

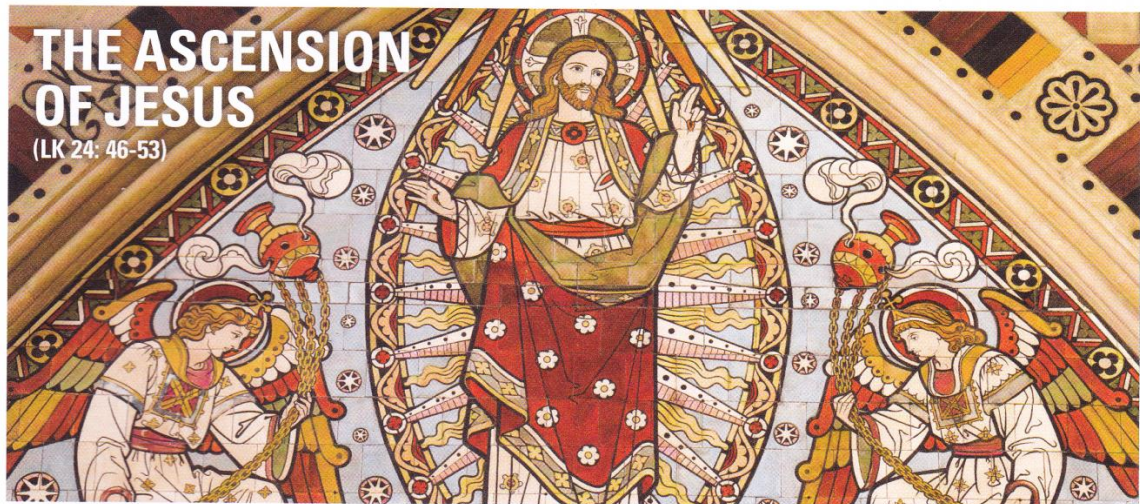
2 JUNE 2019

Sunday Message

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3



Detail from tiled mosaic of the Ascension in All Saints Church, London, designed by Butterfield and painted by Alexander Gibbs (1873)

Luke's Gospel is dramatic in its clarity and brevity today as before. Jesus ascends into heaven to sit at the Father's right hand, he reiterates to his disciples his mission on earth.

The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead and the repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all the nations. The risen Christ and the love and mercy of God are teachings that underpin the missionary activity of the Church. After stating his purpose and his desire that his mission should continue through the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus blesses them and is taken up into heaven. Of course, this moment is not marked by any sadness or loneliness on the disciples' part. They return to Jerusalem with great joy and stay in the temple to preach and teach everything they have heard.

On this solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus, it is important for us believers to acknowledge that the ascension is not the end, it is only the beginning. In today's first reading, the disciples are instructed not to stand around looking up into the sky wondering where Jesus could possibly have disappeared to. No!! The work of discipleship truly begins after the ascension of Jesus for through the ministry of his followers, the Kingdom of God establishes itself more and more on earth. Remember the recurring theme from Christ's preaching on earth. Jesus will rise from the dead and God's love and mercy will be made known to all the nations. ■

REFLECT

Today, the Catholic Church celebrates *World Communications Day* and most of us can claim to be experts in this field with the advent of smart phones and other devices that bring us into contact with a range of possibilities through the internet. There are huge positives attached to being able to use the internet, not least for people who live away from home and can keep in contact with family through WhatsApp, Facebook and other platforms. Pope Francis himself stated back in 2014 that the internet should be "an environment rich in humanity, a network not of wires but of people".

We not only celebrate today but we also reflect on the current state and nature of relationships on the internet. Cardinal

Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication states that social media can nourish "true, beautiful, solid relationships but it can also fuel hatred". He goes on to state that Pope Francis wants people to view social media not as something that traps you, but something that frees you and that you make an instrument of freedom. On this 53rd World Communications Day, the church underlines the value of interaction understood as dialogue and as an opportunity to meet with others.

Today also confirms Pope Francis' attention to the new communications environment where he is present with his @Pontifex account on Twitter and @Franciscus account on Instagram. ■

LEARN

"The Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way." (Pope Francis)

DO

Remind yourself of the Church's teaching on today's great solemnity. The *Catechism* states: "The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven" (n. 662). Read Luke's two accounts from today's celebration and ask yourself how the Ascension of Jesus impacts on your life.

SAY

**"Where there is shouting,
let us practise listening;
Where there is confusion,
let us inspire harmony;
Where there is exclusion,
let us offer solidarity;
Where there is falsehood,
let us bring truth."**

(Excerpt from Pope Francis for World Communications Day, 2018)

