

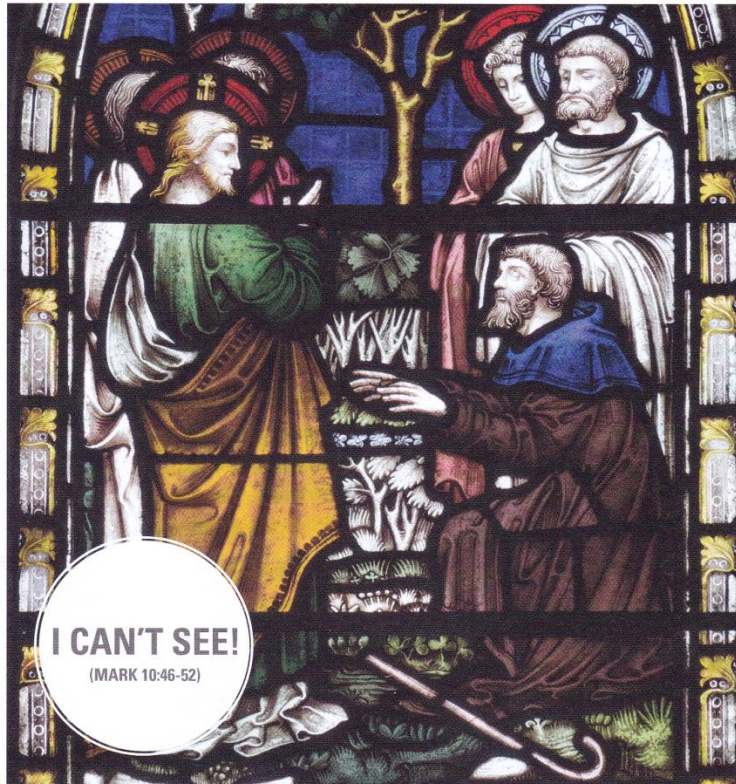
28 OCTOBER 2018

Sunday Message

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus: stained glass in St Mary Abbots Church, London

The miracle stories of Jesus are not simply records of Jesus being kind and compassionate. They are 'catechetical devices' or ways of conveying a deeper message to us about Jesus and ourselves.

When a person is healed, they are made whole and their deepest needs are met in the person of Jesus. To be blind is not simply to lack the ability to see but is also, in the Gospel tradition, a means of expressing being without faith, or at least having an incomplete belief in who Jesus is. The evangelist indicates how a particular person understands Jesus by the use of the titles which they use in speaking to him. In today's story, Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, calls out to the "Son of David", thereby recognising him as someone with healing powers. He is also a person who is determined not to be prevented from approaching Jesus, and his persistence pays off in ways that he could not imagine. He actually cries out to Jesus, "Have mercy on me". When Jesus tells those who are trying to prevent him making a nuisance of himself to let him through, the blind man addresses him as "Teacher" or "Master", which has overtones of the rabbi/disciple relationship. The man's struggle to reach Jesus results not only in his receiving back the physical sight which he had lost but also he has been granted salvation: "Your faith has saved you". The story ends with his "following Jesus along the road", a symbolic way of saying that he had now become Jesus' disciple.

This story is about a positive reaction to the person and invitation of Jesus. It stands in stark contrast to the picture Mark gives us of the disciples and their misunderstanding of Jesus and his mission. It is also the final episode in the journey of Jesus and his disciples before they enter Jerusalem and the narrative takes a dark and hostile turn. Like other stories in Mark's version of the Gospel, the call to be a disciple of Jesus leads to testing and difficulty rather than an easy life. That is the message Mark wants us to hear and accept. ■

SAY

Master, let me see properly.

LEARN

Solomon is the best-known 'Son of David': popular tradition attributed healing powers to him.

Bar is the Aramaic word for 'son'. The title of the Jewish ceremony of Bar-Mitzvah means 'Son of the Commandment'.

In the wider context of Mark's Gospel, Bartimaeus is following Jesus on the road towards Jerusalem and the Passion.

Jericho was an oasis in the Judean wilderness south of Jerusalem. It was a popular winter resort for members of the upper classes who found Jerusalem too cold and windy.

DO

Try to navigate your way round your house (safely!) in the dark or with your eyes shut. Imagine what it would be like not to be able to see. Reflect on your journey of faith in the light of this experience.

REFLECT

It is worth noting that Bartimaeus was a person who had had the misfortune to lose his sight. He had not been born blind, so he was conscious of what he had lost. As we are all too aware, our sight is a precious faculty; it is also very vulnerable and can be easily damaged, impaired or lost altogether. Some people lose their sight gradually and it can only be restored through a surgical intervention. In the Gospels, sight is often used as a metaphor for faith, and if we are to understand the Gospel message properly, we should try to be sensitive to the double (and deeper) meaning of these stories. The evangelist is conveying a message about ourselves and our relationship to Jesus. So perhaps we might ask ourselves whether our sight has become dimmed by not paying enough attention to our prayer life and thinking about our faith; thus we become less aware of the Lord in our lives. It may be that we will have to struggle to reach Jesus, but Mark is telling us that the result is well worth the effort. ■

SWINFORD MEELICK MIDFIELD
Fr Dermot Meehan Phone: 094-9251790/Urgent Calls: 087-1338200

PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm; Tues: 9.00am-1p.m;
Phone: 094 - 9253607
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28th Oct - 4th Nov 2018

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 27th 6.30pm Swinford: Michael Joe Shiel, his son Joseph & dec'd Broderick & Shiel Families
Kathleen McIntyre, Market Street

Sunday 28th 12 noon Swinford: Jim loftus, Carrowreagh & dec'd Loftus, Brennan, Casey & Olson Families
Gordon & Coxie Loane & dec'd Family

Monday 29th 10.00am Swinford: Jimmy & Josie Convey, Cullane
Owen Roe & Marie O'Neill, Park Road

Tuesday 30th 10.00am Swinford: No Intention

Wednesday 31st 10.00am Swinford: No Intention

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Thursday 1st 10.00am Swinford: James Sweeney, Tullinacurra/Limerick (MM)

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Friday 2nd 10.00am Swinford: Mass for all the Faithful Departed

Saturday 3rd 10.00am Swinford: Michelle Scully, her grandparents Willie & Annie Scully & Anthony & Ann Sweeney

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 3rd 6.30pm Swinford: Paddy Kelly, Brabazon Heights & dec'd Family
Mai & Christy Quinn & dec'd of Quinn & Morris Families

Sunday 4th 12 noon Swinford: Paddy, Mary & kate Reddington & dec'd Family, Carton
Paddy Murray, Esker & Patrick & Margaret Lambe

Sunday 28th 9.00am Meelick: Kathleen & Paddy Cahill & dec'd Durkin Family, Ardhoome
Eileen & Jim Convey, Bridge Street & daughter Breda & her husband Martin & grandson Brian

Thursday 1st 9.00am Meelick: Solemnity of All Saints

Sunday 4th 9.00am Meelick: Michael & Margaret Gilmore & dec'd Family
Matthew & Katie Jeffers & son Tony, Steeple Village

Sunday 28th 10.30am Midfield: Brian & Katie Lavin & daughters Bea & Mary, Rabawn
Dec'd of McGreal & Forde Families

Wednesday 31st 7.30pm Midfield: Vigil Mass for All Saints

Saturday 3rd 11.00am Midfield: Nancy Gibney, Kinaffe (1st anniv)

Sunday 4th 10.30am Midfield: James & Eileen Tierney & son-in-law Tommy Quinn
John & Mary McLoughlin, their sons J.P & John, their daughter Mary McDonagh, Brackloon & Michael & Maureen McCann, their daughter Barbara, Ballagherreen & son John

Please pray for Michael Conway, Kinaffe and Patsy Forkan, Kinaffe. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community Sé Donnacha Coyne, Carrabawn who was baptised recently in Swinford Church.

