

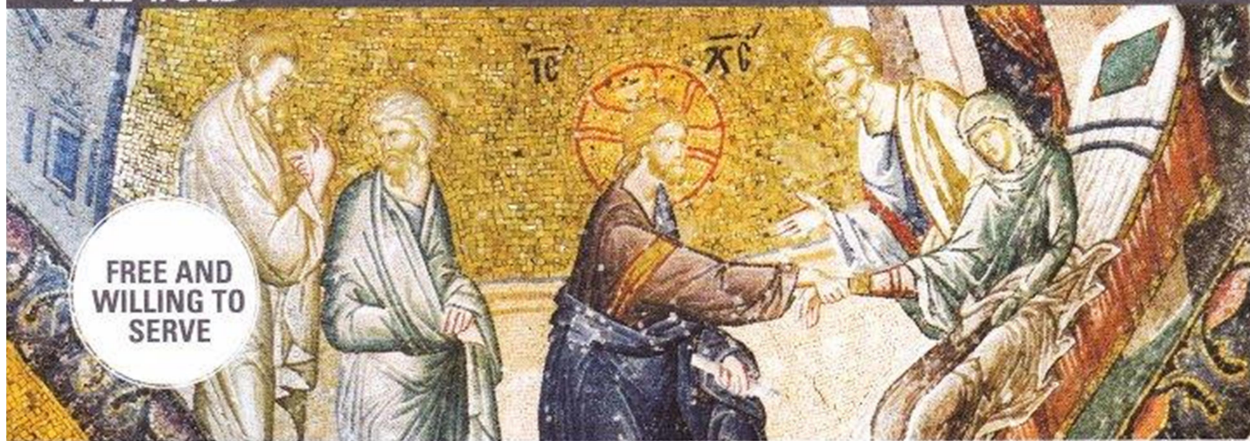
4 FEBRUARY 2018

# Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 1



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

Today's gospel reading falls in to three distinct sections: Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law, a summary statement about healings and exorcisms, then a mention of Jesus going apart to pray and then on to a preaching tour of Galilee.

Peter, James and John are the three disciples present at important occasions, including the transfiguration and Gethsemane. Jesus cures Peter's (Simon's) mother-in-law by touching her and raising her up: her reaction demonstrates discipleship in action which is humble service. James and John will later ask for places of honour, only to be told that for a disciple of Jesus, this means becoming the servant of the others. This is the leadership which Jesus himself embodies and expects of his followers. Peter's mother-in-law also foreshadows the women disciples at the cross who followed Jesus and ministered to him.

In the second section, we find the first instance of a rather curious feature of Mark's gospel. After performing what we might consider a spectacular healing or exorcism, Jesus imposes silence on those who have witnessed it. It may be that Mark wants to avoid the possibility of identifying Jesus as the Son of God or as the Messiah in terms of his having the power to work miracles. The true declaration of Jesus as the Son of God will come after his death on the cross, when there is no further possibility of misunderstanding.

The theme of the disciples' misunderstanding Jesus is introduced in the third part of our gospel extract. Jesus goes off by himself to pray in the early morning, which was a common Jewish practice at the time. Simon and the others track him down, a term which has overtones of hostility. They have not simply come to see where he is. ■

## REFLECT

The gospels present the picture of Jesus the healer, the one who cures all sorts of physical ailments. This he usually does by physically touching the person, laying hands on the sick and grasping them by the hand. Also, the desire of the afflicted person to touch Jesus, in at least one case succeeding in this without his prior knowledge or permission and being healed, all enhance the image of Jesus as someone empowered by the Spirit who brings wholeness into people's lives. This is the meaning of the Hebrew word *shalom*, usually understood as peace. Jesus' healing of a physical ailment is symbolic of the deeper healing of the whole person which he can give. When he says to the person cured *Go in peace*, he is

really saying, *You are made whole*.

We might also reflect that Jesus made time for prayer. The gospel accounts are written not so much for our information: they are also as a guide to being a disciple. When Mark presents Jesus in this way, he is saying that the disciple should act in a similar manner. The purpose of the Christian life, in the end, is union with God. To be a disciple of Jesus means to be in a relationship with the Lord. We may not be able to go off by ourselves, especially if we have family commitments, but we can all try to be more conscious of the Lord as we go about our daily business. Jesus tells us that we do not need to use long prayers: but we can cultivate a sense of the presence of God being in the ordinary affairs of life. ■

## DO

As you go about your ordinary tasks and duties, remember that the Lord is present to you. Involve the Lord in your thoughts and worries: this is what prayer is all about.



## LEARN

Peter's wife is not mentioned in the gospel narrative: but Paul suggests that she travelled with him later in his missionary journeys (see 1Cor 9:5).

The verb used of Peter's mother-in-law waiting on Jesus and the others comes from the Greek term from which we derive the word *deacon*.

The Hebrew term *shalom* (peace) means *wholeness, total well-being*.

Jesus' instruction in Mark's gospel to the demons and others regarding silence is often called *the Messianic Secret*.

