

16 SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday Message

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

MARK 8:27-35

One of the uncomfortable features of Mark's account is that no one understands properly who Jesus really is until the declaration of the centurion at the cross.

No one has any privileged insight into Jesus' identity, and the early part of the Gospel shows misunderstanding on the part of different groups of people. So when Peter answers Jesus' question to the disciples as to whom they believe him to be with the words "You are the Christ", Jesus does not accept it in the way he does in Matthew's version of the story.

Peter has not received a special revelation from God, so his reasoning that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, must come from his observing Jesus as teacher and healer, which is not sufficient to show a proper understanding of Jesus as the Son of God: this comes from the cross. Also, the term *Messiah* (or 'the Christ') had political and nationalistic overtones which could lead to people having false expectations about Jesus and his mission. The first prediction of the Passion comes as a corrective to this view.

The story of Jesus being tested by Satan followed immediately on Jesus' being baptised and revealed as the 'Son of God'. How does Jesus understand being the Son of God? The correct answer for Mark lies in the cross. But Peter does not understand this and tries to deflect Jesus from the path laid out for him. Jesus rebukes him, calling him Satan. Thus the same test comes, but this time through a human being, one who is close to Jesus and acting out of the best of motives. Jesus is on a journey during which his true identity will be revealed. His followers are on the same journey and Jesus tells them that anyone who would be a disciple must also take up their own cross and follow. Like master, like disciple. ■

LEARN

There is no account of the birth of Jesus in the Gospel according to Mark.

The Gospel according to Mark has been described as "a Passion narrative with a long introduction".

The theology of the cross dominates Mark's account of the life and ministry of Jesus.

Peter is the spokesperson for the disciples in the Gospel tradition.

DO

Make the Sign of the Cross. Remember that the cross is the sign of the extent of God's love for you and the measure of Jesus' willingness to carry out his mission.



REFLECT

Mark's Gospel narrative opens with Jesus as an adult. There is no account of his birth which reveals to human beings who Jesus truly is. The idea that Jesus' family members could therefore misunderstand who he really is, is difficult for many of us to grasp since we are so familiar with the narratives of the birth of Jesus from Luke and Matthew, which centre on the characters of Mary and Joseph. But we have to read each Gospel story on its own terms and struggle with the uncomfortable questions which arise, without bringing in details from elsewhere to smooth over the difficulties.

Many of us who have been brought up in the Christian faith cannot understand the bafflement which those who have no Christian background feel when faced with the claim that Jesus is the Son of God. Some such Christians actually envy those who have come to believe through a process of struggle and questioning rather than having been taught and accepted the faith from an early age. Those who come later have had to answer for themselves the question Jesus puts to Peter: "Who do you say I am?" But we are all being asked that question; we have to answer for ourselves, and not rely on what we were told a long time ago. ■

SAY

Jesus is the Christ.

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

16th – 23rd Sept 2018

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 15th	6.30pm	Swinford: Tom Sheahan, Circular Road Peggy & Michael Halligan, Sancta Maria & daughters Angela & Ann & Harry Brennan, Park Road & his daughter Patti & his sister Josie & her husband Dermot
Sunday 16th	12 noon	Swinford: Conn & Teresa Breen & son Niall & Bridget & John Murtagh & sons Martin & Patrick & Margaret McLoughlin Nora & Martin Ryan, Kilmaine & dec'd Family
Monday 17th	10.00am	Swinford: Dec'd Shiels & McNicholas Families, Carrowreagh & Cloonconnell
Tuesday 18th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 19th	10.00am	Swinford: Anthony & Mary Ellen Loftus & daughter Mary, Cloonfinaun & Johnny & Delia Tierney, Lislackagh
Thursday 20th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Friday 21st	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Saturday 22nd	10.00am	Swinford: Noreen Oliver, Athenry /Tullinacurra

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 22nd	6.30pm	Swinford: Chris Kavanagh, Carracanada Edward & Mary Mc Andrew, Carnacross
Sunday 23rd	12 noon	Swinford: Padraic Groarke, Esker Paddy Gordon, Park Road
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Sunday 16th	9.00am	Meelick: John Groarke & his father Patrick, Cloonagallon & John & Delia Hyland
Sunday 23rd	9.00am	Meelick: Joe Shiel, Carrowreagh James Golden, Ardhoon & dec'd Golden & Brennan Families
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Sunday 16th	10.30am	Midfield: Paddy Oliver & his parents Paddy & Mary & his brother Mike & sister Mary, Tullinacurra
Sunday 23rd	10.30am	Midfield: Tony Lavin, castlebarnagh/Leeds & dec'd Lavin & Frain 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

Please pray for Mary Finnerty (nee Tunney), Breaffy and formerly Culmore and Jimmy Johnston, Ballydrum and Mary McCarthy (nee swords), Glossop Derbyshire and formerly Station Road. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

We welcome into the Christian community

Alfie William O'Connor, Ballina Road.

