

18 NOVEMBER 2018

# Sunday Message

33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1

## THE END IS NIGH?

(MARK 13:24-32)



Our Gospel reading today belongs to the type of writing known as 'apocalyptic'. The purpose of such writing is to encourage the faithful to stand firm in the face of persecution.

It is cast in highly symbolic terms which often baffle the reader who takes the Bible literally. One of the key events in this presentation is that of judgment, when those who have remained steadfast will be vindicated and their persecutors will receive their well-deserved punishment. As he comes to the end of his earthly mission, Jesus describes the cosmic events which will accompany the return of the Son of Man when he will gather his people to himself.

We can see from this passage and other parts of the New Testament that some people expected Jesus to return in the immediate future and that these expectations had to be tempered. Jesus says on the one hand that these things will take place in the lifetime of the disciples to whom he is speaking, but then adds that the only person who actually knows is the Father. Not even the Son knows the timing to which the divine plan is running. ■

### REFLECT

There are two misunderstandings which arise from reading apocalyptic writing literally. The more common one is to read contemporary events in the light of biblical symbolism and to see them as heralding the end of the world.

The second, less common but more dangerous notion is that human beings can create conditions which will bring about the Second Coming. This is line with the testing of Jesus when the devil tells him that if he jumps off the pinnacle of the temple, God will be forced to intervene if Jesus really is the Son of God who has a mission from the Father. Recently, certain fundamentalist Christians have pressed for Jerusalem to be recognised as the capital of Israel: not for political reasons, but because they believe that if this happens, it will help to bring about the Second Coming. They interpret the possible outcome of such a decision, which would most probably cause massive upheaval in the region, as indicating that this would be imminent and that God's plan would be on the brink of being fulfilled. Atomic war would only correspond to some of the more dramatic aspects of apocalyptic writing and would certainly bring about the end of the world as we know it.

A fundamentalist and literal reading of certain passages of the bible can lead to a completely distorted understanding of the Word of God. In this case, it assumes that contemporary events herald the return of Jesus in glory and the end of the world. It ignores the fact that such events have occurred throughout history and there has been no such result. There is good reason for Christians to be concerned about current events, just as anyone who cares about their world would be worried. But we do not need to attribute to God the responsibility for the dangerous state of the world; the Word of God assures us that human beings are perfectly capable of creating these conditions for themselves. ■

### SAY

Your Kingdom come,  
on earth as in heaven.

### LEARN

Apocalyptic writing, which appears to deal with the end of the world, is intended to encourage people under persecution to stand firm: God will vindicate them in God's own good time.

The main examples of apocalyptic writing are the books of Daniel and Revelation, also known as the Apocalypse.

The title 'Son of Man' (which means 'human being') often occurs in passages concerned with the Last Judgment.

Chapter 13 of the Gospel according to Mark is often called the 'Little Apocalypse', while the book of Revelation is known as the 'Great Apocalypse'.

### DO

Look at the news reports; remember that wars, earthquakes and flooding are mentioned in apocalyptic passages as announcing the end of the world. But this has not happened yet and we do not know when it will. It is our responsibility to make the world a better place here and now. Do what you can.



Internally displaced people walk with their belongings in Afrin, Syria.

**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** **18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018**

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Teresa Gormley, Kinaffe Rose & Matt Rowley, Main Street
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Eileen & Bill Ormsby, Park Road Thomas Griffin & dec'd Family, Curryane
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> The Faithful Departed
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> The Faithful Departed
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Elizabeth & Thomas Cronnolly & dec'd Family
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> The Faithful Departed
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Lena & Martin Durkan, Culmore & sons John, Martin & Michael & daughter-in-law Linda Thomas James Callahan, Philadelphia/Swinford
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> The Faithful Departed

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

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Colum Lambe & his son Colum Evelyn & Bernard McDonnell, Curryane
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Michael & Margaret Molloy & son Martin & daughter Mary, Cloonfinaune Maureen Devaney, Culmore

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<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Kate & Pat Bollingbroke & son John Jack & Mary Doyle, Clooninshin & son Tony & daughters-in-law Mary & Úna
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> For the Intentions of all who supported Joe Thompson's Family at the time of their recent bereavement Marian Gallagher, Meelick/Railway Terrace, Swinford

