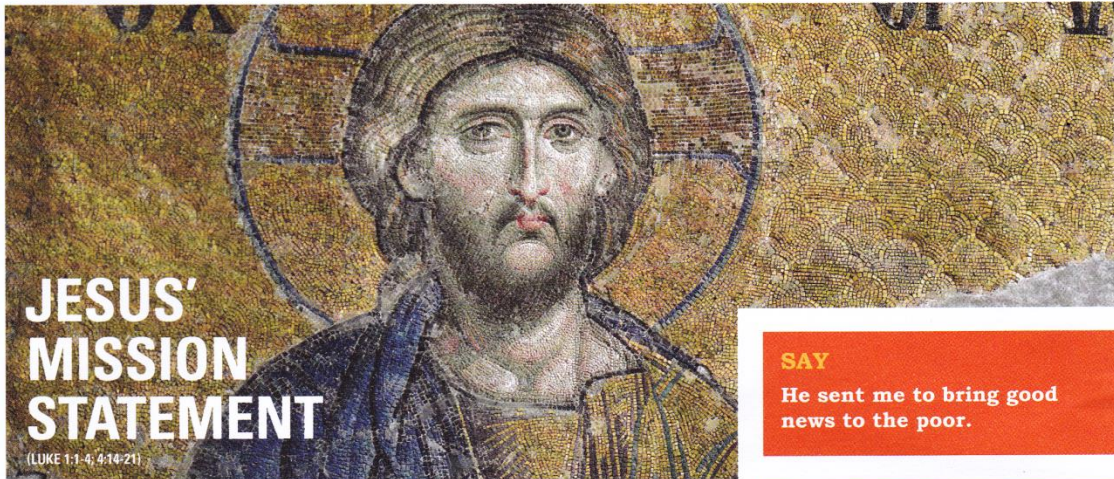


27 JANUARY 2019 **Sunday**  **Message** 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



13th century mosaic of Jesus Christ in the Hagia Sophia temple in Istanbul, Turkey

Today we begin our systematic reading of the Gospel according to Luke as part of the Liturgy of the Word.

The evangelist tells his symbolic correspondent about his intention to write a properly-ordered account of the tradition in which Theophilus has been instructed, a tradition which goes back to those who were “eyewitnesses and ministers of the word”, and so whose testimony is reliable.

However, the Gospel narratives are not simply historical accounts as we would regard the notion of history. They are also written from the evangelists’ theological perspective, their understanding of who Jesus is and what he means. One aspect of Luke’s presentation of Jesus is Jesus as the prophet. This is clear from today’s episode in the synagogue at Capernaum. Jesus describes his mission in terms of that of Isaiah. The key to this lies at the centre of the scene in the line, “to the blind new sight”. Throughout the Gospel, Luke will use this image as a way of talking about faith. To see properly is to accept Jesus and his message, and what he is talking about here is giving people recovery of their sight, in other words, something they have lost. He announces “the Lord’s year of favour”, possibly a jubilee year when debts are forgiven and a new start can be made. The passage from Isaiah also mentions poor people; they will be the particular object of Jesus’ care and concern, and the term includes those who find themselves on the margin of social and religious life, just as they figure prominently in the preaching of the prophets.

Luke tells us also that Jesus returns to Galilee “with the power of the Spirit in him”. The Spirit is the driving force within the ministry of Jesus, just as it will be within the spread of the Gospel and the church in Acts. ■

SAY

He sent me to bring good news to the poor.

DO

When you next see a homeless person or a food bank, ask yourself what you could do to bring good news. Then do it.



LEARN

The Spirit in the Bible is a force from God, empowering an individual for their mission.

The name *Theophilus* means ‘Lover of God’.

Theophilus, the addressee, may be Luke’s literary patron or a symbolic title for the reader of the Gospel and Acts.

The Gospel and Acts are two parts of Luke’s literary work.

REFLECT

Jesus is a prophetic Messiah; he applies to himself the text from Second Isaiah, where the prophet describes himself as “anointed” with “the Spirit of the Lord”. Although the biblical prophets’ preaching centres on political and economic issues, Jesus’ actions are more on the personal level. Oppression is understood as the person being bound by forces such as demons, illness and the like, and liberation is the freeing of

the person from these malign influences. However, Luke’s concern for those who are poor and marginalised, those without a voice, is shown in the Cantic of Mary, the *Magnificat*, which forms part of the narrative of Mary’s visit to Elizabeth. The *Magnificat* is Mary’s response to her cousin’s declaring, “Blessed is she who believed that what the Lord said to her would be fulfilled”. Luke’s Gospel is often quoted by those who write about

issues of injustice in society, along with the teachings of the biblical prophets. In the prophets’ thinking, poverty is an indictment of the society; might the existence of homeless people and food banks caused by economic policies be the modern equivalent of the poverty and vulnerability of the unfortunate individuals of biblical times? ■

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 **27th Jan – 3rd Feb 2019**

