

4 JULY 2021

# Sunday Message

14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



## EYES WIDE OPEN

MARK 6:1-6

They couldn't believe what they were witnessing. Here was the carpenter's son holding forth in the synagogue, preaching as if he were a rabbi, instructing as if he considered himself an expert.

But they knew who he was. They knew his family. They knew his father's carpenter's shop. He was an ordinary Nazarene, one of their own. So where did he get all this wisdom? How could he talk with such authority? Who did he think he was, anyway, to come home, acting like some big shot?

So they wouldn't – couldn't – accept him. They saw him only as the boy next door. Filled with envy and incredulity, they refused to see who he really was.

His neighbours should have known that God was working through Jesus in a special way, that there was something unique and different about this extraordinary young man. But familiarity breeds contempt. They couldn't see past their expectations and prejudices. They were unable to see God's presence in the ordinary and the familiar. Jesus had no choice but to walk away. ■

### SAY

“Deepen my faith, Lord.  
Keep me always faithful to  
you. Amen.”

### DO

Make a conscious effort to be more alert to what is happening around you. Are there any ways in which you are blind?

### LEARN

To be a prophet is to witness to the Gospel at all times.

Being a prophet is part and parcel of being a Christian.

The Christian is always tuned into the signs of the times.

### PRAY

Pray for the courage to oppose wrongdoing or discrimination wherever you see it. Pray for the courage to witness to the Good News without fear as Jesus did.

## REFLECT

One of the success stories of the 2010s was the taxi firm Uber. Founded in California in 2009, the ride-sharing start-up, with its user-friendly app and cheap fares, was a darling of the tech industry with a huge valuation on Wall Street.

In December 2016, a software engineer called Susan Fowler quit her job at Uber. Early the following year, she wrote an explosive blog about her time with the firm. She described how she was harassed at Uber, starting with her first day on a new team. When she complained, her bosses ignored her or tried to intimidate her. Fowler's allegations exposed a widespread culture of harassment at Uber. Its chief executive was forced to resign, its value fell, and the broader tech industry had to confront its woeful history of discrimination against women and minorities.

Susan Fowler helped ignite the MeToo movement, which highlights sexual harassment of women in the workplace. The culture of abuse of power and white male supremacy is so pervasive that

many people are unable or unwilling to see it. Some months ago, the head of the United Nations declared that gender inequality and discrimination against women is the “one overwhelming injustice across the globe – an abuse that is crying out for attention. Everywhere women are worse off than men, simply because they are women.” Women are far more likely to be sexually assaulted, discriminated against, or aborted, simply because of their gender. A glaring injustice that many ignore or refuse to see.

At Uber, many people saw the way Susan Fowler was treated but they looked away. They refused to see. They didn't want to be involved. It can happen with us too. Even with perfectly good eyes, we can fail to see, or be oblivious to, so much of what is happening around us. We can be blind.

Blindness takes many forms. We can be so busy today that we simply don't have time to step back, look around, take note. Busyness prevents us from taking a closer look.

We can be so caught up in the regular routine of life, so stuck in our ways, that we fail to notice the signs of the times. Oblivious to the Holy Spirit at work in us and around us, we end up blinkered.

Or, like Jesus's townspeople, we can stubbornly refuse to see what is happening right in front of us, refuse to accept the evidence of our eyes – such as the opioid crisis, for example, or the problem of homelessness, or the family member or colleague in distress. Or the judgemental way we look down on the newcomer, the foreigner, the refugee.

We can refuse to acknowledge the challenges confronting our church or claim they are none of our business.

Sometimes it's easier to be wilfully blind rather than face up to reality, to stay in the darkness rather than see with new eyes. But the Christian is called to see as Jesus sees and then always to respond, with courage, conviction and love. ■

**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**

**4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Joe & Mary Kelly, their daughters Mary, Anne & Joan & their son Michael, Cloonfinish Rose & John Kelly, Oak Drive
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Bridie Muldowney, Rabawn
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Ellen, Anthony, Eileen & Michael McDonnell, Rathscanlon
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Mass
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Frank & Annie Brennan, Cullane & dec'd Brennan & Groarke Families
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary & Patrick Haran & dec'd Family, Curryane Tom & Kitty Durkan, Derryronane, their daughter- -in-law Rita Durkan & Lawrence Groarke, Chris O'Malley, Ash Grove
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Marie Doherty, San Francisco, (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv) (cousin of Josie Prendergast, Circular Road) & Joe Prendergast, Circular Road

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**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>**                      **9.00am**                      **Meelick:** No Intention

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**                      **9.00am**                      **Meelick:** No intention

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**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>**                      **10.30am**                      **Midfield:** Kathleen Costello, Midfield (MM)

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**                      **10.30am**                      **Midfield:** Anne Walsh, Cashelsheenaughane & dec'd Walsh &  
Henry Families  
Patrick & Julia Lavin & their daughter Margaret,  
Castlebarnagh

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**Adoration of the Blessed Sacraments takes place in Swinford Church on  
Thursdays from 2pm to 7 pm.**

**All are welcome to come and spend some time in prayer**

**Please pray for** Kathleen (Kay) Devlin, Derryronane; Margaret Killilea, Lisheenabrone; Frank Finlan, Dublin and formerly Culmore and Audrey Lewis, Navan (daughter of Harold and Imelda Hallahan, Kilkelly Road). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**Thank you** to all parishioners for your continuing understanding, patience and co-operation with all the measures we have had to put in place to ensure the health and well-being of all who come to Mass in our churches. With the current worry around the spread of the Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus, it is important that, even with vaccines, we all continue to wear masks in church, to sanitise hands on entering and leaving the building and observe the seating arrangements that ensure social distancing. Many thanks to our sacristans, stewards and volunteers who clean and sanitise our churches after every Mass, helping to keep us all safe in these times.

