

9 SEPTEMBER 2018 **Sunday**  **Message** 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season colour: Green • Psalter Week 3



WELL DONE! MARK 7:31-37

Christ healing Peter's mother-in-law: mosaic in Cora Church, Istanbul

Jesus is in Gentile territory, preaching and healing. This shows that his message is not confined to a Jewish territory or audience, but has a universal meaning.

Jesus' works of healing illustrate God's Kingdom breaking into those situations where human life is imperilled or impaired. Mark the evangelist presents him as healing different kinds of people with different kinds of ailments, and here we have a very vivid presentation of the restoring to full health of someone who had no power of speech or hearing. Such healing is spoken of by the prophet Isaiah as a sign of the coming of the Lord. But the healing stories are symbolic of Jesus' ability to meet the deepest needs of the human person, and not just curing some physical sickness or condition out of compassion for the particular individual. They are what we might call 'catechetical aids' rather than episodes from a biography of Jesus.

We often read in Mark's account that Jesus forbids the person who is healed, or those who witness what happened, to talk about the event. It may well be that it is possible for people to come to the correct conclusion that Jesus is the Son of God or the Messiah for the wrong reasons. The miracles are not the definitive evidence of Jesus' true identity; that is given on the cross, when there can be no further misunderstanding. The true confession of Jesus as the Son of God is given by the Gentile centurion when Jesus is dead.

Mark often ends a section with the question, "Who is this...?" When this occurs we might take the question as addressed to ourselves and wonder how we might answer; we are as much involved in the story as the characters in the narrative. ■

LEARN

The term *Decapolis* means 'Ten Cities'.

The Decapolis region is located in southern Syria and is Gentile territory.

The theme running through Mark's Gospel of Jesus not allowing people to speak about his miracles or identity is known as the 'Messianic Secret'.

Ephphatha is a Hebrew or Aramaic term. Aramaic was the common language of the people of the region in Jesus' day.

REFLECT

Mark's presentation of Jesus' mission to the Gentiles reflects the experience of the evangelist's own community. It is also a model for the disciples who are called to take the Gospel message beyond the boundaries of their own comfort zone – in more than one sense. It is easy to settle for the comfortable and familiar (the maintenance model of the church) and to forget that the Gospel message is for everyone, including those of different outlook and culture (the mission model).

There is a feeling in certain quarters that if the church were to find a better way of communicating its message, then the problem would be solved. While there is some truth in that, very often people are not so much attracted by abstract reasoning so much as by the faith of individual Christians whom they encounter in the course of their daily life and business. Such people have something about them which make others wonder and want what they have. But this quality is not something which can be manufactured; it is something within the person and comes from a deep conviction about who Jesus is and what Jesus means to them. Very often it is not something which the individual can put into words, but it is still real and effective. That is why the Gospel urges us to keep asking the question of ourselves: "Who is this...?" ■

SAY

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind.

DO

Prepare your answer to someone who asks you, "Why are you a Christian?" or "Why do you go to church?" Be ready to give it.



Umm Qais in the ancient city of Decapolis, present-day northern Jordan. It is located in the extreme north-west of the country, where the borders of Jordan, Israel and Syria meet.

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 **9th - 16th Sept 2018**

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 8th	6.30pm	Swinford: Paddy & Úna Brennan, Carracanada & Marie Moore James & Mary Kate McNulty, Esker
Sunday 9th	12 noon	Swinford: Attracta Gavin, Park Road Tom Walsh, Ballinvoher
Monday 10th	10.00am	Swinford: Carrabine & Callahan Families, Philadelphia/Swinford
Tuesday 11th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Wednesday 12th	10.00am	Swinford: No Intention
Thursday 13th	10.00am	Swinford: Pat & Mary Costello & grandson Kieran & dec'd Costello Family
Friday 14th	10.00am	Swinford: John Farren, Logcurragh
Saturday 15th	10.00am	Swinford: Mary Duffy, Tullinacurra (MM)

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

Sunday 9th	9.00am	Meelick: Patrick & Mary Quinn, Lisdurrane & dec'd Quinn & Walsh Families
Sunday 16th	9.00am	Meelick: John Groarke & his father Patrick, Cloonagallon & John & Delia Hyland

Sunday 9th	10.30am	Midfield: Dec'd of the Kennedy, Jordan and McDonagh Families Brackloon/Kinaffe
Sunday 16th	10.30am	Midfield: Paddy Oliver & parents Paddy & Mary & his brother Mike & his sister Mary, Tullinacurra

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

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

Midfield Church: Mondays 11am-12noon

Meelick Church: Mondays 7pm-9pm

We welcome into the Christian community Ella Grace Rowley, Cloonacannana who was baptised recently in Swinford Church.