## SAY

**Lord, teach me your ways:  
show me your paths.**

**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****4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018****FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary & Michael McIntyrne, cullduff Michael & Bridget Muldowney, Cashelsheenaughane
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Sarah A Rowley, Dublin Road Tom Keville, Circular Road
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Michael & Mary McNulty, Culmore/Dublin Road
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Michael & Anne Walsh & daughter Sadie, Market Street & dec'd Walsh & Philbin Families
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> John & Bridget Collins & daughter Lizzie & grandsons John & Michael & granddaughter Bridget Anne <b>(Padre Pio Devotions after Mass)</b>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> No Intention

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary & Martin Reynolds & son Gerard & dec'd Reynolds, Tolan & Neary Families, Carracanada Jim Ginty, Davitt Place & dec'd Tunney & McNicholas Families
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Swinford:</b> Mary & Michael Regan, Tumgesh & dec'd Regan, Durkan, Philbin & Reddington Families James P & Bridie Durkin & his parents John & Mary, Carnacul

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<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Mary Duddy (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv) & parents Mike & Anne Murphy, Ardhoome Pat Shiel, Clooninshin/Australia
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Meelick:</b> Patrick & Marguerite Sweeney Martin Ryder, Dublin Road & his daughter Elizabeth

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<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Mary & Jack Devine & sons Michael & John & dec'd Family, Tullinahoo Paddy & Annie O'Malley, Cashelbawn
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Midfield:</b> Julia Doyle (nee Reilly), Cashelroyan, (1 <sup>st</sup> anniv) Brid, Michael & Bea Gavin & dec'd Family, Tullinahoo

**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** Jimmy Goggin, Cleveland, Ohio and formerly Dublin Road. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

**We welcome into the Christian community** Donnacha Patrick McGarry, Gleann Darrach who was baptised recently in Swinford Church.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The February meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the Meeting Room in the Parochial House on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8p.m.

**Parish Calendars:** Parish Calendars for 2018 have been ordered from our usual suppliers. Unfortunately, the printing company has had a problem with its printing press since early January. Every effort is being made to rectify the problem and the company offers its apologies for the delay in getting the calendars to us.

**Swinford National School:** Enrolment forms for the school year 2018/2019 are available in the School or can also be downloaded from our website or contact 094-9252055.

**Accord Counselling** professionally trained, for couples & individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationship. Evening appointments, at the Accord Rooms, the Pastoral Centre, Charlestown. Contact, in confidence, 094-9022214 or [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)

**Accord Marriage Preparation:** Courses take place in McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris on March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>; May 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>; Sept 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>; Oct 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> & Nov 30<sup>th</sup> & Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Delivered by Charlestown Centre (Achonry Diocese). Contact 094-9022214 or book online, [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie).

**Anam Cara** the organisation that supports bereaved parents is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Family Centre, Chapel Street, Castlebar. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. As Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for refreshments please RSVP to [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) before Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb or call 085-2888888.

**Lenten Crusade for Life:** Why not offer up your prayer and fasting during Lent for the Protection of the Unborn? Perhaps you may like to say the rosary each day, do some form of fasting or have mass offered for the protection of Life. Starting 14<sup>th</sup> Feb and finishing 1<sup>st</sup> April.

For flyers on the crusade contact 094-9375993 or email [mail@humanlife.ie](mailto:mail@humanlife.ie)

**Go For Life and Bocce games:** for over 55's will be held in the Cultural Centre on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb from 10.30 to 12.30.

**Swinford Community Lotto:** Results for Jan 29<sup>th</sup> Numbers: 07 11 16 20; €70 Local Shopping Voucher Winners: Tom Foy, c/o Melletts; Fiona Killalea, Meelick; 3 Number Winners: Patrick O'Brien, Kiltimagh; Lisa Byrne, Logcurragh; Amy Brennan, Dun Na Ri; Mary Walsh, Kinaffe; Donal McNeela, Ashgrove; Eric Hynes, Swinford K Coleman, Ballydrum; J Muldowney, Carnacul; Jackpot €17,200; Next draw Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**GAA 50/50:** This week's draw was held in Horkans and Michael & Angela Leonard of Moylough, Tubbercurry won €484. Next draw is in Julians on the 6th Feb.

**Barnacogue National School:** is now taking enrolments for the school year 2018/2019, Come along to our 'Open and Enrolment Week', which takes place from 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Feb from 10.00a.m to 2.00p.m daily. Contact 094-9367440 for more information.

**Achonry Regional P.T.A.A:** Annual Dinner Dance will take place in the Gateway Hotel on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. Dinner at 8pm sharp, music by The Duets, Tickets €25 and can be got from Yvonne in Moores Supermarket.

**The AGM of Swinford Agricultural Show** will be held on Monday Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the Gateway Hotel. This is the 30th year of the Show. New ideas and new members will be most welcome.

**Chiropodist:** Martin McNally will attend at the Gateway Hotel, Swinford on Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb from 10.00am. Please note change of venue.

**Swinford Golf/Soccer 250 Draw:** Draw no 5 was held last week and €1000 was won by Michelle & Philip Irwin, Glenamoy, Belmullet; €300 was won by Martin & Maureen Noone, Culdaff, Callow; €200 was won by Paul Benson Sion Hill, Castlebar. There are two draws every month for 12 months. All results available on the Golf & Soccer websites.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Entries are now being accepted for the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade being held on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March. Contact Francis on 087-9909863 or Cathal 087-6412785.

**Swinford A.C:** Hugh congrats to Catherine Coyle who is this week's winner of our 50/50 lotto Draw.