**Volunteers needed:** We could do with more help in cleaning and sanitising our churches after each Mass, especially in Meelick and Midfield churches. Cleaning takes about an hour to complete. If you can help, please contact Fr Dermot or Anne-Marie in the Parish Office. Your help would be genuinely and greatly appreciated.

**Arranging anniversary Masses:** To arrange anniversary Masses for deceased family members, please contact Anne-Marie in the Parish Office at 094 9253607 or at [swinfordparish@gmail.com](mailto:swinfordparish@gmail.com). As the capacity of each church is now limited, it is important that family members wishing to attend an anniversary Mass, particularly at weekends, come in good time to ensure that they will be able to get a seat in the church.

#### **Finished School and don't know what to do next?**

Are you at home because you don't know how to access further training? NLN Mayo could help you. We train early school leavers, LCA students and people who would benefit from additional supports. Our courses will develop your skills and confidence to open up new

opportunities for further training. We offer Sports industry and Gym Instructor Studies, Employment Skills, Business, IT & Digital Skills courses and more. All our courses are FREE! For more information on the courses available, contact: [Castlebar@nlm.ie](mailto:Castlebar@nlm.ie); (094) 9022770; National Learning Network, Breaffy Road, Castlebar.

**GAA 50/50:** The club 50/50 draw was held in Campbells Lounge and Adam Gilmore of our Under 17 team won €338. Envelopes are available in business premises in town and online through [www.swinfordgaa.ie](http://www.swinfordgaa.ie). The next draw will be in Horkans on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. The club would like to thank everyone for their support.

**Swinford Community Lotto Results 28<sup>th</sup> June**  
Numbers 7, 15, 20, 23; €70 Voucher Winners; M & M Walsh, Swinford; Moore's Staff, Moore's Shop;  
3 Numbers Winners; Carmel Sweeney, c/o Tara Cafe; Nellie Jennings, c/o Tara Cafe; Declan Brennan, Lismirrane; Joanne Bourke, Foxford; €35 Phl Horkan, Horkan's Shop; Muldowney Family, Carnacull; Henry Kavanagh, Killasser; Tony Doherty, Liscottle, Swinford; Shelly Gallagher, Sonnagh; Jackie O'Rourke, Newcastle; Jackpot now €20,400.

**Midfield Group Water Scheme:** Water rates are due to be collected in the coming weeks.

**Swinford Golf Club 250 Centenary Draw:** The draw was held in Swinford Golf Club on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Draw no 16;  
€1000 won by Ml.Duffy, Duffy Tyres, Culmore  
€300 won by Neil Mc.Nicholas, Hatch St, Dublin  
€200 won by Tony Doherty, Liscottle, Swinford  
There are 2 draws every month for 12 months.  
Thanks for joining our draw. All results are available on the Golf Club website.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Your merciful love, O God,  
we have received in the midst of your temple.  
Your praise, O God, like your name,  
reaches the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, who in the abasement of your Son  
have raised up a fallen world,  
fill your faithful with holy joy,  
for on those you have rescued from slavery  
to sin  
you bestow eternal gladness.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Ez 22:5

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The spirit came into me and made me stand  
up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me.  
He said, "Son of man, I am sending you to  
the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned  
against me. Till now they and their ancestors  
have been in revolt against me. The sons are  
defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to  
them, to say, 'The Lord says this.' Whether  
they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know  
there is a prophet among them."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Ps 122

Response:

**Our eyes are on the Lord  
till he show us his mercy.**

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes,  
you who dwell in the heavens:  
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves  
on the hand of their lords. (R.)

2. Like the eyes of a servant  
on the hand of his mistress,  
so our eyes are on the Lord our God  
till he show us his mercy. (R.)

3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
We are filled with contempt.  
Indeed all too full is our soul  
with the scorn of the rich,  
with the proud man's disdain. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

2 Cor 12:7-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to  
the Corinthians.

In view of the extraordinary nature of these  
revelations, to stop me from getting too  
proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an  
angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from  
getting too proud! About this thing, I have  
pleaded with the Lord three times for it to  
leave me, but he has said, "My grace is  
enough for you: my power is at its best in  
weakness." So I shall be very happy to make  
my weaknesses my special boast so that the  
power of Christ may stay over me, and that is  
why I am quite content with my weaknesses,  
and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and  
the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For  
it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among  
us;  
to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God.  
Alleluia

**GOSPEL**

Mk 6:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.

Jesus went to his home town and his  
disciples accompanied him. With the  
coming of the sabbath he began teaching  
in the synagogue and most of them were  
astonished when they heard him. They said,  
"Where did the man get all this? What is this  
wisdom that has been granted him, and these  
miracles that are worked through him? This  
is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the  
brother of James and Joset and Jude and  
Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here  
with us?" And they would not accept him.  
And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is only  
despised in his own country among his own  
relations and in his own house"; and he  
could work no miracle there, though he cured  
a few sick people by laying his hands on  
them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this oblation dedicated to your name  
purify us, O Lord,  
and day by day bring our conduct  
closer to the life of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that, having been replenished by such great  
gifts,  
we may gain the prize of salvation  
and never cease to praise you.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Unless we look at a person and see the  
beauty that is in them, we can contribute  
nothing to them. One does not help a person  
by discerning what is wrong, what is ugly,  
what is distorted. Christ looked at everyone  
he met, at the prostitute, at the thief, and  
saw the beauty hidden there. Perhaps it  
was distorted, perhaps damaged, but it was  
beauty none the less, and what he did was to  
call out this beauty.

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom