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Mass Times  
St. Patrick's Church - Saturday 6pm Sunday 10:30am  
Star of the Sea Church - Saturday 8pm Sunday 12 noon  
St. Mary's Church - Sunday 9am

**Weekday Masses:**

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay: Every weekday evening 7.30pm  
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head: Monday & Tuesday at 10am, Friday 7.30pm  
St. Mary's Church, Lagg: Wednesday at 9:30am

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Malin Parish: Resources, news and prayers: *Website:* [www.malinparish.ie](http://www.malinparish.ie) *Facebook:* Malin Parish

Details on the times of online Masses and Prayers for the Covid 19 Crisis : <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>

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".

**Return to normal Masses Timetable.**

Health regulations are currently being relaxed for churches and places of worship. The latest information will be available during next week on the parish website and Facebook pages. At the moment the maximum allowed inside is 50 people. Our churches all have sanitiser inside the doors. Please use that. The requirement for social distancing does not apply to a household sitting together, so families should use one seat together. Other seats will be closed to ensure social distancing. So long as we implement our own church guidance on returning to Mass and the sacraments and adhere to all public guidance in relation to minimising the risk of spreading coronavirus, whilst maintaining social distancing at all times (in the church grounds, entering the church, during the celebration and exiting the church) we can together ensure that it is safe to attend our churches.

Parishioners are welcome to wear masks in our churches for added protection if they so wish.

Parishioners are reminded that the obligation to attend weekly mass remains suspended so people who are vulnerable or unwell, and especially those with any symptoms that might suggest Covid-19 infection, should stay at home and if possible, participate, as now, via webcam, social media, television or radio. Even with the relaxation of the numbers allowed inside our churches, it is possible that not everyone who comes to a weekend mass will be able to be admitted. The masses in Aughaclay and Lagg will be relayed outside the church building into the grounds around. Please maintain social distancing in those areas also. Parishioners will note that there are 9 weekday masses next week in addition to the 5 at the weekend. That means 14 masses for parishioners to choose from throughout the parish. I would ask those who can, to come to a weekday mass to lessen the pressure on spaces for the weekend masses. Thanks for your understanding and patience during these temporary arrangements.

**28 June, 2020. 13th Sunday, Year A**

In the Eucharist we welcome Christ and are also welcomed by him, strengthened for our journey. With his grace, we try to extend the same welcome to others whose lives touch our own.

**1st Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-11; 14-16a**

A woman welcomed Elisha, recognising him for a holy man of God

One day Elisha was passing through Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to have a meal. So whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for a meal. 9 She said to her husband, "Look, I am sure that this man who regularly passes our way is a holy man of God. 10 Let us make a small roof chamber with walls, and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

One day when he came there, he went up to the chamber and lay down there. He said, "What then may be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old." He said, "Call her."

When he had called her, she stood at the door. He said, "At this season, in due time, you shall embrace a son." She replied, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not deceive your servant."

**Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42** To be a real disciple is to put the spirit of Jesus before all else Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

### Hospitality of heart

Openness to life! Hospitality of heart – These are some of the themes that suggest themselves through the readings of this Sunday. The woman in the first reading was open to life; she welcomed the prophet into her home, was aware that he was a holy man of God, and set about facilitating his mission. In the gospel we, as disciples of Jesus, listen to his words addressed directly to us telling us how we are to open our lives to him, give him pride of place over family and friends even to the point of bearing his cross. Our welcome is to be whole-hearted, and if I am in any doubt as to where I am to exercise this total acceptance of Christ in my life I have only to turn to my neighbour. "He who welcomes you, welcomes me" Nothing could be clearer. Christ is all around me. He is present in my home, at work, in those who pass me in the street.. He is present in myself! In today's second reading St Paul adds his voice to the celebration of Christian life! Through baptism we have entered into the great life of the resurrection. No wonder we cry out with the psalmist in joy; "I will sing forever of your love, O Lord." The beautiful story of the Shunemite woman illustrates the fact that God's word finds acceptance in people's lives through the instrumentality of human agents. Elisha may seem to be an itinerant preacher. It is the woman who detects his mission and makes room for him in her house. Likewise, many a parent makes space for God in their family life by helping a child learn the words of a prayer and by showing respect for the things of God. When I reflect on how God found a space in my life, I will inevitably return to the influence of a human agent. The gospel's emphasis on hospitality is presented in the form of a strange equation: "He who welcomes you, welcomes me."

We may expect, then, that Christ will come to our doors in many disguises and almost always at the wrong time! He may not even be wearing clerical garb! Rather, I may find him hidden in the stranger, the outcast of society, the neighbour, the child needing attention, the sick person.. There are many delightful fairytales of princesses hidden in rags and of princes imprisoned in toads. Every child's eyes light up in wonder at the moment when the disguise is dropped and the truth is revealed. Openness to wonder, to the mystery of Christ hidden in the other: these qualities are often sadly missing in my life. The "cup of cold water" is proverbially quoted as a somewhat dubious sign of Christian charity. Perhaps this is because it does not cost much in rain-drenched climates! In a hot, dusty climate, however, a drink of cold water can be a life-saver. The attitude of thoughtfulness, the lack of self-absorption; these would seem to underline the Christian attitude towards others. It is not what is given that counts but the heart with which it is given.

A legalistic, mathematical mind tends to measure the bare requirement due to the other. This does not make for a happy environment. No wonder that a sub-theme of today's liturgy is joy: "Happy the people.. who find their joy every day in your name" we read in the psalm. The open-hearted person is always happy; there is much joy in giving. Cups of cold water may be translated into a letter, a phone-call, a smile, a word of appreciation. They cost little but how the world today is crying out for cups of cold water! Christ is often wounded and struggling in my neighbour. The image that could be explored by the homilist pertaining to the theme of hospitality is that of making a space for God in our lives. The woman of Shunem had a room built on the roof of her house for the prophet so that he might be rested and refreshed for his mission throughout Israel. She made physical space for the holy man of God. Christianity calls on us to make space for Christ and his message in our lives. Where do I find this space? Is it my time? A small part of my earnings to support the preaching of God's word? Or is it a quiet space in my life where I can turn to welcome the indwelling of Christ in my heart? Mary is the model of Christian hospitality: she made a space in her heart for the Word just as she made a space in her womb for his body. She pondered his words in her heart so that gradually her whole life was filled with his presence.