

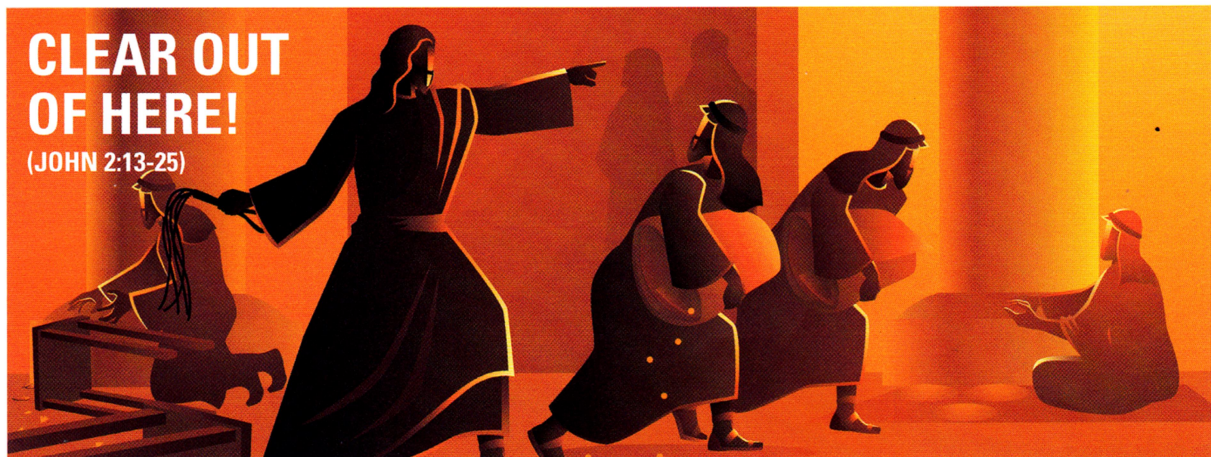
7 MARCH 2021

Sunday Message

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 3



'Jesus Cleanses the Temple'

CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

(JOHN 2:13-25)

In the Gospel accounts of Mark, Matthew and Luke, the episode of the cleansing of the Temple follows the entry of Jesus and his disciples into Jerusalem and provides the reason for the final plot to bring about Jesus' death.

In the Fourth Gospel (John) version, the pretext for this conspiracy is the raising of Lazarus, so the evangelist places this well-attested event at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The area of Judea is that of hostility to Jesus, Jerusalem is the chief city in the region and the Temple is the religious focal point of the capital. The Passover is the principal pilgrimage Jewish feast, so the setting of today's event could not be more significant. Three terms are used to denote the place: "Temple", "my Father's house" and "sanctuary". The first refers to the physical building; the second, the house of the Lord (the traditional way of referring to the Temple) which has become a "market"; the third, the inner sanctuary, the place of God's presence to the people of Israel.

In the Fourth Gospel, we find the theme of *replacement*: Jesus in himself replaces the feasts and institutions of Judaism. The Temple was the place of privileged access to the presence of God for Israel. The discussion with the Jewish authorities plays on the ambiguity of the physical stone structure and its ultimate purpose as the place where God's presence is located in a special way. As a result of Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus himself will be the place where God's presence is accessible to people. ■

LEARN

In the Fourth Gospel, the term "the Jews" usually refers to the religious and political leaders in Israel, not to the people as a whole.

In this Gospel version, Jesus replaces, in himself, the Temple as the focus of God's presence.

The Temple was the place of sacrifice: after its destruction by the Romans in 70 CE, it was never rebuilt and the sacrificial cult ceased in Judaism.

SAY

God, give me the courage to change the things I can.
(from the Serenity Prayer)

DO

Reflect on what makes you angry in society or your local area: decide what you can do about it – and do it.

REFLECT

The incident of the driving out of the merchants from the Temple precincts is the only one which shows Jesus in a fury. The merchants were providing the animals required for the rituals of sacrifice: the money-changers were converting Roman coinage bearing the emperor's image into acceptable currency for use within the sacred enclosure; there is no suggestion of racketeering. Although there was nothing technically wrong with what they were doing, Jesus sees it as an abuse, distracting from the purpose for which the Temple was built and takes drastic action to rectify the situation.

