

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



Any story in the Gospel narrative which is embarrassing to an important person is likely to have a basis in historical fact. Such stories, for example Peter's denying that he knows Jesus, are too strong in the collective memory to be omitted.

The episode of John the Baptist baptising Jesus falls into this category. Does this mean that John is greater than Jesus? Some people were clearly under that impression, so in Luke's account, John definitely states that someone is coming who is more powerful than he. This person will baptise, not as John does with water, but with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke does not record any exchange between Jesus and John; he prefers in his writing to have only one major character on the scene at a time. However, he does present Jesus as being baptised along with "all the people" and then spending time in prayer, something he mentions at various important points in Jesus' ministry. Another important theme in Luke and Acts is the Holy Spirit, who comes at the beginning of a new and significant stage in the narrative; here it is at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. Luke presents the interior communication between God and Jesus in a way accessible to the reader and we are let into the secret of Jesus' true identity. Although the figure of the dove appears elsewhere in the Bible, it might be more helpful to set the descending of the Spirit upon Jesus against the overshadowing of Mary by the Spirit at the Annunciation: that is the beginning of a significant period in the Gospel narrative. In these cases, the Spirit corresponds to the biblical idea of a power from God, which is at work in human beings to fulfil God's plan. In both of these accounts, Jesus is referred to as "Son of God".

### LEARN

Jesus set aside time to pray.

The disciples experience baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire definitively at Pentecost.

The fact that a Gospel story contains material embarrassing to a person or to the tradition suggests that there is an historical basis to the episode.

#### DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water and think of your baptism. Remember that Jesus stands in solidarity with you.

#### SAY

The Lord will bless the people with peace.

## REFLECT

ohn's baptism was for the forgiveness of sins. Does this mean that Jesus needed to be forgiven? In a sense, Luke sidesteps the question and concentrates on the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God. John's baptism was the ritual by which people outwardly expressed their decision to turn their lives round and to try to be the kind of person God intended them to be. By joining

the crowds being baptised by John, the sinless Jesus shows his solidarity with sinful, struggling humanity. It is interesting that it is at this point that God reveals Jesus to be God's Son, when Jesus stands alongside repentant sinners.

Another point worth considering from this section is that Jesus is shown "at prayer". Even being the Son of God, he had to

set time aside to communicate with God in this way. We may tell ourselves that it is enough to be aware of God at all (or any) times, but this is really no substitute for spending time alone with God in personal conversation. If Jesus did it, as Luke implies, then we ought to follow his example.

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019

20 20 30 20 20 30 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20		
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD		
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Swinford: Mary Duinegan, Park Road (1st anniv)
		Michael & Kathleen Regan, Brabazon Heights & their
		son Michael, Kilbride
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Swinford: Michael, Nora, Richard, Luke & Phelim Durkan, Lisbawn
		Anne & James Rooney, Ardlee
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Swinford: James & Bridget Ruane, Carrabeg
		John & Lizzie Moore, Newpark
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Swinford: Patrick & Anne Durkan, Cloonfinaune, their son
		Michael, daughters Noreen & Margaret & grandson
		Michael
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Swinford: Ned & Mary Campbell, Newpark their son Ted &
		daughter Virginia
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Swinford: Ann & Paddy Peyton & Jimmy Durkan, Tumgesh/
		Ballydrum
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Swinford: Anne Duffy, Curryane & dec'd Duffy & Cummins
		Families
		Mary Doyle, Cloonfinaune & dec'd Doyle & Lavin
a la		Families
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Swinford: Mary & Michael Callaghan, Logcurragh
		Nancy Henry, Cloonfinaune & her parents Martin &
		Anne Molloy
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Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Meelick: Jim Skinner, Derryronane
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Meelick: No Intention
Sunday 13th	10 20	Midfield: Fileon 9 James Tierner: 9 see in leve Terrere: Order
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Midfield: Eileen & James Tierney & son-in-law Tommy Quinn
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10 200	Brine Connell & dec'd Family, Cashelsheenaughane
Sunday 20	10.30am	Midfield: Ann & Michael Fraine & dec'd Family, Kinafffe
		Ellen & Jim Campbell & their son John, Kinaffe &
		dec'd Campbell & Egan 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 Paraic Durkan, Rubble, Killasser (father of Nicola Muldowney, Rabawn). May he rest in the peace of Christ.

