

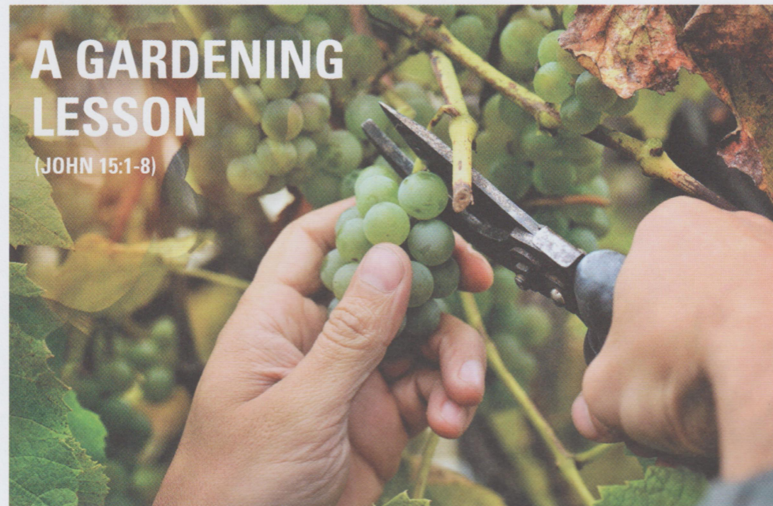
2 MAY 2021

Sunday Message

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



A GARDENING LESSON

(JOHN 15:1-8)

In the gospel reading today, Jesus describes himself as the true vine for his disciples. The one tending the vine is the Father. The plant is not decorative: its purpose is to produce fruit and for this to happen a certain amount of pruning has to take place.

The instrument for this task is the Word which the disciples whom Jesus is addressing have accepted and are therefore already cleansed or pruned and in a fit condition to be productive. But, as with any growing plant, care has to be taken that this healthy state is maintained, so 'remaining' (or 'abiding') in Jesus is vital. The image of the vine is especially appropriate, as it suggests the intimate flow of life from the trunk into the branches: if this communication is interrupted or impeded, the branch will wither and lose its reason for being part of the plant. If the disciples remain in Jesus and his words remain in them, then the positive result is that whatever they ask, the Father will grant.

This passage warns against any sense of complacency: the image of the living vine suggests more than a passive attitude towards Jesus, that being his disciple is proved by bearing much fruit, which will redound to the glory of the Father, another strong theme in the Fourth Gospel. It is the word of Jesus which gives life to the disciple, and it is the mutual love of the disciples which will reveal them as disciples of Jesus, to the glory of the Father. ■

REFLECT

There is no scene in John's account of the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. The Eucharistic text is usually identified as the feeding of the crowd of five thousand, which only concerns the bread. Some scholars suggest that the passage on Jesus as the true vine provides the teaching on the Eucharistic wine. Whatever the merits of such arguments, there is an interesting lesson in the idea of communicating life.

The importance of the branch being properly joined to the trunk is

unquestionable: the stem is the source of the branch's life. In the New Testament tradition of the institution of the Eucharist, Jesus speaks about "the cup of my blood". In biblical thought, the blood is where the life principle of a person or animal is to be found. When we speak of Jesus 'shedding his blood' on the cross, we really mean that Jesus 'gave his life': the sacramentally consecrated wine is a very powerful way in which the risen Jesus communicates his life to his disciples and makes sense, if we think about it in the context of the vine

providing life-giving nourishment to the branches: this enables them to bear the grapes, which then produce wine.

One of the most important reforms of the Second Vatican Council was the restoring of the chalice to the laity: as Jesus commanded, "drink of it, *all of you*". Perhaps we might reflect that it is one way in which the Lord communicates his life to us. ■

SAY

Whoever remains in me,
bears fruit in plenty.

(John 15:5)

LEARN

The image of the vine or vineyard is used in the Hebrew Scriptures as a symbol for the people of Israel.

The life principle of the creature is in the blood (Leviticus 17:14).

Jesus 'shedding his blood' really means that Jesus 'gave his life' for us.

DO

Buy a bunch of grapes. Take some time at home to contemplate them in the context of Jesus' teaching about the vine and the branches. Then enjoy them!



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 2nd – 9th May 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Sunday 2nd | 12 noon | Swinford: Andrew & Andy Mulligan & dec'd Family Jack & Nellie Regan, Tullinacurra, their daughter Eileen & her husband Eddie & dec'd Regan & Gavaghan Families Tom Lavin & dec'd Family, Carnacull Dec'd Durkin & Clarke Families, Carnacull & EyreCourt, Galway |
| Monday 3rd | 10.00am | Swinford: Michael & Mary O'Donnell Michael Callaghan, his parents Michael & Bridget & dec'd Family, Tullinacurra |
| Tuesday 4th | 10.00am | Swinford: No Intention |
| Wednesday 5th | 10.00am | Swinford: Eddie Reddington, Cartron |
| Thursday 6th | 10.00am | Swinford: No Intention |
| Friday 7th | 10.00am | Swinford: No Intention |
| Saturday 8th | 10.00am | Swinford: Sr Bridget Sherlock, (MM) |

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Sunday 9th | 12 noon | Swinford: Martin Burke, Derryronane & dec'd Burke & O'Brien Families Mary Neary, her daughter Mary & son-in-law Martin Furey, her grand-daughter Angela & dec'd Family, Cullane & Michael & Delia McNicholas, their son Tommy & their daughter Helen, Carracanada Eileen & Liam Gaffney, Fort Village, Kinaffe & Mary & Tom McNulty & dec'd Family Gerry Callaghan & dec'd Family, Tullinacurra John & Kate Morley & dec'd Family, Midfield |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|

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.

