

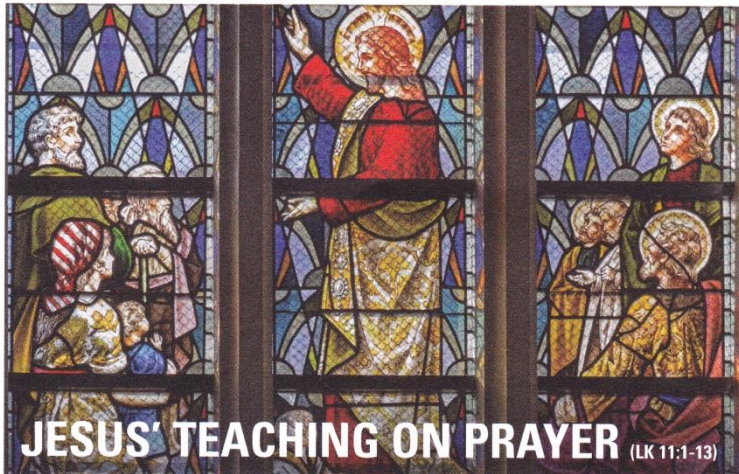
28 JULY 2019

Sunday Message

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



JESUS' TEACHING ON PRAYER (LK 11:1-13)

Depiction of Jesus teaching, in St Anthony's Church, Leuven (19th century)

Jesus is the best example of how we should pray and in today's Gospel, he becomes a teacher of prayer. The disciples request his help and Jesus responds by giving them words they can use when they want to communicate with God.

You will notice that in Luke's Gospel, a much shorter form of the Our Father is used because the church uses the version in Matthew's Gospel as it is longer. However the differences between the two versions of the prayer are few. Jesus gives the disciples a form of prayer that acknowledges God as Father, his will be done on earth as it is in heaven and the final request to deliver us from evil.

The Lord's Prayer is then followed by a parable of a man requesting bread from his neighbour. It's late at night and the family in the house are already in bed. It's clear that the man of the house isn't keen to answer the door at such a late hour. And yet the visitor to the house persists and continues to knock. His persistence eventually pays off because he receives the food, but we can imagine the already sleeping family startled and awakened by the drama at the door. The learning the disciples can take from this short parable is that asking and searching and persisting is necessary in prayer. Bang on the door until God hears you! ■

SAY

"Whenever you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."
(Mark's Gospel)

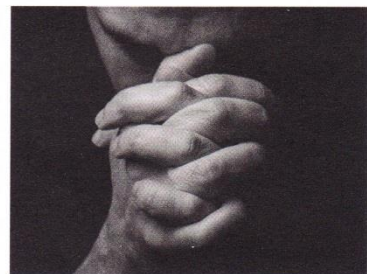
DO

If you're a little out of practice in your prayer life, how about taking as little as 10 minutes a day to begin a conversation with God. If you are short on words, read from today's Gospel from Luke.

LEARN

"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."

(St Therese of Lisieux)



REFLECT

What is prayer and why isn't it working? Two common questions that I've been asked over the course of my ministry. I can never claim to be an expert on prayer but there are certain rules of thumb from today's Gospel that might help those of us who struggle to pray.

Prayer is at the heart of the Christian life and expresses a desire within us to communicate with God. But there is little doubt that in order to pray, we need to pray with faith. Before Jesus heals someone in the Gospels, he often asks, "Do you believe I can do this for you?"

And if the person expresses strong faith, the miracle happens or the prayer is answered. Having faith is like opening a window to God. Saying 'Our Father' is a sign of our deep faith in him. We have heard the call from Jesus that we should pray like children – asking in the belief that we will receive. It seems rather simple or trivial but opening our full heart to God in prayer is the first lesson of Jesus to the disciples today.

The Lord's Prayer then moves into the importance of forgiveness in prayer. How difficult it can be to open ourselves to God when we're holding a grudge

against a family member, neighbour or work colleague. The desire may exist to communicate with God but the channel of communication is blocked due to our grievance against someone. Our prayers won't be effective until we forgive like God the Father forgives.

And finally, today's parable tells us to persist in our prayer. In some Gospel translations, the word 'audacity' is used. To have the audacity/persistence to pray again, to pray more, to knock and to ask. I think this is perhaps my most common experience of prayer. ■

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 **28th July – 4th Aug 2019**

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 27th	6.30pm	Swinford: Baby Amy Kate O'Sullivan, Knockville Manor, Charlestown James & Anne Rooney, Ardlee Michael Regan, Kilbride
Sunday 28th	12 noon	Swinford: Mary Thompson Breen, Rathúnas & dec'd Thompson & Breen Families Tommy Gallagher, Kilbride
Monday 29th	10.00am	Swinford: Pat Scally, Curryane/Manchester & Joe Kelly, Rathdubh/Manchester
Tuesday 30th	10.00am	Swinford: Patricia Murray, Oak Drive
Wednesday 31st	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Thursday 1st	10.00am	Swinford: Martin & Kate Mellett, their daughter Kathleen Kilgallon & son Michael & Séan Dolan, Cloonlara/Manchester
Friday 2nd	10.00am	Swinford: Tom & Úna Egan, Main Street & Mary & John Feeney, their sons John, Gerard & Joe, Ballyglass Sarah Ann & Patrick Mulligan, their grand-daughter Tracey Anne O'Keeffe, Ramponi
Saturday 3rd	10.00am	Swinford: Dr Pdraig Carney (MM)
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
Saturday 3rd	6.30pm	Swinford: Séamus O'Hagan & dec'd Family, Swinford
Sunday 4th	12 noon	Swinford: Úna & Tony Doyle, Tumgesh & dec'd Doyle & Mulrennan Families Pat & Nora Ginty, Cloonlumney Pat Goff, Park Road

