

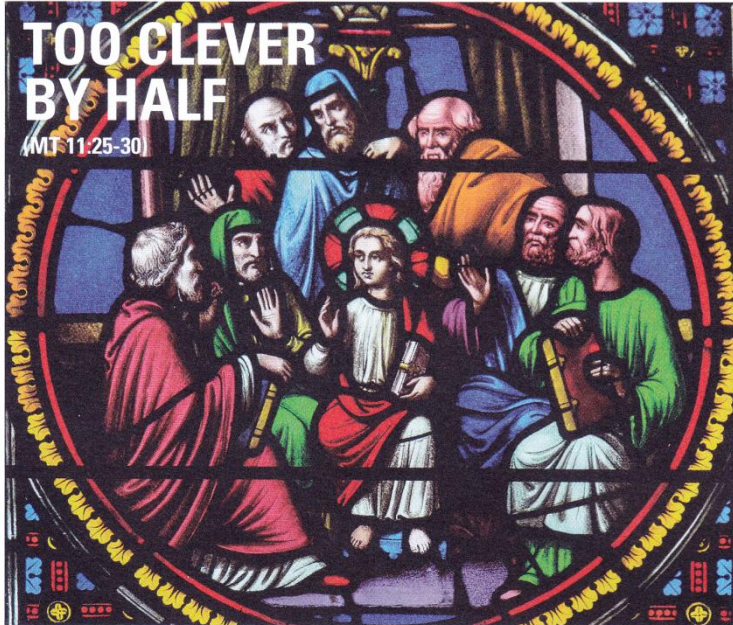
5 JULY 2020

# Sunday Message

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

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



Stained glass in the Chapel of Notre-Dame-des-flots in Sainte Adresse, Le Havre, France, depicting Christ in the Temple of Jerusalem among the doctors (1857)

Jesus has been preaching throughout his home region of Galilee. He must have had high hopes that the Pharisees and the religious leaders would accept his message and recognise that it came from God.

After all, these are “the learned and the clever”, the experts on the law who know it inside out. They, above all others, should be able to recognise God’s Son when he speaks to them.

But Jesus’ efforts haven’t succeeded. In fact, he faces mounting opposition. The Pharisees and the religious leaders reject him and his message. They see no evidence that he is the Son of God.

Jesus must have been terribly disappointed at his failure to win over the “learned and clever” but he doesn’t lose heart. He knows that he is doing the Father’s will, and that’s all that counts.

And he realises too that his preaching has not been in vain. The ordinary people, those he describes as “mere children”, have grasped his message. The simple and ignorant, who have no education or training in the law, recognise who he is – people like his disciples, and the sick, and the sinners.

Jesus realises that this was God’s plan all along. He thanks God for choosing to reveal his truth to the little ones, while hiding it from the self-important.

The lesson for us is that we must be open to God’s plan for us, as Jesus was, and actively trust that our heavenly Father knows best. ■

## SAY

“I thank you, Lord, for being so close to me. Strengthen my faith. Amen.”

## REFLECT

There are times when we all experience life as difficult and painful. We can feel overburdened with problems or worries of one kind or another. The death of a loved one may have left our heart broken. A person close to us may be sick. Our bank balance may be deep in the red. Our business may be going under. We may have lost our job. There may be problems in the home or with an addiction. We may find ourselves stuck in a crucifying depression we can’t shake off.

Bring all of that to Jesus today. Lay your worries and anxieties on him, for he is gentle of heart. Ask him for the rest and peace that you seek. ■

## LEARN

A yoke was a bar laid across the shoulders of a slave for carrying a heavy burden. Many rabbis referred to the Law as a yoke placed on the shoulders of the people of Israel. By contrast, the yoke that Jesus invites his followers to take on is not a burden but something that is gentle and life-giving.

The Good News is for everyone.

## PRAY

There is so much trouble and anxiety in our world today, so many people caught up in civil conflict and violent unrest. Ask the Prince of Peace to ease people’s suffering and grant them the rest for their souls that he alone can give.

## DO

Look at how children relate to their parents. Observe them. Note how they trust their parents completely and instinctively, how they feel secure when they hold a parent’s hand, how utterly receptive and open they are to their parents. That is how we are called to relate to our God.



**SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12 AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)**

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**Email: swinfordparish@gmail.com**

**5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Swinford:** Pat & Margaret Gallagher & their daughter Marie, Culmore & Jim, Anne & Séamus Gallagher, Chicago Joe & Mary Kelly, Cloonfinish & their daughters Mary, Anne & Joan & their son Michael James Rowley & dec'd Family, Lsheenabrone Michael & Nora Reilly & dec'd Family John & Rose Kelly, Oakdrive

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** No Intention

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** No Intention

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** No public Mass. Mass on webcam only.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** Chris O'Malley, Ashgrove (1<sup>st</sup> anniv) Michael, Eileen, Anthony & Ellen McDonnell, Rathscanlon

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** No Intention

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Swinford:** Phil Rowley, Renbrack, Foxford (1<sup>st</sup> anniv)

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Swinford:** Tom & Kitty Durkan, Derryronane & dec'd Durkan & Philbin Families & Laurence Groarke Mary & Patrick Haran & dec'd Family, Curryane

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Swinford:** Paddy & Mary Foley, Tullinacurra

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**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Meelick:** No Intention

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**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Midfield:** Anne Walsh, Cashelsheenaughane & dec'd Walsh & Henry Families Patrick & Julia Lavin, their daughter Margaret & dec'd Family, Castlebarnagh

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**Please pray for** Monica Corrigan (nee Callaghan), Ballaghaderreen and formerly of Tullinacurra. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**Returning to our churches for Mass;** We all look forward to being able to gather in our churches for Mass, especially on Sundays. We will do so in accordance with Government and NPHE guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all. With that in mind the following is offered for your information:

- The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays of obligation has been suspended by the Irish Bishops until further notice.
- Those who can attend Mass on any day during the week are asked to consider attending on a weekday to leave Sunday free for those who can only attend then.
- People should only come to Mass when they feel comfortable being in the church. Those with underlying medical conditions or who are vulnerable health-wise can still follow Mass on the webcam from home and in that way join in praying the Mass with those who will be gathered in church.
- **Anybody with cold or flu-like symptoms should stay at home.**
- Anyone who would like to come to Mass is asked to come in good time to allow for sanitising hands on entering the church. In each church there will be one designated door for entering the church. Churches will be open 30 minutes before Mass and it is likely people will have to queue to enter the church.
- In line with the guidelines to keep the church safe for all, each of our churches will have a maximum capacity. When this is reached, it will not be possible to let anyone else into the church. Please do not be offended if stewards tell you maximum capacity has been reached and you will not be allowed to enter the church.
- Please follow the directions of the stewards at the church door and inside the church. In order to help the stewards determine the number of places available in the church, stewards will bring people to a seat. It will not be possible for people to choose their own seat.
- For receiving Holy Communion, please follow the directions of the stewards and observe social distancing while waiting in line to receive Holy Communion. **People are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand.**
- Please note that health and safety guidance means **toilets will not be open in any of our churches for the moment.** It may be important to keep this in mind in deciding to return to church especially with smaller children.
- After each Mass the church will be closed for cleaning and sanitising.

Coming back to church for Mass will be different for the moment and will ask patience, understanding and co-operation from us all. A short video on returning to church for Mass is available on our diocesan website, [www.achonrydiocese.org/returntoworshipinfo](http://www.achonrydiocese.org/returntoworshipinfo). All are encouraged to view this video in advance of coming to Mass.

**Thank you:** Once again, sincere thanks to parishioners who have been dropping in their envelopes for the offertory and other collections. Your generous giving in these difficult times is very much appreciated.

**GAA 50/50:** The clubs 50/50 draw was held in Horkans Shop and Thomas Grufferty won €241. Envelopes are available in business premises in town and online through [www.swinfordgaa.ie](http://www.swinfordgaa.ie) where tickets can be purchased in bundles of 10/25/52 weeks or from club officers.

The next draw will be in the Gateway Hotel on the 7th July. Draw envelopes available for €2 each or 3 for €5. The club would like to thank everyone for their support.