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		2nd - 9th June 2019

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Saturday 1st	6.30pm	Swinford: Delia & Michael Haran, their daughter Carmel Rainey & her husband Dominic Bridget & Michael Muldowney, Cashelsheenaughane
Sunday 2nd	12 noon	Swinford: Eddie & Sabina Kennedy, Bridge Street Andrew & Andy Mulligan & dec'd Family, Sweetwell
Monday 3rd	10.00am	Swinford: No Mass
Tuesday 4th	10.00am	Swinford: No Mass
Wednesday 5th	10.00am	Swinford: No Mass
Thursday 6th	10.00am	Swinford: No Mass
Friday 7th	10.00am	Swinford: Mary Peyton, Tumgesh & John Durkan, Ballydrum & dec'd Families Ann Maughan, Kiltimagh Road
Saturday 8th	10.00am	Swinford: Marie McNulty, Railway Terrace (MM)
PENTECOST SUNDAY		
Saturday 8th	6.30pm	Swinford: Kathleen & Michael Regan, Brabazon Heights & their son Michael, Kilbride Patrick, Mary, Joe & Fiona McDermott, Cloonaghboy, Anthony & Ellen Kavanagh, Knock, Frank & Valerie Feeney, Castlebar & Timothy Sullivan
Sunday 9th	12 noon	Swinford: Pat & Peggy Kilgallon, Carrabeg Michael Meegan, Lisanumera

Sunday 2nd	9.00am	Meelick: No Intention
Sunday 9th	9.00am	Meelick: Tommy Geraghty & Tommy Quinn, Ardhoome

Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Midfield: Eileen & Michael McDonagh, Kinaffe/No 1 Kiltimagh Road & dec'd McDonagh & O'Hara Families Martin & Dan Brennan & dec'd Family, Fort Village
Sunday 9th	10.30am	Midfield: Michael Brennan, his parents Dan & Mary & dec'd Family, Fort Village Michael Regan, Johnny Healy & dec'd Regan, Healy, Basquil, Durkan & Philbin Families

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 John McCallion, Carnacross; Margaret Gibbons (nee Kenny), Templeogue, Dublin and Carracanada, and Sr Attracta Kilcawley, Mercy Sisters, Ballymote and the District Hospital, Swinford (Month's Mind Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ballymote, Saturday 8th June at 8p.m.) May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Killala-Achonry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes under the leadership of Bishop John Fleming, Bishop of Killala and the Very Rev. Dermot Meehan, Administrator of Achonry. Spiritual Directors: Fr Tom Doherty, Killala Diocese and Fr John Maloney Achonry Diocese. From August 29th –September 3rd, departs from Ireland West Airport Knock, 5 nights in full board accommodation in the Hotel Akena. Price €733 (single rooms available, supplement applies). To book a place on this pilgrimage Please contact the Pilgrim Section: Michael Walkin, Ballina, JWT representative on 086-6080763 or Eileen O'Brien on 086-4013897.

Swinford Community Lotto: Results 29th May Numbers 3 8 18 29; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; Anon, c/o P Horkan's Swinford; Trish & Eileen c/o Hospice Shop; 3 Number Winners; Emma Durkan, Cloonfinish; PK Reilly, Tullinacurra; Jackpot €12,800.

Mayo Cancer Support will be running the Vision Programme facilitated by Mary Trench beginning Saturday June 8th from 10.30am - 12.30pm in Rock Rose House. This programme helps us to find inner peace through the experience of the 8 beatitudes and empowers us to let go of fears and anxieties in our lives. To book a place contact 094-9038407.

Swinford Go Getters are holding games on Thursday 13th June at the Cultural Centre Swinford from 10.30 to 12.30. Come and enjoy gentle exercise and refreshments after. Adm €3.

Bonfire Night with St. John's Eve just around the corner, Mayo County Council wishes to advise the public that the lighting of bonfires should be undertaken with respect for the environment and in compliance with current legislation. Only untreated wood should be used in bonfires and the burning of all types of waste is strictly prohibited. While Mayo County Council respect the tradition of celebrating St. John's Eve by lighting of bonfires, we want to

remind the public that burning of waste produces toxic fumes and toxic dust which can have a detrimental effect on your environment and your health. Contact our Environment Section on 094-9024444 for further details.

VTOS Swinford are hosting an Information Day on Thursday 13th June from 11 am – 2 pm for unemployed adults who are interested in returning to education. The event which will be held in MSLETB's newly refurbished Further Education Centre, Dublin Road, Swinford provides an excellent opportunity for unemployed adults thinking of returning to education and find out about the Computer and Business Courses on offer, to meet with staff and students, take a tour of the facility in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. For further information, contact Emer at 094-9251928 or email emermullins@msletb.ie

Thank You: Many thanks to all collectors and contributors to the recent church gate collection at Swinford Church for Western Alzheimers. A total of €550 was collected.

Free Family Open Day organised by the East Mayo Anglers Club to showcase fishing as a wonderful activity for our children to be involved in. On June 15th from 1pm-4pm at the new disabled Anglers facility near Straide with parking at Straide Church and transfer by bus to the event. We will be taking names on the day for all young people 10yrs and over who are interested in learning how to fish, with demos of fly, spinning and worm fishing methods given. All are welcome. Please see posters for more details.

Sunflower Days for Hospice: Mayo Roscommon Hospice would appreciate your generous support for National Sunflower days for hospice on 7th & 8th June. Sunflowers will be on sale at local stores. You can also make a donation on the day or on line at www.hospice.ie or by calling 094-9388666. All funds raised go directly to providing local palliative care services.

Legendary Country Singer/Songwriter Max T Barnes and his Nashville Country Band will play in a Charity Concert for Western Care Association in Claremorris Town Hall Theatre on Sunday, June 9th. Tickets are available on line at www.townhall.ie or from local outlets and on the door on the night.