Parish Pastoral Council: The September meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, September 10th at 8.30p.m.

Comhaltas music, dancing and singing classes will begin in Swinford N.S this Thursday 13th September from 5pm to 7.30pm. No Saturday classes this term. For more information email cceswinford@gmail.com or see Swinford Comhaltas Facebook page. Please tell anyone you think might be interested. This is a special year for Michael Davitt CCE as we will be celebrating our Diamond Jubilee at Féile na Samhna (last weekend of October) and Connacht Fleadh Cheoil is in Swinford next July. New members always welcome.

Heartfulness, Relaxation and Meditation Monday September 10th at 7pm in the Parochial House Swinford. Free and open to all over 16 years. Contact 086-0700681.

Go For Life and Boccia games return on Thursday 13th September from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Cultural Centre in Swinford. All over 55's welcome. Refreshments served.

Swinford Community Lotto results 3rd September Numbers: 09 15 19 28; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners; E, C & A Tierney, Ardgullion, Kinaffe, Swinford; Z. Moore, Meelick, Swinford; 3 Number winners T. Byrne, Bohola, Swinford; No Name; Jackpot €5,200.

Chiropodist: Martin McNally will attend at The Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Fri 14th September from 10.00am.

Basketball in Swinford: We are in the early stages of setting up a basketball club in Swinford catering for boys & girls, U8 and U10 initially. In order to develop the club we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to get involved. Our next meeting will be held in the community centre on Wednesday 12th September at 8pm. In the meantime please contact Sinead 087-0564689. A background in Basketball is not essential. All are welcome.

Guitar and Keyboard/Piano (inc. RIAM) lessons are being held near Swinford.

These are 1 to 1 lessons with a qualified and experienced music teacher. First introductory lesson is free. For more information please contact Tony Roberts on 087-7625254.

Meelick ICA Guild: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th September at 8pm at Meelick Community Centre. All welcome. Enquiries: Judith 086-0749103.

Day retreat to Lough Derg: Killasser Community Care Group are organising a one day retreat to Lough Derg on Tuesday 11th September. Bus will leave Ballina @ 6.30 am, Foxford Post Office @ 6.45, Callow church @ 6.55, Killasser Church @ 7.10 and Mace in Swinford @ 7.25. Cost of the trip is €55 per person. To book a seat Call Sarah 087-9494342, Kathleen 087-6179317, or Vera 097-6354880.

Féile na Samhna 2018: The 8th annual Féile na Samhna will take place in Swinford during the October bank holiday weekend (October 26th to 29th). As in previous years we are planning a great weekend of music, song, dance, recitation and storytelling. We will have pub sessions, workshops, talks and presentations with special guests, The Rambling House on Sunday evening and all the usual events. As this is the 60th anniversary of the Michael Davitt branch we are preparing a special presentation on the history of the branch and on Fleadhs and events over the years. We would really appreciate help from anyone who can give us information. If you have, or know of someone who has, photographs, memorabilia or stories of Comhaltas in Swinford please get in contact with any member of Swinford Comhaltas and we'll be delighted to talk to you. You can email cceswinford@gmail.com or call/text 087-7454032 or leave a message in Ray Lambe's and we'll contact you.

Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 draw: Draw no 20: €1000 was won by Pat O'Connor, Market Street, Swinford

€300 was won by Brid O'Connell, Park Road, Swinford

€200 was won by Trevor McDonnell, Park Road, Swinford. Thanks for supporting our draw.

There are 2 draws every month for 12 months. All results available on the Golf and Soccer websites.