

7 OCTOBER 2018 **Sunday**  **Message** 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



**DIVORCE:
YES OR NO?**
(MARK 10:2-16)

The Gospel story presents us with several incidents in which Jesus is asked a question which will put him on the spot. Very often the issue concerns the observance of the Sabbath or a point about the interpretation of the Law.

In today's episode the subject is divorce. Mark sets the scene with some Pharisees asking Jesus whether divorce is permissible under the Law. However, it is clear that this is not a neutral question but one asked with hostile intent by characters who already know that the answer is yes. As with most aspects of Jewish life, there were different interpretations of the Law. Generally, Jesus would be on the more lenient side of these views, but in the case of divorce, he is more demanding even than those who would adopt a strict opinion on the matter. He forces his opponents to modify Moses' command in the event of the breakdown of marriage, to a concession given in view of people's "hardness of heart" in blinding themselves to God's original vision of unity and mutuality as set forth in Genesis.

The background to this controversy is that divorce was a common occurrence in the society and culture of Jesus' day. Under Roman law, a woman could divorce her husband, a detail which occurs in Jesus' explanation to his disciples. ■

REFLECT

There are many aspects to this question of divorce and Jesus' attitude to it. One would be the nature of the male-dominated society of the day and the place of women within it. Marriages were arranged between the fathers of the couple and had the appearance more of a contract than anything else. Some of the grounds suggested for divorce were ridiculously flimsy.

The idea of marriage as a contract has given way in recent years to that of a covenant of life and love between the partners. The model for this is the relationship between Christ and the church, which in turn is based on the covenant between YHWH and Israel in the Hebrew scriptures. In this understanding, the covenant cannot be so much broken as betrayed. Hence the attitude of the church that it is possible, despite appearances to the contrary, that a marriage never really existed and so can be declared null.

However, we might keep in mind that when Jesus is actually faced with someone in an irregular marriage situation, he does not tell her off or enter into a discussion on the nature of marriage itself. As a result of the manner in which he treats the Samaritan woman, not only does she herself come to faith in him, but she then acts as an apostle to her townsfolk who similarly come to believe. The list of Jesus' ancestors, given to us by Matthew, mentions four women whose relationships with the fathers of their children is questionable in the extreme. So while Jesus presents us with the ideal, with which probably no one would disagree, the Bible also presents us with the picture of God working through situations which fall short of this vision. When it comes to pastoral practice, the best should not be the enemy of the good. ■

SAY

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

DO

Look at plants growing. Any relationship has to grow or it dies. The covenant reveals God's way of relating to human beings and is the model for the way Christians should understand marriage. Take some time to reflect on this.



LEARN

Divorce seems to have been taken for granted at the time of Jesus.

There was no one school of thought in interpreting the Law among the Pharisees (later the Rabbis).

The principal pair of teachers at the time of Jesus were Shammai, who represented the strict interpretation, and Hillel, who was of a more moderate opinion.

Jesus' teaching was closer to that of Hillel, except in the matter of divorce.

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
Email: swinews@hotmail.com **7th-14th Oct 2018**

TWENTY- SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6th	6.30pm	Swinford: Eileen & Michael McDonagh, No 1 Kiltimagh Road & dec'd McDonagh & O'Hara Families Sadie & Billy Durkin & Michael & Jane Tuite
Sunday 7th	12 noon	Swinford: Mary O'Kelly & dec'd Geraghty Family Dec'd of Loftus & Muldowney Families, Lisanumera
Monday 8th	10.00am	Swinford: James Brennan, Beach Park & dec'd Brennan & Fraine Families Phil Dunleavy (1 st anniv) & her husband Jim, Johnsfort/Conventry
Tuesday 9th	10.00am	Swinford: Russ Ryland, Oak Drive & Edward & Bridget Moran, Kilbride P.J & Bridie Clarke, Dublin Road
Wednesday 10th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Thursday 11th	10.00am	Swinford: Kieran Costello, Lisheenabrone Mary Mellett, Market Street & her parents Jack & Ethel Munnally, Killala
Friday 12th	10.00am	Swinford: Annie & Michael Murtagh & dec'd Family, Tullinacurra
Saturday 13th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 13th	6.30pm	Swinford: Michael Byrne & parents Mary & Patrick & brothers Frank & Tom
Sunday 14th	12 noon	Swinford: Joyce Sweeney, Barnacogue Gerry Maye & dec'd Family
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Sunday 7th	9.00am	Meelick: Mike & Julia Groarke, Culleens & dec'd Groarke & Kelly Families Bridget & Michael Lyons, Culleens
Sunday 14th	9.00am	Meelick: No Mass (Mass at 11a.m.)
Sunday 14th	11.00am	Meelick: Cathy Walsh, Laughtadurkin
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Sunday 7th	10.30am	Midfield: Pat & Kathleen Moran, Cashelroyan & dec'd Moran, Kelly & Flynn Families Walter Kilgallon & dec'd Family, Cashelsheenaughane
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Midfield: Paddy & Mary O'Brien & son-in-law Joe McNamara & dec'd Family, Brackloon & Martin & Mary Murtagh & sons Thomas, Jim & Martin & dec'd Family, Cashelroyan & Luke Finnerty & dec'd Family, Brackloon May & Michael Brennan & daughter Annie Brennan (nee Conway), Kinaffe

