

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A Week 3)

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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:* Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 7 30pm  
*Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:* No Mass  
*St. Mary's Church, Lagg:* No Mass

Details on the times of online Masses and Prayers for the Covid 19 Crisis: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>  
Anniversary Mass: Bill Coffey, Kilourt on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August, at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head.

Holy & Saints Days: 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August: Monday: *Our Lady of Knock* Wednesday: *St. John Eudes*  
Thursday: *St. Bernard* Friday: *St. Pius X* Saturday: *The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Parishioners are reminded to use sanitiser on entering and leaving our churches, and to practise social distancing at all times. Please do not gather at the doors or outside the church entrances.  
Parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend one of the weekday masses available during the week.

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".

Collections for last week:

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	440	135	100
<i>Restoration</i>	435	140	105

Parish Fund –	€ 675
Restoration Fund –	€ 680

Parish Prayer Day for Marriage and Family Life: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August. One of the things that the virus has not affected is the Continuous Prayer for Marriage and Family Life. This depends only on the willingness and commitment of each of us to spend our hour each month in praying for one another under the headings of Marriage and of Family Life. The focus for August, is the Vocation of Single People. Some Thoughts: We generally think about vocation in terms of priesthood and religious life – and sometimes in terms of marriage. Very seldom do we consider the vocation of the single person. For us as Christians there is only one vocation, and this comes through Baptism. The vocation of each of us is to be a disciple of Christ. This is then expressed and lived differently because of the different circumstances and commitments of our lives.

Messenger Magazine is available free online: [www.messenger.ie](http://www.messenger.ie) The digital version of the September Messenger will be the last issue to be offered free of charge to non-subscribers. From October onwards, the digital edition will only be available to subscribers. A digital subscription costs just €15 per year and we hope you will decide to subscribe if you are not currently a subscriber. The September issue can be viewed on [https://issuu.com/messengerpublications/docs/messenger\\_september](https://issuu.com/messengerpublications/docs/messenger_september)

Cleaners for Star of the Sea Church in August: Eileen McLaughlin, Margaret McLaughlin and Teresa Woods.

The Net – July-August 2020: The July-August edition of 'The Net' will only be available on the Diocesan website at this stage - <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-july-august-2020>.

Honk Your Horn Bingo continues in Connolly Park on Sunday evening. The event is proving very successful with bingo lovers of all ages. The 12 page book cost just €10 with some great cash prizes on offer.

Malin GAA: Adult Football: Intermediate Championship. Red Hughs v Malin in Killygordon. Today Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Lotto: There was no winner of this weeks lotto jackpot of €800. Sequence drawn was 1-2-4-6-5-3-7. The €50 consolation prize went to Jason Mullarkey, Aughaclay. Next weeks lotto jackpot is €850 and as always we would like to thank the local community for their continued support of our weekly lotto draw.

Club Masks: With the wearing of masks in many places now compulsory, why not protect yourself and show your support for the club by purchasing a Malin GAA crested face mask. Masks are priced at just €8 and are available by contacting Susan Byrne.

**Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28** Jesus answers the prayer of a persistent woman and praises her faith

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

*Is God's welcome only for the few?*

1. Not a church of pigeonholes: For office filing purposes pigeonholes are splendid. Bureaucrats love tidy compartments where accounts, applications, drafts etc. can be systematically stored — everything in its proper place. A good office motto might be: No surprises and no disorder! There's a temptation to think of God's grace as parcelled out in a similarly neat, orderly way — as something reserved for the God-fearing elect, the People of God. Historically, many of our Jewish forebears adopted this view, and they (and we!) require the universalist message of Isaiah: God wants a house of prayer open to all the nations. Christians need to remember it too: God wills ALL human beings to be saved; in the Father's house there are many mansions.

2. Blessings of Loss: Our heavenly Father draws people towards Himself in strange, unpredictable ways. Just as in a family the misfortune of one member can serve to unite the others in a new, protective loyalty; or as in business the failure of one concern can direct energy into a new, more productive line.. so the rejection of Our Saviour by the Jews resulted in His more rapid acceptance throughout the Gentile world. It's an ill wind blows good to nobody! Even the lapses and sins of mankind can be turned to good account, says Paul in a profound but difficult section of his letter to the Romans: "God has imprisoned all men in disobedience only to show mercy on all." Our own past sins will not bar us from Christ—they only show us how much we need him ("To seek and save what was lost.")

3. Crumbs in the Kitchen: Why does Jesus want to limit himself to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel?" Was he not concerned for people of other nations, like that foreign woman with the loud voice, who pleaded for his help? She didn't give up; that's the first thing. Second, she found the perfect answer: "Even the pups get the crumbs that fall from the master's table!" Thirdly, her prayer was answered, and her faith warmly praised. But still, what do we make of the initial remark? A popular idiom in Israel, used by Jesus to convey that his primary mission was the conversion of his own Jewish people? Historically, that was his way; first to revive the Chosen People, so that these in turn would furnish a "house of prayer for all nations." However, even during his lifetime He was willing to receive those pagans who came to him; and he predicted that in future "many will come from East and West, and will sit down at table in the Kingdom of God." Notice too the world-wide mission of the disciples, after the Resurrection (Mat. 28:18.)

4. Expanding circles: That's how Christian faith should spread, like the rippling circles expanding on the surface when a stone drops into a still pond. First to the Jews, then to the Gentiles. Always handed on by direct contact, the sharing of trust, the witness of peaceful conviction, the bearing of one another's burdens. But will our path of faith be smooth? Or will there be setbacks and obstacles, objections from people more clever than ourselves, a contrary wind of current opinion hostile to religious belief? In such circumstances, the Canaanite woman offers inspiration, with her iron resolve coupled with good humour and ready wit.