Notices for parish newsletter: The protection of your personal data is important to us. We are happy to include your notice in our Parish Bulletin, but please ensure that you have received the consent of any persons referenced before submitting a notice to us. Thank you.

Accord Marriage Preparation: Places available on Sept courses, Fri eve 21st & Sat 22nd at McWilliam Hotel, Claremorris. Delivered by Charlestown Centre. To Book visit www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation.

The parish of Charlestown is holding a 'Life in the Spirit' seminar from Sunday 30th Sept to Sunday 11th November, seven consecutive Sundays, 6-8pm nightly, in the CBD Complex, Charlestown. Enquiries to Mary at 087-7847304 or Catherine at 087-9432846 or Fr. Tommy at 085-7789936. All are welcome.

Retrouvaille- A Lifeline for Married Couples:

Do you want to improve the communication with your spouse? Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you hurt, frustrated or angry with your spouse? Does talking about it only make it worse? The Retrouvaille programme can help marriages at all stages. Next programme starts 5th -7th October. Contact 01-4953536/014500922, text or call 086-4135440 or email info@retrouvaille.ie or visit www.retrouvaille.ie. Completely Confidential.

Are you finding it difficult to cope with life's problems? Perhaps Grow can help you. Grow is a free confidential support group, promoting positive mental health using a 12 step program. Meetings run weekly in 4 locations across Co. Mayo and on Thursdays at 8pm in the Pastoral Centre Charlestown. Contact Emily at 086-4183543 or www.grow.ie or the grow information line at 1890 474 474.

GAA 50/50: This week's draw was held in Gateway Hotel and Annemarie & Dylan Gallagher of Cullane won €549. Next draw is in Moores on the 18th September .

Culture Night 2018: Celebrate Culture Night this Friday September 21st in Swinford Cultural Centre. Members of Michael Davitt Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann will perform on the evening, with a mixture of Music, Song and Dance. Time: 8pm, Free event, Refreshments Served. All Welcome.

Education grants from the SVP Education and Training Bursary are available for qualifying applicants. Please phone 087-9227552 for application form. More information on svp.ie/education grant.

Improve your Health: Tai Chi Beginner weekend on 22-23rd September. Time 11.00am - 3.30pm. Venue: Taoist Tai Chi Centre, Unit 6 Abbey Business Park, Ardnaree, Ballina. Tel 096-75445 for more information.

Mayo Cancer Support: will hold their Mass of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in Rock Rose House, Castlebar on 26th September at 7pm. All are welcome.

Midfield Development Association: are 10 years old. To celebrate they are having a social evening in Julian's of Midfield on Friday, October 19th. If you would like to help out with the preparations please contact Margaret 087-4134998/Kathleen 087-2787381. Proceeds of the evening are going towards Midfield's village enhancement and Midfield N.S. Further details to follow.

Active retirement Club: have resumed their meetings on Mondays at the Gateway Hotel 2.30--4.30pm, old and new members welcome.

Swinford Districted & Gardening Club: Eamon Duffy will speak on "Autumn in the Garden" at the next meeting on Tuesday 25th September in the Gateway Hotel at 8.30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Non members €5.

Astro Turf Bookings: Swinford F.C. are now taking bookings for the Astro Turf for the winter season. Contact Donal on 087-9785987.

Swinford Community Lotto results for 10th September Numbers 04 06 11 17; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; N.Kelly, Castleroyan; M.C. Coleman, Ballydrum; 3 Number winners; C, R & A Durkin, Carrowbeg; C.Wiley, Rawbawn; M.Mellet, Swinford; M.McNulty, Swinford; E.Duffy, Johnsfort; Jackpot €5,400; Next draw in the Gateway Hotel Swinford on Monday the 17th September