

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 13th September 2020
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A Week 4)

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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 and Friday at 7:30pm

Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:

Monday at 7:30pm, Tuesday at 10am and Friday at 7:30pm

St. Mary's Church, Lagg:

Wednesday at 9:30am, Thursday at 7:30pm

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

Holy & Saints Days: 13th – 19th September: Monday: *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross* Tuesday: *Our Lady of Sorrows* Wednesday: *Ss. Cornelius & Cypria* Thursday: *St. Robert Bellarmine* Saturday: *St. Januarius*

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.

First Anniversary Mass: Maya McLaughlin, Carrowmore, Malin on Friday 25th September at 7.30 in St Patrick's Church

Month's Mind : Cassie McColgan, Lematuder, on Wednesday on 30th September at 7.30 in St Patrick's Church

Anniversary Mass: Eddie Doherty and Robert McLaughlin, Ross Head, on Sunday 1st November at 10.30am in St Patrick's Church.

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>	500	355	133
<i>Restoration</i>	500	350	135

Parish Fund –	€ 988
Restoration Fund –	€ 985

First Communions:

Saturday 19th September 11am Malin Head NS :

Saturday 26th September 11am Uriblereagh NS

Saturday 3rd October 11 am Malin Town NS:

Saturday 10th October 11am Glengad NS

Cleaners for Star of The Sea for September: Marie McLaughlin and Mary McLaughlin

Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living: Drumalis, Larne – commencing Monday, 14th September. Due to the success of last year's course, applications are now being accepted for the new intake of this one-year programme for those who want a closer relationship with God. Living out faith isn't easy against the backdrop of our fast-paced, noisy and instantaneous culture. The Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living course aims to give you the tools and space to become attuned to God's voice in the midst of the clamour. Taking place over 30 Monday Evenings from 7–9:30 pm by Zoom. For further information, please contact 028 28276455/28272196 (Mon-Fri, 9am – 5 pm) or email maura@drumalis.co.uk Details are also available on the Drumalis website - <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>. See Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3JY2IChUU4&t=36s>

National Grandparents Pilgrimage 2020 will be broadcast live on Sunday 13th September at 3pm from the Basilica at Knock Shrine. Grandparents and their families are invited to join online www.knockshrine.ie/watch

The Priory Institute: We are taking registrations now for our autumn online theology courses. The courses are up to degree level and are heavily subsidised by the Irish Dominicans. They could be just the thing as the nights draw in and we look to an uncertain winter. <https://prioryinstitute.com/>

Messenger Magazine is available free online: 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

Honk Your Horn Bingo continues in Connolly Park on Sunday evening. The 12 page book cost just €10 with some great prizes on offer so make your way to Connolly Park and help support both your parish and local GAA club. Proceedings get underway at 6 o'clock sharp, with gates opening at 5.15pm.

Mass Readings Key Message. Forgive one another as we have been forgiven by God.

1st Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7 Our desire for revenge can block us from receiving God's mercy

Anger and wrath, these also are abominations, yet a sinner holds on to them.

The vengeful will face the Lord's vengeance, for he keeps a strict account of their sins. Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does anyone harbour anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? If one has no mercy toward another like himself, can he then seek pardon for his own sins? If a mere mortal harbours wrath, who will make an atoning sacrifice for his sins? Remember the end of your life, and set enmity aside; remember corruption and death, and be true to the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35 The spirit of the unforgiving debtor rebounds on himself

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, is lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Different attitudes to forgiveness

A woman, pushing on in years, boasted to her priest that she did not have an enemy in the world. He was very impressed. What a wonderful thing to be able to say after all those years! And then she added:- 'I have outlived them all'. I suppose if we live long enough we will also be able to make the same statement.

We have all been hurt in some way or other in the journey of life—made fun of in school by a teacher, not invited to the wedding, didn't get the job I thought I should have got, or at a more serious level, betrayed by someone you trusted, abused physically or sexually and so on.

Sheila Cassidy, who was herself tortured in South America, had this to say:- 'I would never say to someone 'you must forgive'. I would not dare. Who am I to tell a woman whose father abused her or a mother whose daughter has been raped that she must forgive? I can only say: 'However much we have been wronged, however justified our hatred, if we cherish it, it will poison us.. We must pray for the power to forgive, for it is in forgiving that we are healed'. Nelson Mandela continually reminded his fellow prisoners in South Africa that unless they let go of their hurts they would remain in the grip of their abusers.

By failing to forgive, we hurt ourselves more than anyone else. Surely this is what Jesus had in mind when he told how the merciless servant was cast into prison when he refused to forgive his fellow servant. I don't think he was suggesting that God would cancel his mercy. He is simply saying that an unforgiving spirit creates a prison of its own. It builds up walls of bitterness and resentment and there is no escape until we come to forgive.

Forgiving and letting go is not easy, especially when the wound is very deep. This is why I call forgiveness the 'F' word, because it's not to be used lightly. Forgiveness is a choice and often involves a three stage process: (1) I will never forgive that person (2) I can't forgive (forgiveness seen as a good thing, but the hurt is too great) (3) I want to forgive and let go with God's help.

Also we must learn to forgive ourselves. Imagine you are responsible for something very serious. You are driving a car with drink. There is an accident and a young person is killed. That life cannot be brought back. For more and more people there is a something in the background, some skeleton in the closet—a broken marriage, an abortion, a pregnancy outside marriage, a broken relationship, a serious mistake. And for many of us we do not believe that there is another chance much less a seven times seventy chances. This is not the teaching of Jesus. God does not just give us another chance, but every time we close a door he opens another one for us.

The Lord challenges us not to make serious damaging mistakes, but he also tells us that our mistakes are not forever—they are not even for a life time—and that time and grace wash clean, that nothing is unchangeable.