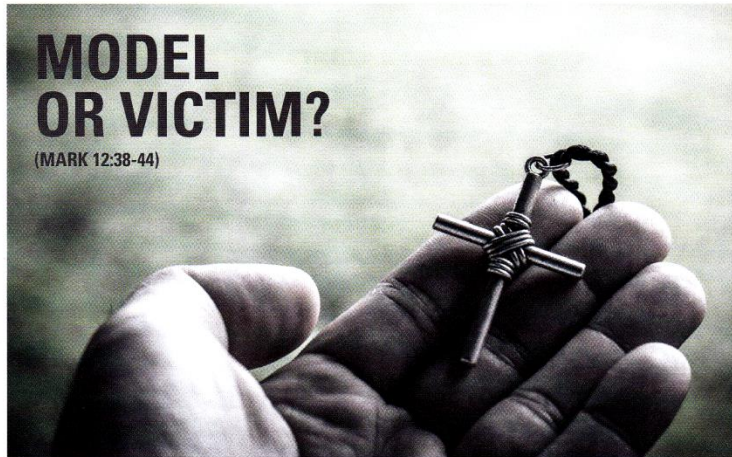


11 NOVEMBER 2018 **Sunday**  **Message** 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



MODEL OR VICTIM?

(MARK 12:38-44)

Widows are mentioned twice in our Gospel passage today. In the first section, Jesus criticises the scribes who show off in public by the manner of their dress and demeanour. Then he takes them to task over enriching themselves at the expense of some of the most poor and vulnerable members of the community. They are guilty not only of exhibitionism but also of hypocrisy.

The figure of the widow returns when Jesus and his disciples observe the way people contribute to the upkeep of the temple. The usual interpretation of Jesus' remarks about the woman putting in "all she had to live on" is that he is commending her for her piety and generosity. But this may not be the case. The temple and its clergy are not presented in a positive light in Mark's account of the Gospel. One of the characteristics of the prophetic books of the Bible is a suspicion of institutionalised religion, and those preachers often excoriate the place and its ministers for persuading poor people, like the woman in this scene, to part with the little they had. So should the widow have put in what she gave to the treasury? Is Jesus holding her up as a model of the 'poor but pious' people so beloved of a certain type of Lives of the Saints? Or is he presenting her as the victim of a system which is interested primarily in its own wealth and status? Is Jesus thus indirectly condemning the temple, which he had already described as a "den of thieves"? There is no way of answering the question definitively, but there is sufficient evidence to make it a real possibility. ■

SAY

The Lord cares about the widow and orphan.

LEARN

The scribes were educated individuals who could function as administrators, lawyers and theologians as they were well-versed in the Law.

The scribes are (mainly) presented as the opponents of Jesus along with the chief priests and elders.

These groups are mainly political figures whose power base is the temple.

The Pharisees do not figure alongside these groups in the Passion narrative.

DO

Take an interest in how your parish is run. Examine the financial statement. Discuss with other parishioners the question of mission or maintenance and the reason why your parish should exist. What should its purpose be?



REFLECT

One of the problems with reading reports of what a person has said is that we cannot be sure of the tone of voice in which she or he is speaking. This is certainly true of the remarks of Jesus to his disciples concerning the action of the poor widow. Is he talking in a way that suggests praise, holding up the woman as an example for others to emulate? Or is he outraged at the way advantage is being taken of a devout and trusting person?

Organised religion is always in danger of becoming more concerned with its own structures and needs, and of losing sight of its proper purpose. The tension between the ways of understanding the church in terms of maintenance or mission is always with us – or should be. What Jesus and the prophets say is uncomfortable and is meant to be disturbing, calling on the leaders of the community to examine their consciences and to treat people with respect for their individual circumstances. The way the

chest for the offerings was constructed meant that the coins went in with a distinct clatter, so it was possible to have an idea of how much an individual had contributed. The widow's couple of copper coins would have made a faint sound, but perhaps Jesus heard in that a resounding condemnation of a religious system which was more concerned about position and profit than being a means by which people could reach their God. What was true for the religion of Jesus' day is valid for ours now. ■

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 **11th – 18th Nov 2018**

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 10th	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael & Mary Nolan, their sons Michael & John & daughter Teresa Bryne & Sr Patrica Nolan, Lislackagh Michael & Della Groarke & grandson Padraic & dec'd Family, Esker
Sunday 11th	12 noon	Swinford: Mark & Nora McDonnell, Rathscanlon & Fr Joe McDonnell & dec'd Family Richard Haxell, Rathúnas
Monday 12th	10.00am	Swinford: Michael Callaghan & dec'd Callaghan, Foote & Oliver Families, Tullinacurra
Tuesday 13th	10.00am	Swinford: Paddy & Bea Campbell & dec'd Family, Johnsfort
Wednesday 14th	10.00am	Swinford: Michael Sweeney, Tullinacurra Michael Hegarty & dec'd Hegarty & Kilgallon Families
Thursday 15th	10.00am	Swinford: Thomas & Maggie Moore & dec'd Moore & O'Driscoll Families
Friday 16th	10.00am	Swinford: The Faithful Departed
Saturday 17th	10.00am	Swinford: The Faithful Departed