All of the Masses above will be broadcast via live streaming on our webcam at www.Churchservices.tv. Just click on the icon for Swinford Church.

Useful updates and resources available on our diocesan website: www.achonrydiocese.

Please pray for Mary Brennan, Newbridge, Co Kildare (sister of Carmel Kilroe, Market St); Nancy Prendergast (nee Byrne), Derby, England and formerly of Faheens, Midfield and Maureen McGivney (nee Convey), Luton, England and formerly of Cullane. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Update: The Government's roadmap for the easing of Covid-19 restrictions was announced by An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, on Thursday evening last. From Monday, May 10th, public worship can resume in our churches. At the time the newsletter was going to print, we were still awaiting clarification on numbers able to attend daily and Sunday Masses as well as Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms. Hopefully, it will be possible to publish those details next weekend. In the meantime, we look forward to being able to gather together as a Christian community to celebrate the Eucharist from May 10th. Preparations to ensure the safe return of all to the three churches in our parish will begin this week. This will be possible due to the help of those who have volunteered to act as stewards and to those who will clean and sanitise our churches after each Mass. We remain deeply grateful to them. Cleaning of our churches remains key to keeping them open. If you can help with cleaning in your church, please contact Fr Dermot or Anne-Marie in the Parish Office. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume in Swinford Church on Thursday, May 6th between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Anyone who can commit to an hour of adoration during those times on Thursdays is asked to contact Isabel Gallagher on 086-2151338.

Synod: In March 2021, the Irish Bishops' Conference announced their intention to hold a National Synod within the next five years. The synodal pathway that we will embark on invites us to journey together to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to the people of God in Ireland at this time. The word 'synod' comes from the Greek meaning 'way together'. Together we will seek to find the way forward on our missionary journey. The synodal pathway will be in three parts. The initial phase is a time of listening, consultation, discernment and prayer. The second phase will be planning. The third

phase will be the meeting of the Synod itself. In order to begin phase one, the Bishops' Conference is looking for feedback and submissions from parishes and people of faith on what methods to adopt to facilitate the beginnings of the initial conversation. Submissions can be entered in the comment box provided on catholicbishops.ie, the website of the Irish Bishops' Conference. Submissions must be made before Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. We pray that this time may be a time of renewal and fresh hope for the Church in Ireland.

GAA 50/50: The club 50/50 draw was held in Eurospar and Declan Neary of Culmore, Swinford won €241. Envelopes are available in business premises in town and online through www.swinfordgaa.ie. The next draw will be in Moores on the 4th May. The club would like to thank everyone for their support. **Swinford Community Lotto** Results 26th April Numbers 10, 20, 26, 27; €70 Voucher Winners; Cora O'Connell, Scoil Muire and Pdraig; Aoife, Saoirse & Caoimhe Dunne, Midfield; 3 Number Winners; Peggy Forkan, Kilbride; P. Wright, Tumgesh, Swinford; Angela Brennan, Killasser Swinford; Melanie Horkan, Park Road Swinford; Jackpot €18,600.

Swinford Golf Club 250 Centenary Draw: Draw no 12; €1000 won by Margaret Haran, Lisbrogan Swinford. €300 won by Siobhan King, Coill Abhainn, Swinford. €200 won by Stephen Mc.Nulty, Turlough, Castlebar. Thanks for supporting our draw. There are 2 draws every month for 12 months.

Enable Ireland Mayo Services require volunteers to work with children with disabilities in the home or community. This is a great opportunity to give something back to your community while also learning new skills, making friendships and having fun. Training and support provided. If you would like to become involved please contact Fiona at 'Enable Ireland' at 'The Safari Club': 094 9060234 or 087 6808350 or email fscully@enableireland.ie for more details.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery
within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in
Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much
fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
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

Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to
join the disciples, but they were all afraid
of him: they could not believe he was really
a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge
of him, introduced him to the apostles, and
explained how the Lord had appeared to
Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and
how he had preached boldly at Damascus in
the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go
round with them in Jerusalem, preaching
fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after
he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued
with them, they became determined to kill
him. When the brothers knew, they took him
to Caesarea and sent him off from there to
Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee
and Samaria were now left in peace, building
themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord,
and filled with the consolation of the Holy
Spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 21

Response:
You, Lord, are my praise in the great
assembly.

or
Alleluia!

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear
him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who
seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)
2. All the earth shall remember and return
to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before
him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of
the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to
the dust. (R.)
3. And my soul shall live for him, my
children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations
yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet
unborn:
"These things the Lord has done." (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are the children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his
presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience
and he knows everything.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our
conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus
Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.
Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Make your home in me, as I make mine in
you.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he
prunes
to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken
to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in
you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away
– he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on
the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you
should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange
effected in this sacrifice
have made us partakers of the one supreme
Godhead,
grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we
pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with
heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.