

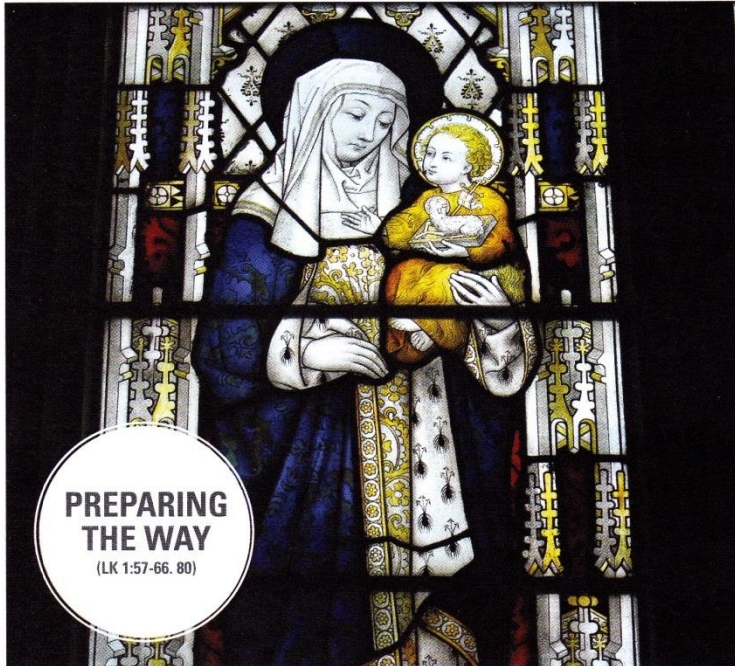
24TH JUNE 2018

# Sunday Message

THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 4



## PREPARING THE WAY

(LK 1:57-66, 80)

Elizabeth holding baby John the Baptist

Elizabeth's joy shines through these images from Luke's Gospel. After receiving her tender visit from Mary, she herself pregnant with Jesus, Elizabeth shares in the joy of her neighbours and relations in giving birth to a son called John.

John's father, Zechariah, is a priest in the temple and as is customary in these situations, the son would usually follow in his father's footsteps, taking his father's name and preparing himself for life as a priest. However, something interesting happens. The child is not given his father's name and this leaves the neighbours and friends gathered at the circumcision ceremony with something to talk about. "What will this child turn out to be?" they wonder.

So it is clear that the path set out for John the Baptist will not follow the traditional cultural norm. He will turn his back on the temple worship of Jerusalem for it has been corrupted by King Herod, and once he has grown in wisdom and 'his spirit matures', he will live in the wilderness.

This great feast celebrates John's arrival in order to prepare the way for the Lord. The river Jordan as a symbolic place of liberation and exodus becomes John's place of ministry in baptising and freeing people of their sin and showing them a life in Christ. Yes, John indeed becomes a temple priest, but he points towards a new temple – a temple where people come to know the love and mercy of God. ■

### DO

Reflect today on your own baptism and how it has impacted on your life.

### LEARN

"Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1213)

### REFLECT

One of the beautiful images preceding today's Gospel story is when the infant Christ and the infant John first meet, and John dances for joy in Elizabeth's womb. It's a moment of grace with both infants destined for an arduous path in the years ahead. Taking a difficult path in life requires determination and a vast quantity of courage. You can picture the scene with John the Baptist as he ventures into the wilderness with humility and simplicity, in order that the world may come to know Jesus and share in his love and mercy. Some say he may have lived with monks near the Jordan but others state that he relied on the generosity of others for his food and accommodation. Whatever way we want to imagine it, his ministerial journey was not easy but in pointing to Jesus, he shows the world love.

Let us take a look at the decisions we must make to profess our faith in Christ. Those of us with young children preparing for the sacraments are almost acting counter-culturally in ensuring they understand the significance of baptism, communion and confirmation in their lives. We go to Mass on a Sunday but for some this is becoming less enticing, with dwindling numbers attending and liturgies struggling to provide adequate music and preaching. Prayer is becoming privatised and less about the community.

