

26 JANUARY 2020 **Sunday**  **Message** 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



Today's Gospel extract sets the scene for Jesus' ministry in Galilee. The introduction has been his baptism, when God revealed him as God's beloved Son, so we have been given a glimpse of Jesus' true identity.

John the Baptist leaves the Gospel narrative: we are told that he has been arrested or handed over, as Jesus will be in his turn. Matthew underlines the close connection between the two by presenting Jesus' message as identical to that of the Baptist. Jesus' moving to the town of Capernaum on the shores of the Sea of Galilee is guided by God's will, as shown by the quotation from the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus calls his first disciples. This is unusual, because normally a person would decide to become a disciple of a particular rabbi and join that teacher's circle. Here Jesus invites Peter, Andrew, James and John, who, except for Andrew, will be privileged witnesses to important events in the life of their Master. It is testimony to the human personality and attractiveness of Jesus that they spontaneously leave their secure and presumably prosperous employment and follow someone whom they have apparently just met.

Using Capernaum as his base, Jesus embarks on a preaching tour of the local synagogues, illustrating the arrival of the Kingdom of God by curing illnesses of all kinds. Thus begins his ministry in Galilee, the northern region of the land of Israel. ■

DO

Find a map of the Holy Land at the time of Jesus: there is probably one at the back of the Bible you use. When a town or region is mentioned in the Sunday readings, look it up on your map. This will help you to understand better the background to the ministry of Jesus.



Fragment of the oldest floor mosaic map of the Holy Land - the Holy City Jerusalem

LEARN

The "shadow of death" means deep, complete darkness.

Normally, disciples would choose the rabbi whose teachings they wished to follow: the rabbi did not seek out disciples.

In the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus makes one journey to Jerusalem, unlike the version of John which presents several visits.

SAY

The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2)

REFLECT

Matthew tells us that the first four disciples had no hesitation in leaving what was to them safe, secure and familiar in order to respond wholeheartedly to Jesus. The purpose of the church is to perpetuate the presence of Jesus Christ in the world. The church is the people of God, the disciples of Jesus. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is presented as the model of the church, which brings forth new disciples, new brothers and sisters for Jesus.

In many parts of the world, the Catholic Church is losing members, sometimes through people giving up the practice of the faith for a variety of reasons. But many people leave to join other Christian bodies and very often the reason has nothing to do with theology but with community and a sense of belonging to a group which celebrates its faith with joy and open conviction. Perhaps the past emphasis on individual piety and practice has left a deeper and more lasting mark than we realise. The attitude that we have to go to Mass can lead to people feeling that doing the minimum is sufficient to keep on the right side of God – or of the church authorities. If this is the thinking of a large number of the congregation, then this will create an atmosphere which visitors pick up very quickly.

Perhaps in our parish community we need to reflect more on the human attractiveness of Jesus and ask ourselves whether our kind of worship and relationships with one another truly present the Master whose disciples we claim to be. ■

SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12 AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)
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: swinfordparish@gmail.com 26th Jan – 2nd Feb 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 25th	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael Jordan & dec'd Family, Lislackagh John & Brigid McNeela, their daughter Anne, Cloonlumney
Sunday 26th	12 noon	Swinford: Anne Conwell, Oak Drive Peggy Lyons, Rabawn, her parents Bea Ann & Jim Mulligan, their sons Tommy, John & James & their daughter Maureen Stack
Monday 27th	10.00am	Swinford: Margaret Williamson (nee Durkan), Kinaffe & Burnley, England (MM)
Tuesday 28th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 29th	10.00am	Swinford: Jimmy & Sheila O'Hagan, Lislackagh
Thursday 30th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Friday 31st	10.00am	Swinford: Bridget & Thomas Lynskey, their daughters Lena Rowley, Kathleen Conway & grandson Michael Lyons
Saturday 1st	10.00am	Swinford: Padraic & Mary Kate Moore, Kilbride

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Saturday 1st	6.30pm	Swinford: Mary & Michael McIntyre, Culduff Bill & Eileen Ormsby & dec'd Clarke & Ormsby Families
Sunday 2nd	12 noon	Swinford: Kathleen & Paddy Campbell, Cloonfinaun & Ann & Thomas Dunne & dec'd Family, Birmingham Bartley Mullen

Sunday 26th	9.00am	Meelick: Martie Lavin, his parents Martin & Elizabeth & dec'd Family, Culleens Pat & Mary Groarke, Bothaul & dec'd Groarke & Loftus Families
Sunday 2nd	9.00am	Meelick: Mary Duddy & her parents Mike & Anne, Ardhoome Pat & Mary Smith & dec'd Smith & Kelly Families, Oldcastle & Paddy Doyle, Church View

Sunday 26th	10.30am	Midfield: Tara Ryan, Johnsfort
Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Midfield: The Prendergast Family, Woods, The McNicohlas Family, Cashelsheenaughane, The McLoughlin Family, Kinaffe & Kitty Hickey, New York/Woods

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 Delma Keville, Circular Road and Jimmy Nolan, Baltimore, Maryland, USA and formerly Carracanada (brother of Martin Nolan, Carracanada) and Tess Mulligan, Derryronane & Harlow UK. May they 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 20th at 8.30p.m. The meeting reviewed our parish celebration of Christmas and among the items discussed were the Sunday of the Word of God and the preparation and distribution of the boxes of envelopes for church collections.

Offertory envelopes: Boxes of envelopes are available in the churches this weekend for collection. Thank you to those who use the envelopes and to all who contribute to the offertory collections each weekend. The money collected goes to the day to day running of the parish.

Eircodes: Please note that the eircodes for each of the three churches in the parish are given after the name of the church on the page opposite to this on the newsletter.

Cuppa: There will be a cuppa and a biscuit in the Meeting Room at the Parochial House on Friday mornings after 10.00a.m. Mass. All welcome.

Mayo Co Co /UCD School of Landscape Architecture: A group of students from the School of Landscape Architecture University College Dublin will meet with the Swinford 250 Committee, Swinford Tidy Towns, Brabazon Park Trustees and associated groups in the Cultural Centre Swinford this Monday at 2pm. The purpose of their visit is to assist in the design of a suitable project for Swinford to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Town. The delivery of the project is being done under the leadership of Mayo Co Council. The meeting is open to the public and it is important that all those who have an interest in the town should attend.

Club Registration: Swinford GAA Club registration will take place in the Gateway Hotel on Saturday 1st February 11am to 1pm. Club membership is €60 player, €100 if 2 players in one family, €120 if 3 players in the one family. New player member is €20.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results 20th Jan Numbers 08 09 15 26; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; Mary McNicholas, Park Road; Mandy & Martin Walsh Carnaculla; 3 Number Winners; Séamus Neary, Callow Foxford; Next draw on Monday the 27th January.

Set-Dancing Classes with Noreen Duffy are held at Carracastle Community Centre on Monday evenings at 8pm. All welcome to attend.

Scoil Muire agus Treasa (Swinford NS): Enrolment forms for new Junior Infants 2020/2021 are now available at the Office or call 094 9252055. Please return completed forms before 7th Feb 2020.

Mindfulness in Action at Swinford Cultural centre each Tuesday from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. Suits adults of all ages (men & women) cost is €12. Contact Maura Horkan 086-8237230 or Facebook page: Maura Horkan Mindfulness in Action. For more details.

HomeInstead Senior Care are currently hiring Caregivers for the Mayo region. All are welcome to attend our Recruitment Fair Day on Thursday 30th January from 12 noon to 2 pm in the Westport Woods Hotel, Quay Road, Cloonmonad, Westport, Co. Mayo. For further information please contact Caroline at our offices on (094)-9044785.

Swinford A.C: Do you want to safely dispose of your recyclable items and also help your local athletic club? As part of their recycling drive, Swinford AC are currently collecting all unwanted mobile phones, tablets, laptops, game consoles and Smart watches and devices. Members of the public are invited to bring all items to the collection point at Swinford Amenity Park every Tuesday evening from between 7 and 8 pm.

Card Game: 25 Card Game in aid of Swinford Christmas outdoor crib and statues will be held in the Gateway Hotel on Sunday 26th Jan & 2nd Feb at 8.30p.m. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje on the 30th September from Knock to Mostar. Book by February 1st for a €50 discount. Contact Isabel on 086-2151338 for more details.

Please note: New e-mail address for parish office – swinfordparish@gmail.com for all notices for newsletter and parish business.