Solemnity of All Saints: Thursday next, November 1st is the Solemnity of All Saints and is a holy day of obligation. The Vigil Mass for the feast day will be in Midfield Church on Wednesday, October 31st at 7.30p.m. Masses on November 1st will be in Meelick Church at 9a.m. and in Swinford Church at 10a.m.

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed: Friday, November 2nd is a special day set aside for prayer for all the dead (All Souls' Day). Mass will be offered for all the Faithful Departed in Swinford Church on Friday, November 2nd at 10a.m.

November Lists of the Dead: Envelopes for the November Lists of the Dead are available in all churches this weekend. Those on the November lists will be remembered at Masses throughout the month of November.

November Service for the Dead: On Friday, November 9th at 7.30p.m. there will be a Prayer Service in Swinford Church to remember members of our parish community who have died since November 2017. A candle will be prepared for each person whose funeral took place in the parish in the past year and a family member will be invited to carry this candle to the altar during the Prayer Service. Parishioners who would like to remember a family member whose funeral took place elsewhere since November 2017 should give the name of the person they would like remembered and the month they died to Fr Dermot or Anne-Marie in the Parish Office before November 1st.

Mass of Thanksgiving: A Mass to celebrate the re-opening of our diocesan Cathedral in Ballaghaderreen after recent refurbishment will take place on Tuesday November 6th (the feast of All Saints of Ireland) at 7.30p.m. The generous support of people from the diocese through the living Faith Campaign made the renovations possible and all are invited to the Cathedral to give thanks to God for the work done and the generosity that made it possible.

Mission Sunday Collection: A heartfelt thank you! Thank you so much for your kindness on

World Mission Sunday last week. Your generosity means that you are helping to empower people who are struggling to form sustainable communities of faith, hope & love. Your prayers & donations will help missionaries across the world share the love of Christ with those in greatest need. Your generous support means that people will have the chance to experience love & support within our Church family. Please continue to pray for the work of World Missions Ireland & everyone who works to show the love of Jesus. To continue to support the vital work of our missionaries call World Missions Ireland on 01-4972035 or go to www.wmi.ie.

Collection for the World meeting of Families: The fifth national collection to help defray the costs of hosting the WMOF2018 and the visit of Pope Francis will be taken up at all Masses on the weekend of 10th & 11th November. Your generosity to date is greatly appreciated.

Swinford Community Lotto results for 22nd October Numbers: 05 12 15 17; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; S.Granville, c/o Jullian's; Durkan Boy's, Brabazon Heights; 3 Number winners; M. Day, Oak Drive; B&R, Circular Road; P. Tunney, Cloonlara; Jackpot €6,600; Next draw on Tuesday 30th October .

Charity Bingo Night at the Airport: Ireland West Airport Knock are holding a Bingo night in the Airport on Saturday 3rd November at 8pm with Cash, Flights & other Great Prizes to be won. Books €10 single and €15 double. Proceeds are in aid of their three chosen charities – Mayo Roscommon Hospice, CMRF Crumlin and Down Syndrome Ireland.

Swinford & District Gardening club are planning a day trip to Athlone on November 10th. The trip will include a visit to Derryglad Folk and Heritage museum, Fern Hill Garden Centre and Golden Island Shopping Centre. Breakfast in Roscommon and Dinner on the return journey included. Cost €55. Contact Angela 087-7917136 for more information.

Fundraising Event for Community Action on Dementia in Mayo on Wednesday 31st October from 2pm-4pm in the Gateway Hotel. Admission free.

Adult Art Classes (6 weeks) in O'Dwyer Arts Centre on Monday Mornings 10.30am-12.30pm with Art Teacher Amanda Duffy.