

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

PARISH OFFICE- OPENING HOURS: Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9.30am-2.30pm; Tues: 9.30am-1p.m;
Phone: 094 - 9253607
Email: swinews@hotmail.com **3rd – 10th Dec 2017**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 2nd 6.30pm Swinford: Kathleen Groarke, Bollinvoher
 Janet Galvin

Sunday 3rd 12 noon Swinford: James Smyth & daughter Maura, Fraunhill & his sister
 Roseanne
 John Feeney & his parents Mary & John & his brothers
 Gerry & Joe, Ballyglass & Tom & Úna Egan, Main St

Monday 4th 10.00am Swinford: Brian, John & Debbie Gavin, Carracanada
 Special intention

Tuesday 5th 10.00am Swinford: Mary & Michael Durkan, Cragaballa
 Dec'd Brennan Family, Carnacul

Wednesday 6th 10.00am Swinford: For the People of the Parish (followed by Padre Pio
 Devotions)

Thursday 7th 10.00am Swinford: No intention

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF B V M

Thursday 7th 6.30pm Swinford: Attracta Gavin, Park Road & dec'd parents & Family
 Andrew & Andy Mulligan, Sweetwell

Friday 8th 10.00am Swinford: Fiona McDermott, Cloonaghboy (1st anniv)
 Helen Ronane, Culmore

Saturday 9th 10.00am Swinford: Michelle Scully, (MM)
 Jim Commons, Carrabawn & Patrick Gallagher, Cornboy
 Carratiegue

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 9th 6.30pm Swinford: Tony & Úna Doyle, Tumgesh & dec'd Mulrennan & Doyle
 Families
 Christine McCann, Killaturley

Sunday 10th 12 noon Swinford: Kathleen Coe, Ballydrum
 Mary & Martin Furey, Derryronane/Manchester &
 Michael & Delia McNicholas, Carracanada

Sunday 3rd 9.00am Meelick: No Intention

Friday 8th 9.00am Meelick: Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of BVM

Sunday 10th 9.00am Meelick: Anthony & Bridget Healy, Kiltimagh
 Maria Ruane/Ronayne & dec'd Ruane Family, Newcastle
 & Christine Murphy, Dublin

Sunday 3rd 10.30am Midfield: Tom Lavin, Cashelsheenaughane (1st anniv) & his parents
 Pat & Sarah & his brothers Pat & Jimmy & sister Mary
 John & Mary McLoughlin & sons J.P & John & daughter
 Mary McDonagh, Brackloon & Michael & Maureen
 McCann & daughter Barbara, Ballaghderreen

Friday 8th 12.noon Midfield: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of B V M

Sunday 10th 10.30am Midfield: Michael Regan, Johnny Healy & dec'd Regan, Durkan,
 Philbin & Basquil Families
 Tom & Molly Muldowney & son Thomas & Granddaughter
 Caitriona Campbell

Please pray for Stevie O'Regan, Rock Co Tyrone, (brother-in-law of Gertie Molloy, Cloonfinaune) and Séan Doyle, Longford (brother of the late Bob Doyle, Newpark) May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Advent: This Sunday, we mark the beginning of the Church year with the season of Advent. Advent focuses Christians on the coming of Christ and the Church understands the coming of Christ as a three-fold process: Christ, the Son of God, came on earth long ago, as the scriptures tell us, to reveal God's love for us. We believe also, as we say each Sunday in the creed, that Christ will come again at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. In the meantime, he will come into our lives, if we invite him, and make his home in our hearts. The weeks of Advent then, are a time for opening our hearts to Christ, inviting him into our lives so that we may be ready to welcome him when he comes again and also be prepared to celebrate his first coming among us as a child in Bethlehem at Christmas. To help mark the season of Advent, at the back of the church this weekend you will find a candle and a prayer card. Each household is invited to bring home a candle and card and take time to pray the prayer for each day of the week as well as the prayer for the World Meeting of Families on the front of the card over the weeks of Advent. Hopefully that will help us prepare our hearts to truly celebrate Christmas.

Blessing of figures of Baby Jesus: Have you a crib in your home for Christmas? If so, you are invited to bring the figure of the Baby Jesus from your crib to be blessed during Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent (December 17th). Anyone in the household may bring the figure of the Baby Jesus forward for the blessing- perhaps the children might like to do so. This is an old Italian custom which has been suggested to parishes here this year by the Irish Grandparents Association.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Friday next, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We believe that from the first moment of her life, the moment of

her conception, God preserved Mary from all stain of sin in preparation for her becoming the mother of his divine Son. Friday is a holyday of Obligation and Masses will be as follows: Vigil Mass, Thursday December 7th at 6.30p.m. in Swinford Church. On December 8th, Mass will be in Meelick Church at 9.a.m., in Swinford Church at 10a.m. and in Midfield Church at 12 noon (followed by the blessing of the new shrine to Our Lady in the church grounds).

Parish Pastoral Council: The December meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, December 4th at 8p.m.

Visit of the Icon of the Holy Family of our Diocese from Friday, Dec 1st – Monday Dec 11th. The Icon will stay at the following three parishes: Church of the Holy Family, Kiltimagh, Dec 1st-5th; Fr Peyton Memorial Centre, Attymass, Dec 5th-7th; Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ballymote, Dec 7th-11th. There will be an evening of prayer (approx. 30 minutes) in these three places on the following dates: Church of the Holy Family, Kiltimagh on Monday, Dec 4th at 7.30pm; Fr Peyton Memorial Centre, Attymass on Wednesday, Dec 6th at 7.30pm; Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ballymote on Sunday, Dec 10th at 7.30pm. The icon is travelling to all the dioceses of Ireland as part of the preparations for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August 2018. Everyone is very welcome to the Prayer Services and/or to make a visit to any of the three churches to pray for your family before the icon.

Blessing for Expectant Mothers: There will be a special blessing ceremony for all parents who are expecting a baby held in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Knock Shrine on Saturday Dec 9th at 12 noon. It will include a short prayer for protection and safe delivery with an individual blessing for all mothers-to-be who are present.

Meelick ICA Guilds next meeting is on Wednesday 6th Dec at 8pm. A Christmas wreath demonstration by Isabel Gallagher will take place at 9.30pm. Contact 086-0749103.