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 17th	6.30pm	Swinford: Teresa Gormley, Kinaffe Rose & Matt Rowley, Main Street
Sunday 18th	12 noon	Swinford: Eileen & Bill Ormsby, Park Road Thomas Griffin & dec'd Family, Curryane

Sunday 11th	9.00am	Meelick: Margaret Ward, Bothaul (1 st anniv) Anthony & Bridget Healy, Kiltimagh
Sunday 18th	9.00am	Meelick: Kate & Pat Bollinbrooke & son John Jack & Mary Doyle, Clooninshin & son Tony & daughters-in-law Mary & Úna

Sunday 11th	10.30am	Midfield: Bridget Lavin, Carnacull & dec'd Lavin & Hanley Families Pakie Reynolds, Brackloon
Saturday 17th	11.00am	Midfield: Michael Conway, Kinaffe (MM)
Sunday 18th	10.30am	Midfield: Tony Gavin, Carn Willie & Bridie Smyth, Brackloon

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 Mary McCann, Kilbride; Séan Conlon, Ballure, Kilkelly (brother of Cathy Conlon, Bollingbroke drive); Henry McDermott-Roe, Ballinafad, Co Sligo (brother of Mai Murray, Cloonlara) and Denise Maloney, Philadelphia, (sister-in-law of Bernie Ansboro, Killaturley and Eugene Maloney, Curryane). May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Cemetery Rosaries: The Rosary will be recited in Kilconduff cemetery on Sunday, November 11th after 12noon Mass, in Meelick cemetery on Sunday, November 18th at 1.15p.m., in Midfield cemetery on Sunday, November 18th at 4p.m., in Swinford Workhouse cemetery, Dublin Rd on Sunday, November 25th after 12 noon Mass and in Kinaffe cemetery on Sunday, November 25th at 4p.m.

Remembering the end of WWI: At 11 o'clock on the morning of November 11th, 1918 bells rang out all over Europe to announce the signing of the Armistice that ended the terrible conflict of the First World War. This Sunday marks the centenary of that event and again bells will be rung across our country and the other countries of Europe at 11a.m. to remember the millions who died in that war and to encourage us to pray for peace in our world.

Parish Pastoral Council: The November meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council took place in the Meeting Room of the Parochial House on Monday, November 5th at 8p.m. Recently elected members were welcomed and outgoing members were thanked for giving of their time to the work of the Council over the years they served on it. The current members of the Parish Pastoral Council are Maud Begley, Padraic Cafferty, Isabel Gallagher, Columba Holleran, Imelda Kelly, Diane Lavin, Maura Lavin, Tom Lavin, Mary McLoughlin, Fr Dermot Meehan and Séamus O'Hara. The meeting discussed arrangements for the Prayer Service for the Dead on November 9th and planning for marking the season of Advent and celebrating Christmas. A special word of thanks to those who have completed their term on the Parish Council: Tony Fahey, Séan Gavaghan, Norma Gergo and Bernie Groarke.

AMORIS Programme: As part of the Diocesan preparation for the World Meeting of Families on three Monday evenings in the month of May

we gathered at the Pastoral Centre in Charlestown to explore some of the themes in Pope Francis' The Joy of Love-Amoris Laetitia. We are going to conclude the Amoris Programme by gathering on this Monday 12th Nov, Monday 19th Nov and Monday, December 3rd each evening at 7.30pm in the Pastoral Centre in Charlestown. You will be very welcome to come on either or all of these evenings.

Market Street Swinford Reunion 2019: It is proposed to have a street reunion of all the present and former residents of Market Street with a provisional date of a weekend in September 2019. The reunion will form part of the Swinford 250+ year long celebrations in the town. In order to gauge interest, please contact Joe or Marie Mellett by the end of November, preferably by

email marie@mellettsemporium.com, and indicate the number of persons likely to attend. We look forward to hearing from you.

Collection thanks: Swinford NS Parents Association extends their thanks to everyone who contributed to their recent church gate collection. €414.97 was collected. Thank you also to the collectors who gave of their time.

Swinford Community Lotto results for 5th November Numbers 04 07 11 19; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; M. Neary, Callow; Cathal Tivnan, Boyle; 3 Number winners; E.McDonnell, Midfield; P.Geraghty, c/o Mellett's; W.Muldowney, Tullinacurra; C.Fitzgerald, Park Road; J.Fitzgerald, c/o Sheepwalk; Fiona & Mary, Tara Café; H.McCann, Swinford; D.O'Brien, Ross; James, C/o Boland's; Jackpot €7,000.

Midfield Development Association would like to thank everyone who made their Social evening such a success. Congrats to Team North winners of the Davey Quinlan Memorial Cup. We are delighted to announce that €3050 was raised for our village enhancement and to Midfield N.S.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Whitehouse and Martin Gleeson won €518. Next draw is in Bolands on the 13th November.

The Annual St Vincent De Paul collection is taking place at all churches in Swinford & Killasser on 17th & 18th November. Please support this worthy cause.