

24 MARCH 2019

Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 3

The first part of our Gospel reading today reflects a common doctrine of retribution which teaches that good behaviour is rewarded and sin is punished – in this life.

As in other places in the gospel tradition, Jesus mentions but does not question this understanding. The two physical disasters referred to are not described anywhere else, but Pilate was certainly capable of ruthless action. The call to repent, to change one's outlook and manner of life is made to everyone: everyone, therefore, is a sinner. Jesus tells his audience not to assume that they are less in need of repentance just because nothing so calamitous has happened to them. Jesus' death on the cross in Jerusalem, where Siloam is situated, will be such a scandal precisely because it can be seen as a punishment for sin.

Death brings judgment. One aspect of these two tragedies is that they were unexpected, and those who were killed had no time to prepare themselves. This introduces an urgent note: people should not put off accepting the word of Jesus the prophet.

The parable of the fig tree softens this message somewhat: it suggests that people still have time to sort themselves out. But this period is not unlimited, and if the Lord finds them wanting at his coming, then they will be cut off. The word of the prophet demands an answer: to delay accepting the message and its consequences will be regarded as a negative reply and treated accordingly. ■

LEARN

Pilate was a cruel and ruthless ruler, quite capable of ordering the kind of massacre which is mentioned in today's Gospel reading.

No other Gospel writer mentions this slaughter of Galileans at worship.

Siloam is the name of a pool in Jerusalem. It is mentioned in the Fourth Gospel.

The Book of Deuteronomy teaches that good is rewarded and sin is punished: this is known as the Doctrine of Retribution.

SAY

The Lord is compassion and love.

REPENT – OR ELSE (?)

(LUKE 13:1-9)



REFLECT

The word of God is alive and active: it speaks to us today when we listen to it being read in church or read it quietly for ourselves. The purpose of today's reading is not to frighten us into being outwardly good for fear of being caught unawares, then finding ourselves being held to account in some divine court. It is perhaps a reminder that we should not take life and time for granted. In a society where life expectancy seems to lengthen all the time, we may be inclined to think that we have plenty of time ahead of us.

Today's Gospel is not telling us that we should live in an atmosphere of impending doom: rather this time of Lent is a yearly opportunity to examine our lives and attitudes. We might reflect on the second part, that of the landowner inspecting the fig tree, and be relieved that in Luke's version of the story, the fig tree is not cursed or cut down immediately, but is given another chance. We should take this seriously. Jesus tells us that it is not enough simply to acknowledge him as Lord, but that we should be ready to receive him whenever he comes and knocks at our door. We will be ready if we are truly his disciples, living by our Master's teachings, not out of fear or punishment or hope of reward, but out of loving commitment to our Saviour. The drawback with acting out of fear is that it wears off and the person slips back. Love is the key to the covenant relationship, and Lent is the time when we are asked to look at our relationship with the Lord and to prepare in a meaningful way to celebrate his love for us revealed in the Easter mystery. ■

DO

Remember that the three practices of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving (in that order). Is your Lenten penance making the Lord nearer to you in your daily life? If your penance only makes you more conscious of yourself, it is not too late to choose something more appropriate.



SWINFORD MEELICK MIDFIELD
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PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm; Phone: 094 - 9253607
Email: swinews@hotmail.com 24th-31st Mar 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 23rd	6.30pm	Swinford: Tom Mackey, Rathúnas Mona & Martin Tunney, Cloonacannana
Sunday 24th	12 noon	Swinford: Delia & Michael McNicholas, their son Tommy & daughter Helen, Carracanada Joe Prendergast, Circular Road & dec'd Prendergast & Doherty Families
Monday 25th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Tuesday 26th	10.00am	Swinford: Annabel Lynn, Dorothy O'Brien & Betty & George Hennessy
Wednesday 27th	10.00am	Swinford: Jimmy Goggin, Swinford/Cleveland Ohio
Thursday 28th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Friday 29th	10.00am	Swinford: Dominic Bryne, Scanta Maria & dec'd Bryne & Lavin Families
Saturday 30th	10.00am	Swinford: Annie Jackson, Tullinacurra (MM)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 30th	6.30pm	Swinford: Teresa & Keira Henry, Ballydrum Jim & Mary McCann, their daughter Margaret & son Jim & his wife Mary, Kilbride
Sunday 31st	12 noon	Swinford: Hurbert & Catherine Gallagher & dec'd Family, Cloonfinaun Richard & Pat Gallagher, their parents & dec'd Family, Carrowreagh

