

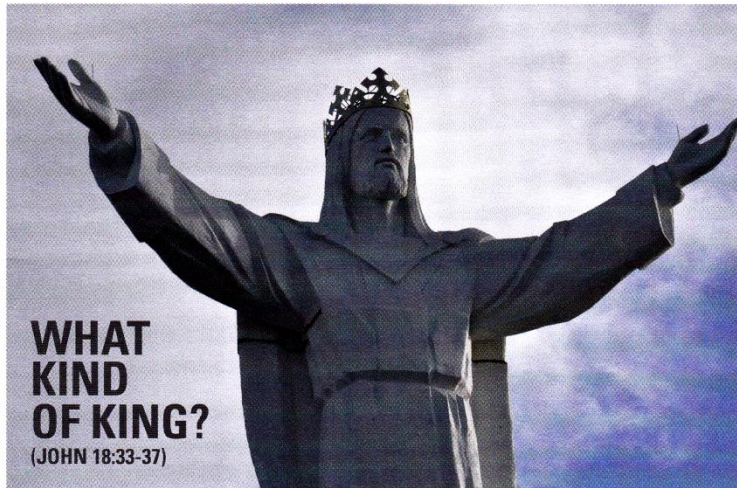
25 NOVEMBER 2018

Sunday Message

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



In the account of the trial of Jesus given by the evangelist John, there is a dialogue between Jesus and the Roman governor, Pilate, about the nature of Jesus' being a king.

Jesus tells his questioner that the kingship for which he was born was not to be one expressed in power but in witnessing to the truth from God. The members of this kingdom are those who listen to his message and are looking for the truth; they enter the kingdom where God is to be found, that is, among the community of believers. Pilate, in the full text, apparently avoids making a decision about what Jesus tells him by asking "What is truth?" But by refusing to accept the truth offered by Jesus, he aligns himself with those who have opted for the darkness instead of the light.

Jesus will be revealed as king on the cross, where he will gather all people to himself when he is lifted up. Thus his kingship is seen as having a universal scope, not restricted to any one nationality but rather open to all those who are on the side of truth and listen to his voice. The cross in the Fourth Gospel is the place of Jesus' being exalted ("lifted up"); it is not the tragedy which we might understand from the Synoptic versions. In our passage today, Jesus explains this serenely to Pilate while outside the mob is calling for his execution. ■

LEARN

In the Fourth Gospel, the term 'the Jews' often refers to the Jewish authorities who are opposed to Jesus.

Pontius Pilate was historically a harsh and brutal ruler; he was finally relieved of office because of his cruelty.

The Feast of Christ the King was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925.

The crucifixion in John's Gospel is the enthronement of Jesus as King and Priest.

SAY

The Lord is king, in the crib and on the cross.

REFLECT

This Gospel reading for the feast of Christ the King presents Jesus as the unifying focal point of the human race. Jesus is the one who offers light, truth and life to those who will accept them. He is the clearest Word which God has spoken to human beings and conveys God's message to those who will listen. In a world which seems to be becoming more and more fragmented, some such unifying focus appears to be increasingly necessary.

Throughout the Gospel of John there has been the idea of judgment, not so much the final judgment at the end, but rather the judgment which human beings pronounce upon themselves by their decision for or against Jesus and his message. In the Gospel tradition, the evangelists present Jesus as respecting human freedom and decision; he may well regret the choice certain people make, but recognises this as their right. There are no threats of eternal damnation or the like. Perhaps today's feast might remind us that the divisions which we may think so important, of race, class and religion, are simply human inventions; that for God it is enough that a person is a human being, made in God's image and likeness and that the values Jesus teaches are basically human values which anyone can respect and live by. Perhaps the world would be that better place if we all learned to accept one another as fellow human beings with the same hopes and fears; and perhaps in that way the Kingdom of God, which is marked by reconciliation, justice and peace will become a reality in our world. ■

DO

Look at a crucifix or picture which presents Jesus in the robes of a priest with a royal crown on his head. This is the meaning of John's crucifixion scene.



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 **25th Nov-2nd Dec 2018**

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Saturday 24th	6.30pm	Swinford: Colum Lambe & his son Colum Evelyn & Bernard McDonnell, Curryane
Sunday 25th	12 noon	Swinford: Michael & Margaret Molloy & son Martin & daughter Mary, Cloonfinaune Maureen Devaney, Culmore
Monday 26th	10.00am	Swinford: Dec'd O'Neill, Maloney & Lynn Families Tommy & Kitty Neary & Tony Ferguson & dec'd Family Culmore
Tuesday 27th	10.00am	Swinford: Michael & Bridget Loftus & sons Michael & John & daughter Mary & dec'd Family, Lislackagh Dec'd Members of the Brabazon Park Trust
Wednesday 28th	10.00am	Swinford: Elizabeth Moran, Bollingbrook Drive Special Intention
Thursday 29th	10.00am	Swinford: Special Intention
Friday 30th	10.00am	Swinford: Paddy Loftus & dec'd Family, Rabawn
Saturday 1st	10.00am	Swinford: Maureen Cavanagh, Bollingbrook Drive

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 1st	6.30pm	Swinford: Delia & Patrick McGrath & daughter Margaret, Newpark Tom & Mary McHugh & Paddy & Marie Lynskey & Kate & Paddy Kenny & their son Kevin
Sunday 2nd	12 noon	Swinford: Brendan Geary & his brother-in-law Fr Vincent Kelly Anne O'Brien & dec'd Family, Cullane

Sunday 25th	9.00am	Meelick: For the intentions of all who supported Joe Thompson's Family at the time of their recent bereavement Marian Gallagher, Meelick/Railway Terrace
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Sunday 2nd	9.00am	Meelick: John Feeney & parents Mary & John & his brothers Gerry & Joe, Ballyglass & Tom & Úna Egan, Main Street Kathleen Groarke, Ballinvoher
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Sunday 25th	10.30am	Midfield: Jim Lavin & dec'd Family, Cultrasna Bartley & Nellie Walsh & dec'd Walsh & Heaney Families
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Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Midfield: Janet Galvin Tom & Molly Muldowney & son Thomas & grand- daughter Catriona Campbell
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Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

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

Midfield Church: Mondays 11am-12noon

Meelick Church: Mondays 6pm-9pm **(Please note longer period of adoration)**

Please pray for John Tunney, Liseratish, (brother of Mai O'Brien, Ballydrum). May he rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community Bríon Séan McNulty, Cloongullane who was baptised recently in Swinford Church.

Cemetery Rosaries: In remembering the Holy Souls in this month of November, the Rosary will be recited in Swinford Workhouse cemetery on Dublin Road this Sunday, November 25th 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 27th at 7.00p.m. All are welcome.

Journey into Advent: Advent begins on Sunday December 2nd. 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 26th November at 8pm. Join us on this evening as we prepare for Advent and Christmas.

The First Saturday Devotion is being hosted in Knock Old Parish Church next Saturday December 1st. Starts at 11.00am with Rosary, meditations and concludes with Holy Mass at 12.00 noon, Confessions and Enrollment of the free brown scapulars. Everyone is invited to attend to benefit from our Lady's heavenly promises.

Swinford 250: 2019 Promises to be a Great year for the town as it celebrates 250 years and more. The next meeting will be held on Monday Dec 3rd in the Gateway Hotel at 8pm.

Swinford Historical Society: will meet on Tuesday Nov 27th at 8pm in the Gateway Hotel. Anyone who is interested in joining please come along it promises to be an interesting year for the group, especially with the 250 and more celebrations planned for 2019.

Carol Service and Christmas Lights: To launch the countdown to 'Swinford 250 and more' and to mark the start of the Christmas season a Carol Service will be held in Swinford Parish Church on Thursday, December 6th at 7pm. The service will be a collaborative event involving

the schools of the area and will be streamed online via Church Services TV. The online broadcast will allow Swinford Community to reach a worldwide audience, help connect with the diaspora and provide the opportunity to people at home and abroad to reconnect with Swinford. Following the Carol Service Swinford Christmas lights will be officially turned on. Everyone is invited to attend the first major event of Swinford 250 and more.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in the Gateway Hotel and Maria Groarke of Derryronane, Swinford won €520. Next draw is in Moore's on the 27th November.

Swinford Community Lotto Results for 19th November Numbers 03 16 18 25; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; M. Clarke, Santa Maria; Gateway Staff; 3 Numbers winners: M. Price Cullane; Carole c/o Moore's; Jackpot €7,400; Next draw on Monday the 26th November in the Gateway Hotel.

Swinford Go Getters (Go For Life and Boccia): wish to thank all who bought raffle tickets and guess the weight of the cake at Tesco on Saturday 17th Nov. Congratulations to Deidre Doherty Foxford who won the cake. A Cake Sale/ raffle and tombola will be held on Sunday 9th Dec in the Meeting Room of the Parochial House before and after 12 noon mass. Christmas games with music and refreshments on Thursday 13th Dec 10.30 to 12.30 in Cultural Centre Swinford.

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 4th December at 8pm. Tickets €10.

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

Chiropodist: Martin McNally will attend at The Gateway Hotel on Fri 30th Nov from 10.00am.

Ward Agricultural Consultants are having their Final GLAS Training Day on Saturday 1st Dec. This is the final chance to complete the training as per the terms and conditions of the scheme. Call Siobhan on 087-9193371.