Parish Pastoral Council: The January meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council took place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 8p.m. The meeting reviewed the celebration of Christmas in the churches in our parish and also discussed preparations for distribution of boxes of Offertory envelopes at the end of January. The members of the Pastoral Council also spent some time discussing the role of the Pastoral Council in the life of the parish.

Help needed: Help is needed this Sunday evening (January 13<sup>th</sup>) at 6.30p.m. to take down the Christmas decorations in Swinford Church. If you have a little time to spare around that time, assistance would be greatly appreciated. **Offertory Envelopes:** The boxes of envelopes for weekly offertory collection and other church collections during the year are due for renewal at the end of January. If you don't have a box of envelopes and would like one, or if any changes need to be made regarding names or addresses, please give details to Fr Dermot or Anne-Marie in the Parish Office. Your continuing generosity in supporting church collections throughout the year is deeply appreciated.

Best wishes to Cathal Gavin of Meadowpark, Swinford who has been chosen to sing for Pope Francis at the International Youth day celebrations in Panama later this month. Only two Irish singers have been given this honour in the past, Dana and Fr Liam Lawton. We wish Cathal and his family safe travelling and the making of many happy memories over this unique occasion.

**Prayer service for Christian Unity in Killasser Church:** On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm, an ecumenical service will be held in All Saints Church, Killasser as part of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. The Church of Ireland Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Rt.Revd. Patrick Rooke, will preach at the service which is organised by the Fr Peyton Cluster of parishes. Everybody is asked to attend and also to invite your friends from the Church of Ireland and from other Christian communities

to come along. The theme of this year's service is Justice in the World.

Holy Hour: of Eucharistic Healing in St. James's Church, Charlestown, on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Mayo Gardai in association with SuperValu, present the inaugural Mayo Garda Youth Awards for young people between the ages of 13 and 21, which will recognise the good work done by young people in every community in Mayo. There are individual, group, special achievement and community safety awards. Nomination Forms are available at local Garda Stations and from the Garda Youth Awards 2018 link from the Garda website www.garda.ie. Closing date for

nomination is 25th January.

O'Dwyer Arts Centre: Children's Dance Classes Starting on Saturday mornings with Eunice Moran. €7 per class, contact 087-9049710. GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Melletts and Joan Gallgher of The Flower Cabin won €587. The next draw is on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Club Mailing List: If you wish to be added to our club mailing list please send an e-mail to swinfordgaa@gmail.com.

Swinford Active Retirement: Meetings will resume on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan at 2.30pm in the Gateway Hotel. Everyone is welcome to attend. Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation: Monday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House Swinford. Free and open to all over 16 years. Contact 086 0700681 if you require further information. **Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for 7<sup>th</sup> Jan Numbers 09 16 18 19; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; Lucy King, Castleroyan; Hannah Taylor; 3 Number Winners; Darren Waite, The Turf Shed, Killasser; Jackpot €8,800; Next draw 14<sup>th</sup> Jan.

The Arthritis & Fibromyalgia Walking group in Swinford starts back this Saturday at 10am at the Amenity Park with Margaret and Mary. New members welcome. Contact Margaret on 087-4150663/ Mary on 087-9810762 or email arthritismayobranch@gmail.com Swinford & District Gardening Club will hold its annual dinner on 26th January at 7.30 pm in the Gateway Hotel. Everyone is welcome to attend. Ticket: €30. Contact 087-6206607 for tickets.