

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A Week 3)

Fr. Peter Devlin P.P. Fr Charley Logue C.C. Mass Times  
Malin Malin Head *St. Patrick's Church - Saturday 6pm, Sunday*  
10:30am *Star of the Sea Church - Saturday 8pm, Sunday 12*  
074 93 70615 074 93 70134 *noon*  
*E-Mail: [malinparish@hotmail.com](mailto:malinparish@hotmail.com) St. Mary's Church - Sunday 9am*  
*Web Site: [www.malinparish.ie](http://www.malinparish.ie) Facebook: Malin Parish*

**Weekday Masses:**

*St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay:* Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 7:30pm.

*Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:* Monday, Tuesday at 10am and Friday at 7:30pm.

*St. Mary's Church, Lagg:* Wednesday at 7:30pm and Thursday at 9:30am.

Parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend one of these 10 weekday masses available during the week. Details on the times of online Masses and Prayers for the Covid 19 Crisis: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>

Month's Mind Anniversary: for Paul Mc Gonagle, Malin Town and Quincy, Boston, on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 10 30am in St Patrick's Aughaclay.

Months's Mind Anniversary: for Vincent Houghton, Carrowmore, Malin on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, at 7 30pm in St Patrick's Church, Aughaclay.

Sincere Thanks to those who have sent in their collection envelopes, cheques and donations for the Parish during the past week. Please make cheques payable to "Malin Parochial".

**Churches Fully Open for Masses:** There is no longer any limited maximum number allowed for attendance at our churches. All parishioners are now welcome to attend weekend and weekday masses. What matters is that all those who do attend, practice social distancing and take the sensible precautions that we are used to taking in every other building. Our churches all have sanitiser inside the doors. Please use that. The requirement for social distancing does not apply to a family sitting together, so families should use one seat together. Other seats will be closed to ensure social distancing. There are also numerous opportunities for parishioners to attend one of the many other masses during the weekdays.

**Messenger Magazine :**The August copy is available free online: [www.messenger.ie](http://www.messenger.ie)

**Parish First Communions:** A decision about possible dates and arrangements for First Communion will be made in early September in light of the covid circumstances at that time.

**1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11** God's word is like rain which fertilises the earth

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23** All creation eagerly waits for God to reveal his glory in us

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

**Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23** The Sower and the seed. The good soil of the receptive heart

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and

since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

#### **This Sunday's Message:**

We celebrate Christ the gardener, who came to sow the seed of God's word in our world. The fate of that seed depends on the type of soil where it is sown. The growth of his grace in our lives all depends on how we receive it. Adding a very hopeful note, St Paul assures us that all of creation is in a state of evolutionary growth, to become all that God wants it to be: his own flourishing “Kingdom”.

#### **The Power of the Word**

Sometimes at weddings or funerals, when I meet former parishioners I'm often surprised at what some may remember. A while back a former parishioner met me at a wedding and told me nearly word for word what I had preached in a sermon over thirty years earlier !! “I remember you saying one time. ..” and out it comes, if not word for word, at least in its general thrust as they heard it. Even merely spoken words can have an extraordinary life-span. Sometimes we remember things our parents said, long after they are gone; their words are not dead so long as we are alive and recall them. What's true of the ordinary word is even more true of God's. That's what's stressed in today's readings. It's put in the strongest of terms in Isaiah who wrote: “The word that goes from my mouth will not return to me unfulfilled, or before having carried out my good pleasure and having achieved what it was sent to do.” The only defence against God's word is inadvertent or deliberate deafness. And being deaf or hard of hearing is something today's Gospel does not recommend. In fact, it urges us to have our ears cocked. But it conveys that message in a different image. It urges us to let the Word fall into good soil, so that it can yield a rich harvest in our lives.

Even though we're meant to hear the readings in church, and even though there's no substitute for hearing God's word, the richest soil for God's message is in the home. The home atmosphere must be right, if it's to be a good place for growth. If space is made for God in the home, if parents pray with their children from an early age, if they treat each other with love, if joining in Mass, as Christ's memorial, really matters to the older people, there is a good chance that the seed will take root and grow in their children's hearts! It doesn't always happen, but on balance, it is the best chance that it will! We forget so easily what was said in church or school. We never forget what happens in the home. The hate and the tension and the fighting, or the hope and the love and the peace. It's the ordinary things that make the impact on most of us, the daily effort, the daily drudgery, the repeated efforts a father or mother make separately or together to think of us and to remind us of God.

It's only when somebody dies and people start looking back that the ordinary daily sacrifices take on a heroic pattern, and people say, “God, she was a great woman” or “he was a great man.” If we receive God's word every day in our lives and try to live it, then we are scattering the seed ourselves for the younger generation and generations to come.

It would be a mistake to give the impression that it's only parents or older people who are expected to receive God's word and live it! God's call comes to us at its most personal and urgent when we are young. That's when most of us felt called to our particular vocations. God's word has fresh soil and a great future when it falls in a young heart. So if you are young, be generous with God. Be truthful and just and caring and good-living. Be faithful to your Sunday Eucharist and give it continued life throughout the week in the great commandment of love. One of the greatest saints the Church has ever produced, St Theresese of Lisieux, “the little flower,” was only twenty-four when she died. What use she made of her youth! She had one great objective: At the heart of the Church, my mother,” she said, “I shall be love.” Make that your own. Make it your personal resolution, your greatest objective, your life-long ambition! At the heart of the Church, my mother, I shall be love.”