

9 MAY 2021 **Sunday**  **Message** 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



Stained glass depiction of the Last Supper by Joseph Edward Nuttgens (1952) in St Etheldreda's Church, London

Today's reading comes from the meditation Jesus makes with his disciples during the Last Supper. In some ways, we could understand it as part of his last will and testament. It is the culmination of the disciples' training.

The Fourth Gospel presents Jesus in the light of the female figure of Wisdom in Jewish writings, the one who gathers disciples, teaches them with a view to their becoming 'friends of God'. Jesus tells those around him that the term "servants" is no longer applicable to them, as they have progressed to the final level: their training is now complete. Normally, the disciple would choose the rabbi whose teachings they found most meaningful and by which they could order their life. Jesus is unusual, in that, as he says, "You did not choose me, no, I chose you".

There is also, in this passage, a hint of the making of a covenant between Jesus and his disciples. There is no account in John of the instituting of the Eucharist with its mention of the cup containing "the blood of the covenant" and the giving of the command to "do this in memory of me", as we find in the versions of Mark, Matthew and Luke. Here, we find Jesus saying, "This is my commandment: love one another" and in this way "remain" (or abide) in his love, which is the reflection of the Father's love for Jesus. ■

REFLECT

A person's last words are often highly valued by their family and friends and treated as being of great significance. Someone's dying wish can be regarded as sacred and those close to them will go to great lengths to see that it is carried out, even though it may not make much sense to those left behind.

There are a couple of rather demanding ideas which occur in our gospel reading today. One is that *Jesus* has chosen *us*, rather than the other way round. Most of us were baptised as infants and brought up in a Christian environment: sometimes people of this sort may envy those who came to the faith or the Church later in life, after making an adult decision for themselves. There are many reasons why people give up the practice

of the faith, but one reason may well be that some never really believed in the first place. Each Easter, we are all invited to renew for ourselves the baptismal declaration of faith and the promises made on our behalf by our parents or godparents. We may regard this as simply a formal exercise, part of the Easter liturgy, or we can make it a really personal act of commitment to God in the person of Jesus, whom we are freely choosing to follow as disciples.

Another challenging lesson from our extract from John's account is that Jesus sums up his commandments in the deceptively simple phrase to "love one another". This means that we have to be much more aware of ourselves and how we treat other people – a rather challenging prospect. ■

SAY

Thus may we Godward move, finding God in others.

(Percy Dreamer – adapted)

DO

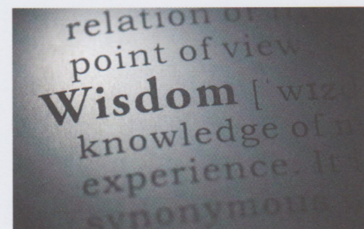
Read through the Renewal of Baptismal Promises from the Easter Vigil liturgy: renew them in the light of today's reading, making the Sign of the Cross with holy water.

LEARN

John uses the female figure of Wisdom who functions as God's agent, from the Jewish Scriptures, to express his understanding of Jesus and his mission.

The female figure of Wisdom (*Hokmah* or *Sophia*) becomes the masculine Word (*Logos*) in the Prologue to the Fourth Gospel.

The training of the disciples of Wisdom or Jesus is complete when they can be described as "friends of God".



SWINFORD (F12 YH57) MEELICK (F12 AY23) MIDFIELD (F12 AX29)

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PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm; Phone: 094 - 9253607

Email: swinfordparish@gmail.com

9th – 16th May 2021

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 Pat McLoughlin, Fraunhill John & Kate Morley & dec'd Family, Midfield
Monday 10th	10.00am	Swinford: Timothy & Mary Kate Kennedy, Market Street & Bea Ward, Bothaul
Tuesday 11th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 12th	10.00am	Swinford: Marie Claire Kazmierczak, Loughcurragh
Thursday 13th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Friday 14th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Saturday 15th	10.00am	Swinford: Joe Durkan, Clooneygown/Claregalway (1 st anniv)
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD		
Saturday 15th	6.30pm	Swinford: Bridget & Michael Muldowney, Cashelsheenaughane Eileen & Patrick McLoughlin, Derryronane & dec'd Mcloughlin & Durkan Families Gary Price, Cullane
Sunday 16th	12 noon	Swinford: Bridie Moran, Brabazon Heights (MM) Jane & Joe Gallagher, their sons David, Rathscanlon & Brendan, Clondra Longford & their grandson Kevin Tom Loftus, Davitt Place

Sunday 16th **9.00am** **Meelick:** Séan McHugh, Knockavilla

Sunday 16th **10.30am** **Midfield:** Sarah & Mattie Kelly, Brackloon & their son Martin
Martin & Winnie Gorman & dec'd Family, Woods

Please pray for Gertie Molloy, Cloonfinaune. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

Update: From Monday next, May 10th, with the easing of restrictions to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus, our churches will be able to welcome congregations for the celebration of Mass. It will be so good to gather together again to celebrate the Eucharist which is the source and summit of our Christian life. To ensure the safety and well-being of all who come to our churches for worship and in compliance with Government regulations, seating is arranged in keeping with social distancing requirements (as it was before the current lockdown). This means that capacity in our churches is still limited and parishioners are asked to keep this in mind especially when planning to attend the Vigil Mass on Saturday evenings and all the Masses on Sunday mornings. Stewards will be on duty to guide people to seats and your co-operation with the stewards will be greatly appreciated. Please note that when the capacity of the church is reached, the doors will be closed as it will not be possible to allow anyone else to enter. Those attending Mass are asked to wear face coverings and to sanitise their hands on entering the church and again before leaving. After each Mass, the church will be closed for a time to allow for cleaning and sanitising. Your understanding, co-operation and patience with the measures in place to ensure the well-being of all will be very much appreciated. Further details available on our diocesan website:

<https://achonrydiocese.org/return-to-public-worship/>

Funerals: From Monday, May 10th, attendance at Funeral Masses is limited to 50 people.

Weddings: From Monday, May 10th, attendance at Wedding Masses is limited to 50 people.

Baptisms: Attendance at Baptisms continues to be limited to parents and godparents only.

Volunteers needed: Our churches can open thanks to those who have volunteered to help with stewarding and especially with cleaning and sanitising our churches after each Mass. Sincere thanks to those who have volunteered to help in these important areas. Cleaning and sanitising is key to our churches remaining open. If you can help with cleaning in the church you attend, please contact Fr Dermot or Anne-Marie in the Parish Office. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Arranging anniversary Masses: To arrange anniversary Masses for deceased family members, please contact Anne-Marie in the Parish Office at 094 9253607 or at swinfordparish@gmail.com. As the capacity of each church is now limited, it is important that family members wishing to attend an anniversary Mass, particularly at weekends, come in good time to ensure that they will be able to get a seat in the church.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume in Swinford Church on Thursdays 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.

Swinford Babies of 1951: To mark the seventieth anniversary of all those in the Swinford area who entered this world in 1951, it is proposed to hold a reunion later this year. All who are interested in attending are asked to contact Joe Mellett on 087-2573752 or joemellett1951@gmail.com. Anyone who wishes to assist in the arrangements should also contact Joe. The invite also extends to those born in the periphery years of 1950 and 1952 who are most welcome to join in the celebrations.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, 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

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion
these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
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 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt as his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. "Stand up," he said "I am only a man after all!"

Then Peter addressed them: "The truth I have now come to realise" he said "is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what it right is acceptable to him."

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, "Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?" He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 97

Response:
The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.
or
Alleluia!

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Jn 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John.

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God
and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him."
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's
commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another."

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

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of
your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments,
says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you
another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in the
Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this
paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this
saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.