

15 NOVEMBER 2020 **Sunday**  **Message** 33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

# BURIED TALENTS

(MATT 25:14-30)



Jesus continues his teaching on the coming of the Kingdom of God with the parable of the landowner and the servants to whom he gives a portion of his resources and the judgment which ensues when he returns.

This is not a story urging self-improvement, but is another warning about the return of the Son of Man. This is indicated by the change in the way the main character is described. At the beginning, he is referred to simply as “a man”: but the third servant buries “his master’s” money. The term ‘master’ is *Kyrios* in Matthew’s original text and can also be understood as ‘Lord’, and is used for the rest of the narrative. Thus we can see that there is more to the message than meets the eye. The fate of the third servant is to be cast out of the household without a reference. He may be free of his tyrannical employer, but the chances of his finding another position at all, far less one at the level he previously enjoyed, are practically nil, hence the parable ends with a note about frustration, with “weeping and gnashing of teeth”.

It is worth noting that the master does not dispute the third servant’s description of him. However, once his sharp practices are set out in public, the usual social conventions have been breached and punishment is sure to follow. We should, therefore, be careful about allegorising, that is, seeing corresponding details in every aspect of the parable. ■

## REFLECT

There are several possible themes running through this parable, most of which do not concern us today. The word ‘talent’ refers, originally, to a considerable sum of money, but passed into English with the sense of innate ability, thanks to this story. The third servant may well be in the same position as someone who discovers that she or he is working for a boss or a firm whose working practices are fundamentally dishonest. We noticed that the central figure in the parable does not disagree with his servant’s assessment of himself as

“a hard man”, reaping and gathering from what was not his own. Did he commend the other two stewards, who doubled their amounts, for pursuing similar policies and exploiting other people? In that case, depositing the money in the bank would be the best way of avoiding such behaviour, but the third individual does not want to co-operate in any way at all. If so, then he is perhaps not to be condemned as lazy or irresponsible, but rather commended for acting in an honourable way, according to his conscience.

We know that there are people who are caught in such a dilemma today. To take a stand as a whistle-blower takes a tremendous amount of courage, especially for a person who has family responsibilities. The ‘sensible’ advice would be to remain silent, to keep one’s head down: but sometimes the situation cries out for justice and for the help of the Holy Spirit for the person concerned. ■

## LEARN

The word ‘talent’ originally referred to a large sum of money.

It passed into English usage as meaning a special aptitude or gift, due to the influence of this parable.

‘Darkness outside’ refers to condemnation at the last judgment.

## DO

When you hear on the news or in conversation about a whistle-blower, remember the person in your prayers.

## SAY

**Do not put me to that kind of test.**

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

**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: [swinfordparish@gmail.com](mailto:swinfordparish@gmail.com)**

**15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2020**

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Michelle Scully, her grandparents Annie & Willie Scully, Ann & Anthony Sweeney & her uncles Hughie & Michael Sweeney Michael & Della Groarke, their grandson Padraic & dec'd Family, Esker Thomas & Maggie Moore & dec'd Moore & O'Driscoll Families Thomas Griffin & dec'd Family, Curryane John & Mary McLoughlin, their sons J.P & John, their daughter Mary McDonagh, Brackloon & Michael & Maureen McCann, their daughter Barbara & their son John, Ballaghaderreen Pakie Reynolds, Brackloon
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Michael Sweeney, Tullinacurra Sr Mary Angela Rowley, Dundee/Killasser
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Special Intention
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Michael Hegarty & dec'd Hegarty & Kilgallon Families
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Rita Durkan, Steeple Village, Meelick (MM)

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Teresa Gormley, Kinaffe Colum Lambe & his son Colum Michael & Margaret Molloy, their son Martin & their daughter Mary, Cloonfinaune Ann O'Brien & dec'd Family, Cullane Jack & Mary Doyle, Clooninshin, their son Tony & daughters-in-law Mary & Úna Brian & Katie Lavin, their daughters Bea & Mary, Rabawn Jim Lavin & dec'd Family, Cultrasna Bartley & Nellie Walsh & dec'd Walsh & Heaney Families, Midfield
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**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.**

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**All of the Masses above will be broadcast via live streaming on our webcam at [www.Churchservices.tv](http://www.Churchservices.tv). Just click on the icon for Swinford Church.**

**Useful updates and resources available on our diocesan website: [www.achonrydiocese.org](http://www.achonrydiocese.org)**

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**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will take place in Swinford Church on Thursdays from 2p.m to 7 p.m.