Anger is an emotion which is often misunderstood. It is essentially the appropriate reaction to unjust situations or the exploitation of the weaker members of society. It is usually the driving force behind much-needed reforms, for instance in regard to slavery, child labour and discrimination of any kind. It is, indeed, listed among the seven deadly sins, but if we look at these titles, we will find that they contain a positive value and that the 'sin' is, in fact, an extreme and inappropriate expression of this. Anger enables a constructive response to injustice: uncontrollable rage is destructive, both to the person concerned and to others involved. Without anger, there would be a resigned acceptance of unfair treatment: this is not the message of the Bible, of the prophets or of Jesus. It may be that we do not get angry enough when we should. ■

SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12 AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)
Fr Dermot Meehan Phone: 094-9251790/Urgent Calls: 087-1338200

PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm; Phone: 094 - 9253607
Email: swinfordparish@gmail.com 7th -14th Mar 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 7th	12 noon	Swinford: Michael & John Waters, their parents Mick & Annie & parents-in-law John & Kate Howley Peter & Chris Bredican, Kilbride & Paddy Kelly Bernadette Cassidy, Ashgrove (MM) Pat & Jim Duffy, Cloonfinish Joan Golderick, Listeratish Finbar Ruane, Park Road John & Margaret Gavigan, Derryronane & dec'd Gavigan & Devaney Families Patrick McNulty The McLoughlin Family, Kinaffe, Ellie & Walter Bradish, The Prendergast Family, Woods & The McNicholas Family, Cashelsheenaughane
Monday 8th	10.00am	Swinford: Kathleen Muldowney, Rabawn Owen O'Malley, Rabawn
Tuesday 9th	10.00am	Swinford: Carmel & Frank Reape, James & Margaret Turbitt & dec'd Reape & Turbitt Families Sheila Whelan & Mary Fallon & dec'd Whelan & Fallon Families
Wednesday 10th	10.00am	Swinford: Mary Lord (nee Gavin), Philadelphia/Newpark (MM) Mary O'Leary (nee Hopkins), Maynooth/Rathscanlon (2 nd anniv) & her parents Marty & Angela
Thursday 11th	10.00am	Swinford: Mary Dunleavy (nee McLoughlin-Mark), London/ Brackloon
Friday 12th	10.00am	Swinford: John Grufferty, Curryane (MM)
Saturday 13th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT		
Sunday 14th	12 noon	Swinford: Eddie Ruane, Kilkelly Road Michael & Delia McNicholas, their son Tommy & their daughter Helen, Carracanada & Martin & Mary Furey, their daughter Angela, Manchester Peter & Chris Bredican & Paddy Kelly, Kilbride & dec'd Bredican & Leonard Families Paddy Doyle, Tullinacurra, his daughter-in-law Veronica & Owen & Delia O'Brien & dec'd Family Paddy Kneafsey, Sweetwell Winnie & Martin Gorman & dec'd Family, Woods Bernie & Ann devine & dec'd Family, Tullinahoo

While there will be no public Masses this week, the intentions above will be remembered at Mass on the designated day except for Sundays. On Sunday, the intentions for the Vigil Mass, 9a.m. Mass in Meelick, 10.30a.m. Mass in Midfield and the 12 noon Mass in Swinford will be remembered together at 12 noon Mass in Swinford. Though families will not be present, please be assured that your loved ones will be remembered at Mass.

Please pray for Mary Ward, Kinaffe. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

Letter from the six bishops of the western province: Last week, the six bishops of the Tuam province issued a letter to the people and priests in their dioceses reflecting on the past year and our experience of the pandemic. The letter is titled *Covid-19: A Year On* and copies are available in all our churches this weekend if you would like to collect a copy and bring it home to read. The bishops' letter may also be read on our diocesan website www.achonrydiocese.org.

Celebration of Confirmation and First Communion 2021: One of the items included in the letter of the six western bishops is the celebration of the sacraments of Confirmation, First Penance and First Holy Communion. Having consulted with schools and with priests and given that there is still so much uncertainty around when churches will open again for public worship, the bishops have decided that the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation in all dioceses in the west will be deferred until Autumn this year. The celebration of First Holy Communion will also be deferred until Autumn 2021 as, please God, families will be able to gather then to mark this important step in their child's journey of faith. The bishops hope that this decision will help bring clarity for families who are wondering about when these sacraments will be celebrated this year.

Age Action Ireland: As part of Age Action's Getting Started digital umbrella we developed the **Keep in Touch (KIT)** in response to COVID-19. This remote national learning initiative helps older people improve their digital literacy skills, so they are more connected, informed and supported specifically during periods of social distancing. We are offering five hours tutoring, by phone, to anyone who feels that they need support with using their smart device. Covering topics like how to set up an email, how to download an app, and how to use video to see your loved ones, learners will be matched with a volunteer tutor who will cover the topics the learner chooses, at their pace. If you would like further information about Age Action's Getting Started KIT, or if you or someone you know would like to be matched with a tutor,

please call 01 4756989 and we will call you back for details. Alternatively, email gettingstarted@ageaction.ie for details.

