

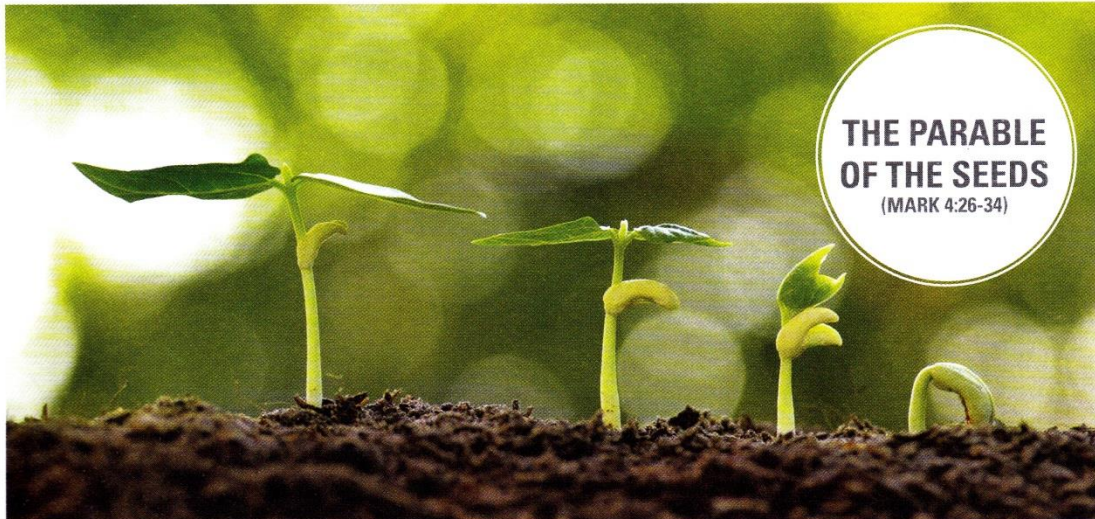
17TH JUNE 2018

# Sunday Message

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



Today we have two similarly themed parables concerning the growing of seeds.

The first parable is about the seed that grows secretly. The farmer plants the seed and then forgets about it and goes about his daily business. Under very little supervision, the seed grows and thrives until the farmer returns and cultivates his crop. The growth of the seed is a great mystery and the farmer places great trust in the fertility of the soil to bring about the change in the seed. Likewise, Jesus sowed the great seed of God's Word and that Word continues to grow and flourish throughout the world. Like the farmer, we place our trust in the activity of God to spread the Word but the growth of the Word is still one of the great mysteries of our faith.

The story of the mustard seed is even more enthralling. The seed is so small and insignificant that it is almost invisible in the ground. And yet it has the capacity to transform into the largest of plants. For many Christians in the early church, the mustard seed symbolised Christ himself crucified, leading to the power of the resurrection (Bishop Robert Barron, [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)). Christ who came from humble beginnings will transform the world by his sacrifice on the cross and his rising from the dead. Jesus preached these parables so that the disciples might understand the power of humble beginnings. ■

## REFLECT

**A**s I write this, it is rainy season in Northern Mozambique where thunderstorms are like nothing I have ever seen. Seed planting takes place now, and hundreds upon hundreds of farmers will begin their work of ploughing and planting until the shadows of the evening come. They plant maize, which is the staple diet for the whole country and even for a large part of Africa. I'm always intrigued by the importance of this planting stage of farming and the subsequent waiting that happens over many months. So much can potentially go wrong with the crops and yet the farmers will pray and trust in the growth of their plants, which will eventually sustain families and give life. I think what

I appreciate most is the faith of the people who believe that God will provide.

There are certain times during the Gospels when the disciples don't fully appreciate the gift of Christ's parables. This is perhaps one of those times as Jesus has to explain to the disciples in private what the message of the seeds is. But to ask anyone to place their trust in God, and to allow God to guide them, is a big ask! We like to be in control of our lives. Is it possible to hand everything over to God and say, "He will provide"? It requires great humility and trust to do so. The farmers who allow their seeds to grow and return later to cultivate know what it means to trust in God's work. ■

## LEARN

"Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God." (St Francis de Sales)



## DO

Read the Gospel again this week and reflect on the faith of the farmer who plants the seed and then returns some time later to cultivate.

## SAY

**O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things.**

(St Ignatius of Loyola)

**SWINFORD MEELICK MIDFIELD**  
**Fr Dermot Meehan Phone: 094-9251790/Urgent Calls: 087-1338200**

**PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.30am-2.30pm; Tues: 9.30am-1p.m;**  
**Phone: 094 - 9253607**  
**Email: swinews@hotmail.com** **17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

|                                  |                |  |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>6.30pm</b>  | <b>Swinford:</b> Hannah & Edward Moore, Carracanada<br>Kathleen Kilgallon, Newpark     |
| <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>12 noon</b> | <b>Swinford:</b> Pat & Peggy Kilgallon, Carrabeg<br>Luke & Mary Higgins, Lisheenabrone |
| <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Swinford:</b> Timothy Brennan, Chicago  |
| <b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Swinford:</b> Special Intention   |
| <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Swinford:</b> No Intention  |
| <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>  | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Swinford:</b> No Intention  |
| <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>    | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Swinford:</b> Freda & Michael Loftus & dec'd Family, Ballydrum                      |
| <b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>  | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Swinford:</b> Lily Macken (nee McCann) Curryane/USA                                 |

**THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

|                                 |                |   |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>6.30pm</b>  | <b>Swinford:</b> Anthony & Mary Reddington, Carton & Margaret & Martin Cassidy, Barnacogue & Michael & Margaret Gallagher, Cullane & dec'd Families<br>Thomas Durkan, Cloonlumney |
| <b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>12 noon</b> | <b>Swinford:</b> Tess, Frank, Molly & Kitty Egan & Parents, Main St<br>Joseph & Kate McDonagh, Derryronane  |

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|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>9.00am</b> | <b>Meelick:</b> No Intention                             |
| <b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>9.00am</b> | <b>Meelick:</b> Patrick Groarke & son John, Cloonagallon |

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|-------------------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Midfield:</b> Tom & Annie McLoughlin & sons Paddy & Tommy, Brackloon<br>Martin & Nora O'Brien & sons Terence & Peter & dec'd Family, Kiltibo                       |
| <b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Midfield:</b> Johnjoe Walsh & Parents Tom & Ellen & cousin Sadie & dec'd Walsh & Henry Families<br>Tom & Delia Gavaghan, Derryronane & son-in-law Paddy Harrington |

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**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

**Swinford Church:** Sundays: 2pm-6pm & Thursdays 10.30am-8pm

**Midfield Church:** Mondays 11am-12noon

**Meelick Church:** Mondays 7pm-9pm

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**We welcome into the Christian community**

Sienna Mary O'Sullivan, Charlestown and Noah Keith Irving Fitzgerald, Rathdubh who were baptised recently in Swinford Church.

**Collection for the World Meeting of Families:**

This weekend there is an envelope in your box for a collection for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August this year. Pope Francis will visit Dublin for this gathering on Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup> and will celebrate the Closing Mass in the Phoenix Park on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. On the morning of Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> Pope Francis will make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Knock to pray for families. The cost of the World Meeting of Families and the Pope's visit for it are very high. Please give as generously as you can to this collection for the costs. As always, your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

**Registration on-line for the World Meeting of Families:**

For those who wish to attend the World Meeting of Families events over the days of 21-16 August you must register on-line and tickets will be issued in due course to events at the RDS, the Festival of Families in Croke Park on the Saturday evening and the Closing Mass on Sunday 26 August in the Phoenix Park celebrated by Pope Francis. To register individuals and family members visit [www.wmof2018.ie](http://www.wmof2018.ie)

**Brabazon Meitheal:** Swinford Tidy Towns committee is asking as many volunteers as possible to gather at Davitt Place on Monday evening 18<sup>th</sup> June to spend an hour making the town ready to welcome our visitors ahead of the Brabazon Family Memorial Ceremony at the Church of Ireland graveyard on Wednesday. Meet at Davitt Place at 7pm Monday.

**Killasser Group Water Scheme AGM** will be held in Killasser Community Centre on Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> at 9pm. All members of the Group Scheme are encouraged to attend.

**Mayo Stoma Support Group** meeting held in Rock Rose House, Castlebar on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7pm. Call 094-9038407 for more info.

**A Night of Social Dancing** will be held in the CBD Complex Charlestown on Tuesday June 19<sup>th</sup> at 9pm. Call 087-7146901 For More details.

**GAA 50/50:** This week's draw was held in Bolands and Eithne Banks of Market Street, Swinford won €497. Next draw is on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for June 11<sup>th</sup> Numbers: 9 13 17 28; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; E. McCann, Rathunas; C & R McDonnell, Kilbride; 3 Number Winners; No Winners; Jackpot €6,000; Next Draw on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June in Moore's Pub.

**Mayo North East** is organising a free Healthcare Support Training Course in Swinford for unemployed people or people in part-time employment. On successful completion of the course learners will have gained a Healthcare Support QQI Level 5 Major award. Garda Vetting must be successfully completed. Training will commence one day per week in June 2018 and conclude in December 2018. Please contact Dolores on 0877704251 or 094 9256745 or [dmcnicholas@mayonortheast.com](mailto:dmcnicholas@mayonortheast.com) This training is funded under The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.

**Free Men's Health Event** in The TF Hotel in Castlebar on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.

Speakers will include John Lonergan and Catherine Dowling as well as stands from various health promotion, awareness and community groups. Event is free.

**Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in the Parochial House Swinford. Free and open to all over 16 years. Contact 086-0700681 for more details.

**National Learning Network - Training**

**Opportunities:** We train early school leavers, LCA students and people who would benefit from additional learning supports. Our Courses will give you the confidence to open up new opportunities for further training. We offer Sports Studies, Employment Skills, Computer Studies courses and more.

Contact [Castlebar@nl.ni](mailto:Castlebar@nl.ni); (094) 9022770; NLN, Breaffy Road, Castlebar.

**O'Dwyer Arts Summer Camps:** Arts/Crafts/ Pottery 3 day Camp for children age 4 – 12 yrs 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 - 1pm. Contact Teresa – 087-0559537. Sewing Summer School Camp for beginners children from 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> class primary - 3 days 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 - 1pm. Limited numbers; Please book early: Contact Carol 087-9049710.