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<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Tony Gavin, Carn Willie & Bridie Smyth, Brackloon
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Patsy Forkan, Kinaffe (MM)
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Jim Lavin & dec'd Family, Cultrasna Bartley & Nellie Walsh & dec'd Walsh & Heaney Families

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

**Swinford Church:** Sundays: 2pm-6pm & Thursdays 10.30am-8pm

**Midfield Church:** Mondays 11am-12noon

**Meelick Church:** Mondays 7pm-9pm

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**Cemetery Rosaries:** In remembering the Holy Souls in this month of November, the Rosary will be recited in Meelick cemetery this Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 1.15p.m. and in Midfield cemetery this Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 4.00p.m. On Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> the Rosary will be recited in Swinford Workhouse cemetery on Dublin Road at 1.00p.m. and in Kinaffe cemetery at 4.00p.m.

**A Mass of Thanksgiving** for the blessings Eucharistic Adoration brings to our parish will be celebrated in Swinford Church on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.00p.m. All are welcome.

**Journey into Advent:** Advent begins on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. To prepare ourselves for this special Church season before Christmas our Cluster have organised one evening of reflection in the Pastoral Centre in Charlestown led by Fr. Pat Lynch, Kiltimagh. It will be on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm. Join us on this evening as we prepare for Advent and Christmas.

**Pro Life Mayo talk**-Carol Nolan TD, Michael Dwyer and Paddy Manning will speak on The Way forward for Ireland's Pro-Life movement on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at the TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar.

**Thank You:** Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the Tea day in aid of "Cups against Breast Cancer" which was held at Midfield N.S before the Halloween break. €610 has been forwarded to the Irish Cancer Society. Your Support is much appreciated.

**Swinford 250:** 2019 Promises to be a Great year as the town celebrates 250 years and more. The next meeting, will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November in the Gateway Hotel at 8pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Swinford Social Services** are hoping to arrange a Christmas party for the community on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Gateway Hotel. Cost will apply. Contact Mary on 087-814746/Susie 087-7677687 before Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November for more information.

**GAA 50/50:** This week's draw was held in Bolands and Caoimhe Hanley of Killasser won €576. Next draw is in the Gateway Hotel on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Numbers: 03 05 20 29; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: FQAJ, c/o Quinn's; G. Moore,

Brabazon Heights; 3 Number winners: M.Price, Cullane; P.Durkan, c/o Moore's Pub; Jackpot €7,200; Next draw 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**Foxford Traditional Singing and Poetry Group** will meet in The Mayfly Hotel on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15pm. All welcome.

**Western Care Association** and Cárde Crann Mór Annual Monster Christmas Bingo in the Royal Theatre, Castlebar on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 1.30pm with the Bingo commencing at 3pm sharp; Single books €20 and double books €25. Bus services will be available. Contact Tom Tarmey on 098-25249 or 086-2202169 for more details.

**Nollaig na mBan:** Included in the calendar of Swinford 250 and more is the celebration of Nollaig na mBan (Women's Christmas) on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in the Gateway Hotel Swinford. A lady's night of fun which will include a sit-down meal, music, dancing and spot prizes. Tickets are priced at €30. To order tickets or for further information contact 087-6412785.

**Killasser Community Care** are having their annual 25 card drive on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30pm in the Community Centre in Killasser. €700 prize fund, tickets €10, with raffle and spot prizes. Please support.

**Leaving Cert Maths Grinds** available in Foxford One to one tuition available on Tuesday & Wednesday evenings. Registered with the Teaching Council. Call 087-7402900.

**Charlestown LGFA:** are holding a scrap metal collection on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> (5-8pm) and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November (9am-2pm) in Fr O Hara Park (GAA Pitch), Charlestown. Aluminium, brass, copper, lead, steel, iron, end of life vehicles, bikes, law movers, batteries are accepted. You come to us or we can go to you. Call Richella on 086-2350447 for more details.

**Swinford Gardening Club:** Christmas Floral Demonstration by award winning florist Judi Roche, Balla Flowers in aid of Down Syndrome new Regional Centre Swinford Project in the Gateway Hotel Swinford on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm. Tickets €10.

**Go For Life Games and Boccia:** xmas games will be on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am to 12.30noon in the Culture Centre Swinford.