark tells us that Jesus was "transformed": his glorified body shines through his garments, rendering them brilliantly white. Thus the three disciples are given a glimpse of Jesus' true identity. Their reaction is that of someone who has experienced something of the divine: they are "awestruck". But glory comes at a price: immediately after the abrupt ending of the episode, a reference to the coming events in Jerusalem appears. The cross makes its presence felt: the title "Son of Man" is usually associated with the suffering Jesus. Jesus had spoken earlier about his future Passion and in that context had given his teaching on discipleship. Now he introduces the theme of "rising from the dead", which Peter, James and John discuss among themselves: but rising from the dead presupposes the Passion and death of Jesus which will precede it. ■

SAY

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

(1 Samuel 3:10)

DO

Spend some time looking at the crucifix: reflect on how it is the ultimate symbol of Jesus' giving of himself in service to the Father for our sake.

REFLECT

If you want to watch and properly enjoy a film or the recording of a sports event, there is nothing worse than someone telling you the ending or the final score. Sometimes you will be warned that a 'spoiler alert' is coming and that you should turn away now! This incident of the Transfiguration – or Transformation – of Jesus, which occurs at the mid-point of his ministry, gives us a glimpse of the end of the story. It shows us Jesus Christ in glory, but sets this vision against the background of his Passion and death, as he sets out on his journey to Jerusalem and his destiny. At this point, as we have set out on our journey with Jesus through Lent, we are also given an assurance – a sneak preview – that Calvary will not be the end of the story.

The words of the voice from the cloud are addressed to us today, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him". Jesus has spoken in the Gospel about the cost of being his disciple and taking up the cross and following him.

Occasionally, we may experience a strong sense of the presence of God in our lives, but this feeling does not usually last very long. Peter's reaction to the vision of the glorified Jesus is to build tents to prolong the experience, but this is not to be. Peter, like ourselves, has to come down from the mountain, back to normal life. ■

LEARN

The text of the Gospel talks about Jesus being "transformed" in the presence of his disciples.

Elijah is the figure who represents the prophetic tradition of Israel: Moses personifies the Law, the Torah.

The site of the Transfiguration is traditionally located at Mount Tabor, the highest peak in the Holy Land.



SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12 AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)
Fr Dermot Meehan Phone: 094-9251790/Urgent Calls: 087-1338200

PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm; Phone: 094 - 9253607
Email: swinfordparish@gmail.com 28th Feb- 7th Mar 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 27th	12 noon	Swinford: Michael & Tim Kilroe & dec'd Kilroe & Whelan Families Theresa & Keira Henry, Ballydrum Patsy Rowley, Dublin Road (MM) Denis & Úna Deacy, Ashgrove, her parents John & Winifred Doyle John & Margaret Brennan, Carracanada Bernard & Evelyn McDonnell & Patrick & Margaret McLoughlin James Devine, Tullinahoo (1 st anniv) Ann Kilgallon, her parents-in-law Thomas & Kathleen & her brother-in-law Michael Annie & Paddy O'Malley, Cashelbawn & their son Chris
Monday 1st	10.00am	Swinford: Sr Anne Houlihan Eileen & John Moore & their daughter Bridie, Scanta Maria
Tuesday 2nd	10.00am	Swinford: Martin McGrath, Newpark/Dublin
Wednesday 3rd	10.00am	Swinford: Arthur Ladrido, The Phillipines
Thursday 4th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Friday 5th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Saturday 6th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 7th	12 noon	Swinford: Michael & John Waters, their parents Mick & Annie & parents-in-law John & Kate Howley Peter & Chris Bredican, Kilbride & Paddy Kelly Bernadette Cassidy, Ashgrove (MM) Pat & Jim Duffy, Cloonfinish Joan Goldrick, Liseratish Finbar Ruane, Park Road John & Margaret Gavigan, Derryronane & dec'd Gavigan & Devaney Families Patrick McNulty The McLoughlin Family, Kinaffe, Ellie & Walter Bradish, The Prendergast Family, Woods & The McNicholas Family, Cashelsheenaughane
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While there will be no public Masses this week, the intentions above will be remembered at Mass on the designated day except for Sundays. On Sunday, the intentions for the Vigil Mass, 9a.m. Mass in Meelick, 10.30a.m. Mass in Midfield and the 12 noon Mass in Swinford will be remembered together at 12 noon Mass in Swinford. Though families will not be present, please be assured that your loved ones will be remembered at Mass.

