

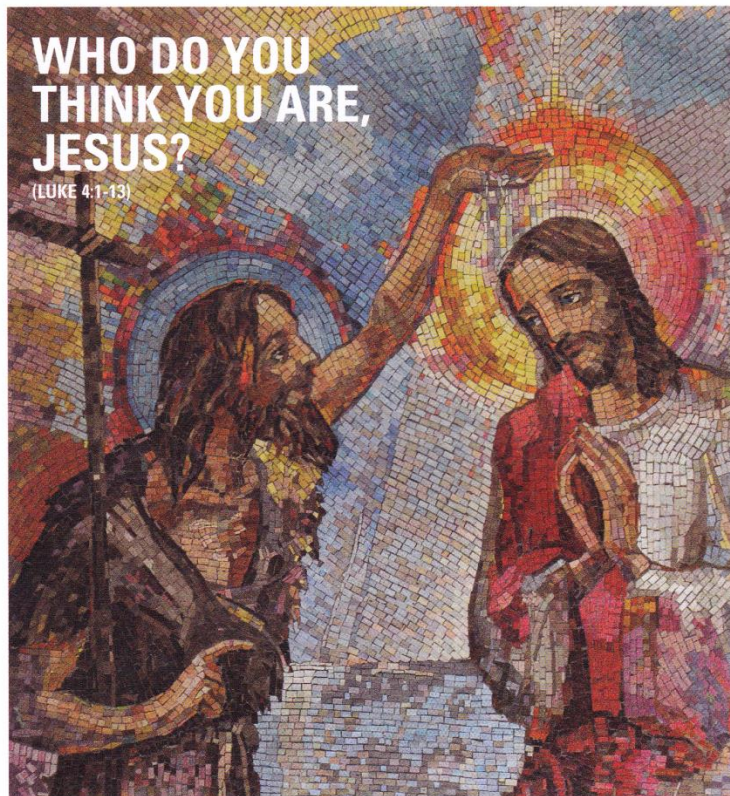
10 MARCH 2019

# Sunday Message

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1



Mosaic of the first Luminous Mystery, the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist

At his baptism, Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son. In this next scene, following the list of Jesus' ancestors back to Adam, son of God, we find him being tested as to how he understands what it means to be God's Son.

The idea that Jesus was put to the test in some way is strong in the New Testament tradition. The mention of *wilderness* and *forty days* suggests that the backdrop to this incident is the Exodus experience of Israel, where the Lord put the people to the test and the people did the same to the Lord.

Luke presents Jesus as caught up in the struggle between two kingdoms and having to make a choice for one or the other. On the one hand, there is the kingdom of God, which represents deliverance and freedom from all kinds of slavery; on the other, there is the kingdom of evil, represented by the devil, which seeks to dominate human beings through all sorts of harmful devices. Jesus is weak from hunger, and so in a vulnerable state. The devil offers him three ways, which are in effect short-cuts, to use his position as God's Son for his own advantage and to advance his mission as the Messiah. Jesus reveals his understanding of himself as the obedient Son of God who trusts in the word of the Law, as we see from his quotations from the Book of Deuteronomy.

These are real tests: they centre on physical need, hunger in this instance; political authority to advance the kingdom of God; and forcing God to respond to an act of blind faith. The power of evil is real. In his ministry, Jesus will confront it in the form of demons, sickness, death and injustice. In this dramatic episode, the gospel presents Jesus as making his fundamental decision to be the obedient Son of God, the Messiah whom God intends him to be. ■

## REFLECT

The author C.S. Lewis remarked that the devil's most successful strategy is to convince people that he does not exist. Even if we find it hard to believe in the traditional Hallowe'en-type figure, there is no denying the existence of evil. There are forces in our world whose aims and values are clearly opposed to those of the Kingdom of God. Some of these invisible powers are at work in the structures of our modern society, for instance in the way some people become ever richer while many others find it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. We are often inclined to see such situations as natural: we seldom hear them described in moral terms such as *evil* or *sinful*, but if we consider the human tragedies which often result, words such as *unfortunate* or *inevitable* seem insultingly inadequate.

We see that Jesus refuses power from any other source than God, and he will be the servant-prophet of the Lord. This obedience will lead him to the final test, the Cross. The challenge in today's reading will be repeated in Gethsemane. ■

## LEARN

The term *the temptations of Jesus* is better understood as the testing of Jesus.

Luke places the test at the Temple as the last of the three: this reflects his interest in Jerusalem as the focal point of Jesus' journey and ministry.

The *opportune time* for the devil's return is at the Last Supper, the beginning of the Passion.

*Lead us not into temptation* really means *Do not put us to the test*: because we might not pass the test.

## DO

The purpose of our Lenten penance is to help us root out anything which stops us giving a wholehearted, positive response to God's grace in our daily life. Think what this might be in your life and decide to do something about it.