Sunday 24th	9.00am	Meelick: John & Mary Feeney, their sons John, Gerard & Joe, Ballyglass & Tom & Úna Egan, Main Street
Saturday 30th	11.00am	Meelick: Margaret Groarke, Cloonagallon (MM)
Sunday 31st	9.00am	Meelick: Anne & William Murphy, Bothaul & dec'd Murphy, Killilea & Roche Families Paddy Philbin, Steeple Village & dec'd Philbin Family & Tom & Kitty Durkan, Derryronane

Sunday 24th	10.30am	Midfield: The Prendergast Family, Woods, The McNicolhas Family, Cashelsheenaughane, The McLoughlin Family, Kinaffe & Ellie & Walter Bradish Paddy & Noreen Ryan & granddaughter Tara, Johnsfort
Sunday 31st	10.30am	Midfield: Noreen Earley (nee McLoughlin) Mullingar/Kinaffe Mary & John McLoughlin & their daughter Mary, Woods

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 Annie Walsh (nee Johnston), England and formerly of Ballydrum and Mary Boyle (nee Durkan), Philadelphia and formerly of Ballydrum. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

Cillian Lee McNulty, Cloongullane and Bridget Sienna Maughan, Bollingbroke Drive who were baptised recently in Swinford Church.

Meelick NS invites you to an Open Morning in our school on **Thursday, 11th April** between **9.30am and 11am**. This is a chance for you to come and see our school in action. All are welcome.

Swinford Comhaltas News: Table Quiz in Campbell's White House on Friday 29th March is a fundraiser for the Connacht Fleadh Cheoil which will be held in Swinford in July. Michael Davitt CCE would really appreciate your support. A fun night guaranteed.

Fleadh Entries: Mayo County Fleadh takes place in Foxford this year on May 11th & 12th. Entries need to be with Branch Secretary by Friday 29th March. Forms are available in Ray Lambes or contact 087-7454032 for more info.

Spring Show: A date for the Diary: A Spring Show – "Anois teacht an Earraigh" in the Cultural Centre on Saturday April 13th will be a feast of music, song, dance and storytelling. The show will be based on the customs, traditions and stories associated with spring and the various feast days from St Stephen's Day up to May Day. If you have any stories or know about traditions etc. we would love to hear from you.

Mayo Stroke Support Group will hold its next meeting on Thursday 28th March from 11.30am-1.00pm in the Newman Institute, Cathedral Grounds, Ballina. Admission is free. No booking required. Contact Barbara on 096-80451 or Ailish on 094-9049172 for more info.

Swinford Community Lotto Results for 19th March Numbers 08 14 23 26; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; Tom Feeney, Swinford; John O Hagan, Lislackagh; 3 Number Winners; Mary Webb, Bollingbrook Drive; The "A Team" Scoil Muire agus Pádraig; John Peyton; Marian Harraghty, Swinford; Noel and Ger c/o Horkan's; Phillamena Murtagh, Swinford; Tim Short; Jackpot €10,800; Next draw on Tuesday the 25th March.

Resilience Building Course for children in Swinford Cultural Centre Starting on Tuesday 14th May. 10 Session Programme (5 weeks - 2 days per week) to assist children build resilience and self-esteem. To book a place email laura@educationalpsychologist.ie. Booking is essential as places are limited to a maximum of 10 per group. The cost of the 5 week course is €120 (€20 deposit required to secure a place).

Community First Response Group for Swinford and surrounding areas. Meeting takes place in the Gateway Hotel on the 26th March at 7.30pm. Contact Érin on 089-2579055 for more details.

Swinford District & Gardening Club: next meeting, on Tuesday 26th March at 8.30pm in the Gateway Hotel, James Keane of Keane's Garden Centre Claremorris will give a talk on springtime in the Garden. Everyone is welcome to attend. Non members €5.

Foxford Traditional Singing and Poetry Group will meet in Guirys Bar on Thursday, March 28th at 9.15pm. All welcome.

Swinford Agriculture Show: A fundraising 25 Card Game takes place in the Gateway Hotel on March 24th & 31st at 8.30pm. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Bone Marrow for Leukaemia Trust wish to thank everyone who contributed to last week's collection. We raised €653.15 in Swinford, €165.57 in Meelick, €152.70 in Midfield. Thanks also to all who helped with the collection.

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 April and conclude October. Please contact Dolores McNicholas on 087-7704251 or email dmcnicholas@mayonortheast.com to register for the course. This training is funded under The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.

Western Alzheimers Annual Tea Day is Friday 12th April, Phone 094-9364900 to register and get a tea day pack. Please host or support a local tea day.