Sunday 28th	9.00am	Meelick: James Brennan, Aclare & Michael Brennan, Steeple Village
Sunday 4th	9.00am	Meelick: Pat, Ann & Margaret Philbin & dec'd Family, Steeple Village

Sunday 28th	10.30am	Midfield: No Intention
Sunday 4th	10.30am	Midfield: Mary & Martin Mannion, Castleroyan

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 Mary Cahill, Co Dublin and formerly of St Ita's Terrace, Swinford and Kathleen Farnan (nee Jennings), Philadelphia (sister of Thomas Jennings, Cloonaghboy). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Month's Mind Mass for the happy repose of Dr. Padraig Carney will be celebrated in Swinford Church on Saturday next August 3rd at 10.00a.m at the request of Swinford GAA Club. A proud Swinford & Mayo Man, Padraig is generally recognised as one of the greatest footballers of all time. All are welcome.

Congratulations and every blessing to Donal and Kathleen Benson, Kilkelly Road who celebrated their Diamond wedding Anniversary on Monday 22nd July. The happy Couple were married on the 22 July 1959 and they are wished many more years of good health and happiness.

Cemetery Masses: Mass will be celebrated in Meelick Cemetery on Sunday, August 4th at 9a.m. (weather permitting), in Kilconduff Cemetery on Monday, August 5th at 6.30p.m. (weather permitting), in Midfield Cemetery on Thursday, August 15th at 7.00p.m. (weather permitting) and in the Workhouse Cemetery, Dublin Road on Friday, August 16th at 7.00p.m. (weather permitting).

Scoil Cheoil Siamsa: Swinford's annual week of afternoon music and singing classes, begins this Monday 29th, at 3pm in Swinford NS. Classes last an hour and the fee is €25 for the week. Pupils will be accepted on the day (numbers permitting). For more information contact cceswinford@gmail.com or 087-7454032 or alternatively call to the school at 3pm.

Swinford Comhaltas and friends are delighted to present our 4th annual Pageant on Monday, August 5th at 8.30pm. The show called 250 years a Growing -250 bliain ag fás. Two hundred and fifty years of life in Swinford and surrounding parishes will be celebrated with the best of music, song, dance, poetry, drama and narration in the Cultural Centre. This will be a great night's entertainment so be sure to be there.

Musical Theatre Summer camp Remaining places need to be booked/confirmed soon for the Flare Musical Theatre Summer Camp/workshop to facilitate ordering of costumes etc. Information from Swinford 250

office, email railwayplayers2018@gmail.com , message Railway Players Facebook page or text 087-6569782.

Concert: Phil Coulter will be in Swinford Church on Friday August 2nd. Ireland's ambassador of music returns to our fantastic Church in Swinford. His 2015 performance was simply Outstanding and it's wonderful to have this global superstar back in our midst. It will be a wonderful night. Tickets €30 and can be got from Melletts Newsagency, O'Connell's pharmacy and the Gateway Hotel or call Mick on 087-6837564.

Free Computer Classes for over 55's starting in September 2019 to June 2020 at Swinford Library on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am to 12 noon. Tutoring is usually on a 1:1 basis in a relaxed atmosphere. Classes are 2 hours once a week for 5 weeks. For more information email gettingstartedgalway@ageaction.ie or call 091-527831 for more information.

Bofield Ceili Band: The ever popular Bofield Ceili Band summer Seisiún returns to the Fr. Peyton Centre, Attymass on Thursday evening at 9pm and runs each Thursday night until the end of August. Adults €10 and children are free. Refreshments served.

Cycle for Cancer Support Services: 50Km Greenway Cycle in aid of Mayo Cancer Support, Rock Rose House takes place on Sunday August 4th departing from Westport Leisure Centre at 10am Suitable for all fitness levels. Registration is €20. For more information contact John Tiernan on 087-2246147 or 094-9038407.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results 22nd July Numbers: 21, 24, 25, 26; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Mickey & Rowan, Brabazon Heights; Aine Doyle, Tumgesh; 3 Number Winners: None. Next draw the 29th July in the Sheepwalk Bar.

Western Care Association: A Summer Cabaret hosted by Annette Griffin and John Staunton and featuring Brendan Shine, Gerry Guthrie and comedian Shaun Connors will take place in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris, on Wednesday, August 7th. Tickets costing €25 are available from 094 9378000/094 9029144 or from many local outlets throughout the county and on the door on the night. All proceeds will go to support Western Care Association's local services for people with intellectual disabilities.