## SAY

**Do not put me to the test.**

**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 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 2019**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Michael Waters, his parents Mick & Annie & Parents-in-law John & Kate Howley Finbar Ruane. Park Road & dec'd Ruane & Gallagher Families
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Eddie Ruane, Kilkelly Road Pat & Jim Duffy, Cloonfinish
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Kathleen Muldowney, Rabawn Owen O'Malley, Rabawn Conor Walsh, Main Street
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Pat & Mary Costello & their grandson Kieran, Lisheenabrone
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Thomas & Bridget Durkan, their daughter Mary & son Michael & daughter-in-law Nora Mary McCarthy, Glossop Derbyshire & her daughter Helen
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Patrick & Maggie Dunleavy, Pat & Mary Walsh, Jack Walsh & dec'd Family
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Anne O'Donnell, Logcurragh (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv)

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Delia Gallagher, Cullane Michael & Freda Loftus & dec'd Family, Ballydrum
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Paddy Doyle, his daughter-in-law Veronica, Owen & Delia O'Brien & dec'd Family, Tullinacurra Eddie Molloy, Dromada Joyce (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv) & his son Michael

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<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Mary & Vincent Roughneen, Clooninshin
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Jack & Nora Geraghty, their son Tommy & dec'd Geraghty & Durkin Families, Ardhoome

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<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Ann & Bernie Devine, Tullinahoo Maureen Conway, Kinaffe (MM) & her husband Michael
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Ann & John Jennings, their daughter Helen Ellie & Tone Kelly, their sons Andy & Tony & dec'd Kelly & Moran 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

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**Please pray for** Eileen Convey, Chatham Kent, England (wife of Frank Convey, Cullane). May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**We welcome into the Christian community**

Réiltín Molly Durkan, Culleens who was baptised recently in Meelick Church.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The March meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council took place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Among the items discussed were preparations for Holy Week and Easter and the Council continued to reflect on its role in the parish community.

**We welcome** to our parish this weekend Sr Renata, a Missionary Sister of the Holy Spirit, who will speak at all Masses on the work of the Sisters and make a Mission Appeal. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

**Offertory envelopes:** A reminder that boxes of envelopes for the weekly offertory collection and other collections during the year are available in all the churches. Due to data protection regulations, the boxes are only left in the church for a time before and after Mass and then returned to the sacristy. Thank you to all who contribute to the offertory collection throughout the year. Your continuing generosity is very much appreciated.

**Accord Marriage Preparation:** There are 5 places left on the March course Fri 27<sup>th</sup> & Sat 28<sup>th</sup> at the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris. Book online [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)

**West of Ireland Womens Mini Marathon:** taking place in Castlebar on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>. If you or someone you know would like to do it for Western Alzheimers we provide sponsorship cards and a t-shirt. contact 094-93 64900 for more information.

**Western Alzheimers Annual Tea Day:** is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, Phone 094-9364900 to register and get a tea day pack. Our biggest fundraiser is our annual Tea Day. Please host or support a local tea day.

**Singing Group For Cancer Survivors:** If you have had a Cancer diagnosis at any stage, and you like to sing or play an instrument, we the Rocks 'n' Roses singing group would love you to join us at an open night in Rock Rose House, Castlebar on Wed. March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm for an informal night of music and fun followed by a cup of tea and biccies.

**Swinford 250:** The official launch of Swinford 250 & More, hosted by Angelina Nugent, will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March from 7-9pm in the Gateway Hotel.

**Swinford St. Patrick's Day Festival Weekend:** from 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> March: 14<sup>th</sup> March: Press Night at The Gateway Hotel, Time: 8pm. 15<sup>th</sup> March: Swinford Drama Group Presents "For Better for Worse" in The Gateway Hotel, Time: 8pm. 16<sup>th</sup> March: Launch of Conor Walsh's New Album "The Lucid" at The Gateway Hotel, Time: 8pm. 17<sup>th</sup> March: Swinford St. Patrick's Day Parade, Theme: Past, Present and Future starting at 3pm from Swinford Amenity Park.

**GAA 50/50:** This week's draw was held in the Whitehouse and Charles Kelly won €471. The next draw is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**O'Dwyer Arts Centre:** Zumba workshops starting Wednesday 7 pm-8pm beginners welcome. Thursday mornings Yoga workshop 11am - 12pm. John Hoban music circle Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 8pm-10pm. Pottery workshops Wednesday & Thursday 6pm-9pm.

**Swinford Go Getters:** are holding their next games on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March in the cultural centre. All over 55's welcome. 10.30am to 12.30pm. Refreshments served.

**Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation** Monday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House Swinford. Free and open to all over 16 years. Contact 086-0700681 if you require further information.

**CCE Michael Davitt:** will be hosting a Table Quiz on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March in the Whitehouse at 9pm. All proceeds will go towards defraying the costs of the Connacht Fleadh Ceoil which will be held in Swinford from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Swinford Community lotto:** Results for 4<sup>th</sup> March Numbers 08 12 16 25; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Walter Geraghty, Swinford; Andy & Danny, c/o Andy Maddens ; 3 Number Winner; Seán Tuffy, Swinford; Jackpot €10,400; Next draw the 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Swinford St. Patrick's Day Parade:** All those taking part in the Parade on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March are asked to assemble at Swinford Amenity Park at 2pm. Parade will commence at 3pm.

**Midfield Group Water Scheme:** AGM will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 9pm in Julian's of Midfield. All shareholders are asked to attend.