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 James Sweeney, Tullinacurra and Limerick. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

Emily Fitzgerald Finn, Ardhoome who was baptised recently in Meelick Church.

Parish Pastoral Council: The October meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Tuesday, October 9th at 6.30p.m.

Day for Life: This Sunday, October 7th is the Day for Life. A reflection on the theme of this year's marking of the Day of Life is available in all our churches this weekend.

Please note: Mass in Meelick Church on Sunday October 14th will be at 11a.m. There will be no 9a.m. Mass.

You can watch "The Rosary of our Lady" on EWTN Catholic TV on Sunday 7th October (4pm); Thurs 11th October (9am); Fri 12th Oct (3pm) and sat 13th Oct (9pm). EWTN Catholic TV is available on Sky 588, Virgin Media 815, Eircom eFibre 589 or Watch online at www.ewtn.ie

RHS Home Care is a Non Commercial Home Care Provider bringing professional home care services to those who need assistance to remain living in their own homes. We are now recruiting new healthcare Assistants in your area. Potential applicants must have the required Fetac/QQI level 5 (two modules completed care skills and care of the older person).contact Aoife 090-6625988 or email your CV to jobs@rshhomecare.ie

Concert: Johnny McEvoy in concert in kilmovee community centre on Fri 19th Oct. Contact 094-9649484 or kilmovee.info for more details.

New Friday night event for Féile na Samhna: We will feature an extra event in addition to all our usual workshops, events and entertainment on Friday night 26th Oct. Mr John Maloney will give a talk on "A Career in Ruins-The Irish involvement in the archaeology of London" in Mellett's meeting room beginning at 8pm and finishing with a cup of tea and a chat.

Mayo North East is organising a free Winter Gardening and Maintenance Course for people who are unemployed or in part-time employment. Training will commence in the O'Dwyer Cheshire Home one day per week for

six weeks on Tuesday 23rd Oct at 9.30am to 4.00pm. The course must be pre-booked by contacting Dolores McNicholas on 087-7704251 or email dmcnicholas@mayonortheast.com

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Quinns and Christopher & Martin Woods of Cloonfinaun, Swinford won €505.Next draw is in the Sheepwalk on the 9th October.

Race Night: Swinford GAA club will be hosting a race night in the Gateway Hotel on Friday October 26th. All welcome to attend.

Swinford Community Lotto results for 1st October Numbers: 08 11 16 17; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; Rita & Shane, C/O The White House; M.J Egan, C/O Moore's; 3 Number winners; Eileen & Mick, Lislackagh Jackpot €6,000; Next draw Monday 8th October.

Remembrance Service: Feileacain (Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Association of Ireland) are hosting an autumn service of remembrance for babies taken to soon, on the 13th October in the Christian Fellowship, The Mall, Castlebar at 3pm followed by refreshments afterwards. All are very welcome to attend.

Go for Life and Boccia Games: in the Cultural Centre on Thursday 11th October 10.30am to 12.30pm. Over 55's individuals, groups, new members always welcome. Entry €2 Refreshments served.

Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation Monday October 8th at 7pm in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House Swinford. Free and open to all over 16 years. Contact 086-0700681 for more information.

New Art Group: Called Art to Heart will meet every Wednesday afternoon from 1.30 to 4pm at Swinford Cultural Centre. All sessions are led by a qualified tutor and aim to encourage confidence and well being within the creative arts. All are welcome from beginners to experienced. There is no fee but donations are welcome. Further info from Livvi 089-2079407.

Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw no 22:

€1000 was won by Philip O'Donnell, Claremorris.

€300 was won by Scoil Muire agus Padraig, Swinford.

€200 was won by Aidan Gaughan, Midfield Swinford. Thanks for supporting our draw. All results are available on the Golf and Soccer websites.