Today's feast explicitly points to the difficulties and obstacles that are constantly present to believers. We take courage from John the Baptist in his indomitable spirit and unwavering hope. We acknowledge that we too have to make decisions concerning our faith. Sometimes those decisions take courage and determination. ■

### SAY

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."  
(Ephesians 4)

**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**

**24<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018**

**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 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 Joseph & Kate McDonagh, Derryronane
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Stephen Slattery
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Anne Flanagan & grandparents, Ballina Road
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Thomas & Mary Kate Henry & daughter Breege Conlon & dec'd Family, Lisloughna & Ballydrum & Joe, Mary & Pat Ruttledge, Knockmore
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> James Rowley & dec'd Family, Lisheenabrone

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Martin & Mary Foote & son Peter & daughter Marian, Tullinacurra John & Mary Loftus, Lisheenabrone & dec'd Loftus & O'Neill Families & Jim & Bridget Campbell & dec'd Campbell & Pidgeon Families
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Delia McNicholas & daughter Helen, Carracanada Micheál Campbell, Chapel Street & dec'd Fleming & Campbell Families

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<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Patrick Groarke & son John, Cloonagallon
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> No Intention

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<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 Tom & Delia Gavaghan, Derryronane & son-in-law Paddy Harrington
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Tommy, Hannah & James Quinn & Margaret Quinn/ Cunningham, Australia Michael & Nora Reilly & dec'd Family, Tullinahoo

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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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**Congratulations and every blessing to** Evelyn Sheerin and James Tuohy who were married recently in Swinford Church and to Aisling Ward and Brendan Groarke who were married recently in Meelick Church.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Thank you to the members of the Diocesan Committee for Adoration and to members of our parish community who helped at Masses last weekend encouraging more members of the parish community to become involved in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our three churches every week. Thank you also to those who volunteered to give an hour each week to praying before the Blessed Sacrament. May prayer before Jesus, present body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist bring blessings to all in our parish community.

**A Triduum of Prayer and Thanksgiving** to mark Fr Patrick Peyton CSC being declared Venerable and the World Meeting of Families 2018 in Dublin, has been arranged by Attymass Parish from Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> June till Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June:** 7.30pm Rosary and Mass at 8.00pm - Celebrant Fr. Frank Fahey.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June:** 7.30pm Rosary and Mass at 8.00pm – Celebrant Fr Steve Gibson CSC.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July:** 2.30pm Gathering at Old Killeen Cemetery followed by Marian Procession to the Parish Church.

3.00pm Anniversary Mass for the Venerable Patrick Peyton & the Celebrant is Fr Pat Peyton (nephew). For further information see: <http://achonrydiocese.org/father-peyton-triduum>.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Rota now available in the Sacistry.

**Swinford Tidy Towns-Monday Meitheal:** Volunteers needed on Monday evening 25<sup>th</sup> June to help put up the hanging baskets around town and re-stock the Mutt Mitt boxes. Meet at the Gateway at 7.00pm

**Mayo Branch of Arthritis Ireland** are holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm in the Newman Institute, Ballina.

**Killasser Group Water Scheme** AGM will be held in Killasser Community Centre on Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> at 9pm. All welcome.

**Training Opportunities:** We train early school leavers, LCA students and people who would benefit from additional learning supports. We offer Sports Studies, Employment Skills, Business, IT & Office courses and more. Contact [Castlebar@nl.ni](mailto:Castlebar@nl.ni); (094) 9022770; National Learning Network, Breaffy Road, Castlebar.

**GAA 50/50:** This week's draw was held in Julians and Terran Meskers of Culmore House, Culmore won €475. Next draw is on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**Swinford Go Getters** present the go For Life Games and Boccia in the Cultural Centre Swinford on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 to 12.30 Admission €2. Refreshments served.

**Annual Mass at Cullane Shrine** will be celebrated on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30p.m by Fr John O'Gorman. All are welcome to attend.

**O'Dwyer Arts Summer Camps:** Arts/Crafts/ Pottery 3 day Camp for children age 4 – 12yrs 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

**Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw:** Draw no 15 €1000 was won by Tom Mc.Daniel, Boradruma, Castlebar; €300 was won by Gary McNeela, Cloonlumney, Swinford; €200 was won by Teresa Moylan, 1 Ardcarra, Carrowbeg. There are two draws every month for 12 months. All results available on the Golf & Soccer websites.

**Volunteers needed** for Barnardos National Collection Day, kindly supported by Dell. Barnardos is seeking parishioners to support them with 1-2 hours of their time to help collect funds on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018. We need volunteers to help with organised bag-packs or on-street collections in their local community. All money raised on the day will help change the lives of vulnerable children and their families in communities around Ireland. Every hour of volunteered will give hope and create brighter futures. To hear what's planned in your community for the day and how you can get involved please contact Robyn Macken on 01-7080418 or email [buckets@barnardos.ie](mailto:buckets@barnardos.ie).