**Thank you:** Sincere thanks to all who have been dropping in envelopes for the weekly offertory collection and other collections and for the November Offerings over the past few weeks. Your generosity in these difficult times is greatly appreciated.

**Live-Streaming:** Work has been carried out during the past week which, hopefully, will give a better service for live-streaming from the webcam in Swinford Church.

**November Prayer Service for the Dead:** Each year in the month of November we have a Prayer Service in Swinford Church to remember all who have died in the past year.

Unfortunately this year, due to current restrictions, we will not be able to gather together in the church for the Prayer Service but the service will take place on Friday, November 27th at 7 p.m. and will be broadcast via live-streaming from Swinford Church. A candle will be lit for each person whose funeral took place in the parish since November 2019. If you have a relative whose funeral took place elsewhere since then and would like that person remembered at the November Prayer Service, please write the name on a piece of paper and the month in which the person died and drop it in to the letterbox in the Parochial House before Monday, November 23rd.

**Cemetery Rosaries:** Due to Covid-19 restrictions it will not be possible to gather in the cemeteries in the parish to say the Rosary this year. Instead, the Rosary will be recited in Swinford Church on Sunday 15th, 22nd, and 29th November at 5p.m. for all who await the resurrection in the cemeteries in our parish. You can join in praying the Rosary on all or any of these Sundays via live- streaming on the parish webcam.

**Cycle for Pete:** On behalf of the organisers of the Cycle for Pete they would like to thank all who contributed to the go fund me page and sponsorship cards for this worthy cause. The hamper was won by Pa Ryan, Johnsfort. Your support was greatly appreciated.

**GAA 50/50:** The club 50/50 draw was held in Moores and Declan Harte of London/Swinford won €262. Envelopes are available in business premises in town and online through [www.swinfordgaa.ie](http://www.swinfordgaa.ie). The next draw will be in Horkans on 17th November. The club would like to thank everyone for their support.

**Club Annual General Meeting** will be held on Sunday 28th November via Microsoft TEAMS. Details of the meeting are on our website [swinfordgaa.ie](http://swinfordgaa.ie)

**Swinford Community Lotto** Results for 9th Nov Numbers 9, 13, 22, 30; €70 Voucher Winners; Mary Donohue, Callow; Evelyn O'Keeffe, c/o Baxter; 3 Number Winner; N. Murtagh, Rathunas; Jackpot now at €13,800.

**World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims:** Mayo County Council's Road Safety Office, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, the emergency services, the RSA and victim support groups are asking you to 'Light Up for Road Safety' by placing a light in a window between 7pm and 8pm on the evening of Sunday, November 15th to remember victims, and to recognise the work of the emergency services and hospital staff following such incidents.

**COVID-19 Assistance:** Swinford GAA have recommenced their help and delivery service. Anyone out there looking for help or assistance should contact Joe Mellett on 087-2573752.

**Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation** is asking people to Shine A Light for Hospice this November to help raise funds for vital palliative care services. This year because the Foundation can't hold its usual gathering for its tree-lighting ceremony, people are being asked to light a candle in their own home on Sunday November 29th at 6.30pm to remember a loved one, living or deceased and share in the Shine A Light ceremony from afar. During the virtual ceremony, loved ones will be remembered. You can light your own candle or purchase a special Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation candle for the evening. The ceremony will be live streamed on Sunday November 29th at 6.30pm on the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Facebook page.