

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 20th September 2020
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A Week 1)

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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: 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: 20th – 26th September: Monday: *St. Matthew* Wednesday: *Ss. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) & Eunan* Friday: *St. Finbarr* Saturday: *Ss. Cosmas & Damian*

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 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.

Anniversary Mass: Margaret Kelly, Gortnarrin on Sunday 27th September at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

Month's Mind: Cassie McColgan, Lematuder on Wednesday 30th September at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.

Month's Mind: Bridget Houton, Bree on Saturday 3rd October at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

Anniversary Mass: Kathleen Doherty, Ballygorman on Saturday 10th at 8pm in Star of the Sea 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>	400	195	140
<i>Restoration</i>	395	190	135

Parish Fund –	€ 735
Restoration Fund –	€ 720

Parish Prayer Day for Marriage and Family Life: This Sunday the 20th September, our parish prays for the 24 hours for Marriage & Family Life. Our theme this month is for married people who are separated or divorced. The purpose of this input is to help the people of the parish to think about those who are in this position and to pray for them because they need our prayers and because they deserve our prayers. The parish community can and should play a very important role in helping those who are separated and/or divorced to find their way into health and wholeness. Thank you to all those who have committed themselves to a specific hour of prayer ensuring the whole night and day are covered. Everyone is welcome to participate.

First Communions:

Saturday 19th September 11am Malin Head NS : **Saturday 26th September 11am Urrlereaigh 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

The Net: The September edition of The Net is now available online, on www.derrydiocese.org. As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. There is a 'Remembering Bishop Lagan' feature and a 'Remembering John Hume' article in the September issue. You are invited to read The Net, on the diocesan website, at your convenience.

QUB Catholic Chaplaincy: The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University reopens on Monday 21st September. Our liturgies, faith events and social gatherings are popular with students and alumni. We have a range of groups and societies whose activities appeal to a wide range of interests. Our Chapel, Food Bar and study space are open throughout the academic year. Wherever you are on your faith journey, know that we are here for you. For more visit qubcatholic.org or drop by for a coffee and chat at 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast.

video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=613457662659672&extid=VWuGAapdA2czXP2q>

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.

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9 Turn to the Lord in urgent prayer; for he never ignores the prayer of the humble

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16 The parable of the workers in the vineyard; God welcomes all into his kingdom

Jesus said to his disciples: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Now when the first came they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Only God sees the full picture

The core of the Gospel parable is also in the Isaiah passage: "My thoughts are not your thoughts." Try as we may, it is impossible to justify the payment of the workers in the vineyard in ordinary social terms. It could hardly be said to be fair. Yes, the owner is generous to the last comers, but why is he not generous to the others as well? It is simply that there is no reckoning up deserts when man meets God.

In Our Lord's time Judaism had reached a legalistic state, and the mentality was prevalent that salvation could and must be earned. There were many commands which must be fulfilled, and people were divided into two classes, the righteous who were on the road to salvation by fulfilling the commands, and the unrighteous, outcasts despised by those who kept the law. It was this slot-machine conception of God that Jesus opposed by his emphasis on love, for in love there is no calculation of duties, rights and obligations; there is only an open-handed giving without counting the cost, and a grateful receiving. We can never say that we have earned our salvation, or anything from God, but can only stand suppliant before him. The latest workers in the vineyard have not earned what the owner gives them, and the mistake of their envious colleagues is to think that they can deserve well of the owner.

Devout Christians may find it hard to stomach that someone who repents on his deathbed is admitted to the kingdom no less than those who have struggled and suffered all their lives for what is right. But this would presuppose a commercial attitude of reward and punishments from God, and it neglects the nature of love. The relationship of the believer to God must be personal love, and as such it is its own reward, for it brings its own happiness also in this life. The greater the struggle, the more a Christian turns to God and finds comfort in the security of his love. Also, fidelity through a long life does bring some advantage over a skimpy final conversion, for it may well be that the relationship of love has so deepened over the years that the Christian, faithfully following Christ, has more capacity for the full enjoyment of God's company than one who comes to know God only at the last moment. Here it is not a matter of God giving a greater reward, but of the person being more capable of receiving it.

Of this joyful relationship with God Paul was a shining example. While threatened with persecution he is filled with the joy of Christ. His life is already united with Christ's life, and he longs for the fulfilment of final union. The parable of the vineyard-workers is no blueprint for labour relations, but it illustrates very well Jesus' teaching about grace and mercy. There are consequences to be drawn, and, in *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis wrote: "The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel." (§114)