All of the Masses above will be broadcast via live streaming on our webcam at www.Churchservices.tv. Just click on the icon for Swinford Church.

Please pray for Mick King, Cloonlara; Sr Phyl (Consilio) Clancy, Ard Bhríde, Castlebar and formerly of the Convent of Mercy, Swinford; William King, Castleroyan and Mary Dunleavy (nee McLoughlin-Mark), London and formerly of Brackloon (sister of John, Brackloon, Paddy, Swinford, Jimmy, London, Anna, Kilkelly and Bea (RIP) and wife of the late Charlie). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Update: As you will be aware, the Government, in consultation with NPHET, has updated the 'Roadmap' for living with Covid-19 during this past week. The 'Roadmap' is taking a cautious approach to any changes in current restrictions. As we remain at Level 5 of those restrictions, for the moment there is no change with regard to our churches. Churches remain closed for public worship except for Funeral Masses with ten people in attendance and for weddings with five people in attendance (the bride and groom, their two witnesses and the priest). Baptisms may also take place under Level 5 restrictions with attendance limited to parents and godparents only. There is currently no indication of when the restrictions with regard to churches will change. Please note that all our churches are open every day for private prayer.

Thank you: Once again, thank you to all who continue to drop in their envelopes for the weekly offertory collection. Your continuing generosity in these difficult times is greatly appreciated. Also, thank you for using your own envelopes for the offertory collection until such time as it is safe to get the boxes of envelopes to you.

GAA 50/50: The club 50/50 draw was held in Eurospar and Aoibheann, Adam and Croiadh McNulty of Cloongullane won €242. Envelopes are available in business premises in town and online through www.swinfordgaa.ie. The next draw will be in Moores on 2nd March.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results 22nd Feb Numbers 14, 15, 18, 23; €70 Voucher Winners; Patricia Tunney, Cloonlara; Delia Hanley, Swinford; 3 Number Winner; Ann McNicholas, c/o Baxter; Jackpot now €16,800.

St Joseph's N.S Midfield is now accepting enrolments for the school year 2021/2022. Enrolment forms are available on our school website www.midfieldns.ie, by ringing the

school on 085-1614798 or by emailing principal@midfieldns.ie

Cloongullane Memories: Work has commenced on gathering stories and memories based around Cloongullane Bridge for a commemorative publication which will be launched to coincide with the opening of the new bridge which is currently in the early stages of construction. If you have stories such as meeting at the bridge, playing in the ball alley, attending Cloongullane School, fishing in the area etc we would love to hear from you. Items for inclusion can be emailed to cloongullanememories@gmail.com, for anyone more comfortable with writing their story by hand it can be submitted by post to Julie Ryan, Sweetwell, Swinford, F12KV18 or when restrictions allow meeting in person can take place.

Covid-19 Collect and Deliver Service: Helping people to stay at home is the new role of Local Link Mayo rural transport services. Local Link Mayo is offering a collect and deliver service in existing Local Link routes throughout Mayo from pharmacies and local shops, delivering shopping and critical medical supplies to the elderly, the vulnerable and sick. If your need of such support or know someone who does, contact Local Link Mayo on 094-9005150 between 9:00am and 5:00pm or email mayo@locallink.ie

New befriending service in the Swinford: We will make weekly contact with anyone who is lonely and isolated and would like a weekly chat. All volunteers are fully trained and Garda vetted and all calls are completely confidential. If you would like to avail of this service please contact 'Good Morning' service on 094-9370653.

Please note that during Level 5 restrictions, the Parish Office will be open on Fridays only between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. To arrange anniversary Masses, please phone the Office on Fridays in order to comply with current Government regulations on minimising contact with others. Your co-operation on this matter will be greatly appreciated.