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 26th	6.30pm	Swinford: Bernadette Irving, Meadow Park John & Brigid McNeela & daughter Anne, Cloonlumney
Sunday 27th	12 noon	Swinford: Peggy Lyons, Rabawn, her parents Bea Ann & Jim Mulligan, their sons Tommy, John & James & their daughter Maureen Stack
Monday 28th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Tuesday 29th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 30th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Thursday 31st	10.00am	Swinford: John & Annie Kate Kennedy, Kinaffe & Tom & Julia Begley, Balla
Friday 1st	10.00am	Swinford: Thomas & Bridget Lynskey & daughters Lena Rowley & Kathleen Conway & grandson Michael Lyons
Saturday 2nd	10.00am	Swinford: Josie Peyton, Derryronane (1 st anniv) Sr Margaret Mary Jordan (1 st anniv)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 2nd	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael & Bridget Muldowney, Cashelsheenaughane Mary & Michael McIntyre, Cullduff
Sunday 3rd	12 noon	Swinford: Catherine McDonagh, Lislackagh & dec'd Doherty Family, Tumbesh Eileen Gaffney, her parents Tom & Mary McNulty & dec'd Family

Sunday 27th	9.00am	Meelick: Martie Lavin, Culleens, his parents Martin & Elizabeth & dec'd Family Mary & Pat Groarke & dec'd Loftus & Groarke Families, Bothaul
Sunday 3rd	9.00am	Meelick: Mary Duddy, her parents Anne & Mike, Ardhoome Paddy & Winnie McGowan, their daughter Mary & Tommy O'Grady

Sunday 27th	10.30am	Midfield: Tara Ryan, Johnsfort Kevin & Patsy Forkan, Kinaffe
Saturday 2nd	11.00am	Midfield: Mary Walsh, Kinaffe (MM)
Sunday 3rd	10.30am	Midfield: Paddy & Annie O'Malley, Cashelbawn Mary & Jack Devine, their sons Michael & John & dec'd Family, Tullinahoo

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 Adele Gavin, Carracanada. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

James Christopher Maughan, Culmore who was baptised recently in Swinford Church.

Parish Pastoral Council: There will be a meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, January 28th at 8pm.

Catholic Schools Week: From 27th January to 3rd February we mark Catholic Schools Week 2019, a week set aside each year in the Church in Ireland to celebrate the wonderful work of handing on the Catholic faith undertaken in our schools. Indeed the theme chosen for this week this year is 'Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools.' We pray this week that God will bless all the school communities in our parish.

First Saturday Devotions is being hosted in Knock Old Parish Church on Saturday 2nd February. Starts at 11.00am with Rosary, meditations and concludes with Holy Mass at 12.00 noon. Confessions and Enrolment of the free brown scapulars. Everyone is invited to attend to benefit from Our Lady's heavenly promises.

Active Minds Swinford Group are hosting a Make Up Demonstration by Megan Durkan on Wednesday 30th January in the Cultural Centre Swinford at 8.00pm. All welcome.

Midfield NS: Enrolment forms are now available from the school please contact 087-9014451 or 094-9252037.

O'Dwyer Arts Centre: John Hoban music circle is on Monday night 28th January at 8pm. Everyone is welcome and bring a friend.

Resilience Building Course for Children in Swinford Cultural Centre - Course Starting on Tuesday 14th May. 5 weeks, 2 days per week, programme to assist children build resilience and self-esteem. Working in small groups, the children will learn important skills and techniques to deal with everyday worries and stresses through fun and interactive activities. The course will be given by Laura Murtagh, Educational Psychologist and Primary Teacher. It will take place on Tuesdays at 4.30 - 5.30 for 8-10 years and 5.30 to 6.30 for 11-13 years. Saturdays at 10am – 11am for 8-10 years and from 11am to 12 noon for 11-13 years.

Booking is essential as places are limited to a maximum of 10 per group. The cost of the 5-week course is €120 (€20 deposit required to secure a place). Laura will also be running a Resilience Building Summer Camp in July. Email her for more information at laura@educationalpsychologist.ie

M.A.S.K Karate Club Swinford: are holding a Table Quiz in the Gateway Hotel on Friday the 1st February at 9.30pm. Table of four €40. Raffle on the night, lots of prizes. All welcome, please support. Contact Kevin 087-0750151.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Bolands and Rebecca Fitzgerald and Laura Geraghty of Meelick won €430. The next draw is in Gateway Hotel on Tuesday 29th January.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results for 21st January Numbers 03 06 07 19; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; Jonathon Cronnolly, c/o Sheepwalk ; Mary Keane; 3 Number winners; William Groarke, Derryronane; M. Forkan, Lislackagh; Jackpot €9,200; Next draw on Monday 28th January.

Mayo Stroke Support Group : will hold its next meeting on Thursday 31st January from 11.30am-1.00pm in the Newman Institute, Cathedral Grounds, Ballina. Admission is free. No booking required. Contact Barbara on 096-80451 or Ailish on 094-9049172 for more info.

Mayo Cancer Support Group Meeting takes place at Rock Rose House, Castlebar on Thursday 31st January at 7pm. Contact 094 9038407 for more information.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: All groups, organisations & Individuals are invited to enter a float in the 2019 St. Patrick's day Parade being held on Sunday March 17th. As the town celebrates 250 years and more it is hoped to have a record entry to celebrate our National Feast Day. The theme of this year's parade is Swinford 250 Past, Present & Future. Contact Francis on 087-9909863 for more details.

Swinford Drama Group are presenting their play "for Better for worse" in the T.F Hotel Castlebar on Friday 8th February for a fundraising event for Aisling McDonagh who is ill with Lyme Disease and needs urgent treatment. Doors open at 8pm. Show starts at 8.30pm. Admission €10. Raffle on the night. Please support this worthy cause.