GAA 50/50: The club 50/50 draw was held in Moores and Eoin Lavin, Kilbride won €215. Envelopes are available in business premises in town and online through www.swinfordgaa.ie. The next draw will be in Horkans on the 9th March. The club would like to thank everyone for their support.

Swinford Community Lotto Results 1st March
Numbers: 7, 17, 23, 24; €70 Voucher Winners; Anne Reynolds, C/O Eurospar; Michelle Kelly, Swinford; 3 Number winners; H Campbell, Johnsfort; Eileen Garrett, Kilkelly Road; Bernard O'Brien, Midfield; M. Day, Oak Drive; Jackpot €17,000. Thank you for supporting our Lotto.

Swinford Golf Club 250 Centenary Draw which was held in Swinford Golf Club on Sunday 28th Feb
Draw no 8; €1000 won by Helen & Sheila Mc.Nicholas, Sheilmac House, Shanaghy, Kiltimagh; €300 won by Joe Doyle, Tower Hardware, Swinford; €200 won by Eugene Greaney, Church View, Swinford. Thank you for supporting our draw.

St Joseph's N.S Midfield is now accepting enrolments for the school year 2021/2022. Enrolment forms are available on our school website www.midfieldns.ie, by ringing the school on 085-1614798 or by emailing principal@midfieldns.ie

Cloongullane Memories: Work has commenced on gathering stories and memories based around Cloongullane Bridge for a commemorative publication which will be launched to coincide with the opening of the new bridge which is currently in the early stages of construction. If you have stories such as meeting at the bridge, playing in the ball alley, attending Cloongullane School, fishing in the area etc we would love to hear from you. Items for inclusion can be emailed to cloongullanememories@gmail.com, for anyone more comfortable with writing their story by hand it can be submitted by post to Julie Ryan, Sweetwell, Swinford, F12KV18 or when restrictions allow meeting in person can take place.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.**

COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our
lowliness,
that we, who are bowed down by our
conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Ex 20:1-17

(For shorter form, read between > <)

A reading from the book of Exodus.

>God spoke all these words. He said, "I am
the Lord your God who brought you out of
the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

"You shall have no gods except me.<

"You shall not make yourself a carved
image or any likeness of anything in heaven
or on earth beneath or in the waters under
the earth; you shall not bow down to them
or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am
a jealous God and I punish the father's fault
in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-
grandsons of those who hate me; but I show
kindness to thousands of those who love me
and keep my commandments.

>"You shall not utter the name of the Lord
your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not
leave unpunished the man who utters his
name to misuse it.<

"Remember the sabbath day and keep it
holy. For six days you shall labour and do all
your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath
for the Lord your God. You shall do no work
that day, neither you nor your son nor your
daughter nor your servants, men or women,
nor your animals nor the stranger who lives
with you. For in six days the Lord made the
heavens and the earth and the sea and all
that these hold, but on the seventh day he
rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the
sabbath day and made it sacred.

>"Honour your father and your mother so
that you may have a long life in the land that
the Lord your God has given to you.

"You shall not kill.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not bear false witness against
your neighbour.

"You shall not covet your neighbour's
house. You shall not covet your neighbour's
wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his
ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his."

The word of the Lord.<

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 18

Response:

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

- The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

- The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

- The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. (R.)

- They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

While the Jews demand miracles and
the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we
preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews
an obstacle that they cannot get over, to
the pagans madness, but to those who
have been called, whether they are Jews
or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and
the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness
is wiser than human wisdom, and God's
weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the
Lord,**

whoever believes in me will never die.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

Jn 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus
went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he
found people selling cattle and sheep and
pigeons, and the money changers sitting
at their counters there. Making a whip out
of some cord, he drove them all out of the
Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered
the money changers' coins, knocked their
tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers,
"Take all this out of here and stop turning
my Father's house into a market." Then his
disciples remembered the words of scripture:
Zeal for your house will devour me. The
Jews intervened and said, "What sign can
you show us to justify what you have done?"
Jesus answered, "Destroy this sanctuary,
and in three days I will raise it up." The
Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to
build this sanctuary; are you going to raise
it up in three days?" But he was speaking of
the sanctuary that was his body, and when
Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples
remembered that he had said this, and they
believed the scripture and the words he had
said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the
Passover many believed in his name when
they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus
knew them all and did not trust himself to
them; he never needed evidence about any
man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial
offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon for
our own sins,
may take care to forgive our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and
my God.**

**Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in
mystery
may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.