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## No Weekend or Weekday Masses: (Level 3 Restriction) (Funerals: Maximum of 25 people)

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

**Holy & Saints Days: 27<sup>th</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October:** Monday: *Ss. Wenceslaus, Lawrence Ruiz & Companions*  
Tuesday: *Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael* Wednesday: *St. Jerome* Thursday: *St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus*  
Friday: *The Guardian Angels* Saturday: *Bl. Columba Marmion*

**We remember in our own prayers the anniversaries of our deceased parishioners, since no public masses can be said at this time.**

**First Anniversary Mass:** Maya McLaughlin, Carrowmore, Malin on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.

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

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

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

**Anniversary Mass:** Betty McDaid, Bunn on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Kathleen Doherty, Ballygorman on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Grace McLaughlin, Ballylannon and May Quigley, Paisley on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Eugene McGeoghegan, Muff and Crackna, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Eddie Doherty and Robert McLaughlin, Ross Head, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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>	410	180	150
<i>Restoration</i>	405	180	150

Parish Fund –	€ 740
Restoration Fund –	€ 735

**First Communions: New dates will be considered in light of the Covid situation .**

**Cleaners for Star of The Sea** for October: Pauline Moriarity and Gabie Hume

**The Net:** The September edition of The Net is now available online, on [www.derrydiocese.org](http://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.

**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 prizes on offer, so if you are a regular bingo player or someone who just would like to try something different for a change, make your way to Connolly Park and help support both your parish and local GAA club. Proceedings get underway at 6pm sharp, with gates opening at 5.15.

27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Year A

**Apparent outsiders may be closer to God than their supposed betters. Social or religious standing means little in the sight of God. The dictum "actions speak louder than words" is fleshed out in the parable of the two sons, neither of whom does what he says he will do. Doing good actions is better than speaking fine words**

**1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28** God deals justly with us, forgiving the sinner who repents and rewarding those who persevere.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

**Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32** The parable of the two sons reminds us that good actions speak louder than fine words

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders: “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

### **Reflection on the Scripture Readings: Keeping an Open Mind**

A theme common to all three readings is that of changing one’s mind. Our capacity to change our minds leaves us open to hazard and to hope; hazard when we choose to “renounce our integrity and to commit sin, hope when we choose to renounce sin to become law-abiding and honest” (Isaiah.)

The Gospel story shows us the nobility of a humble change of mind. The first son “thought the better of it.” He was open to change, to better thoughts. The second son was set and closed. The ability to change one’s mind is essential to all healthy relationships. A mind that is closed, whether from pride, stubbornness or stupidity, tends to destroy all relationships—e.g., when we refuse to admit a mistake, when we are unwilling to apologise and change our ways, when we persist in prejudice against a person or group, when we think we know it all.

The second reading, from Philippians, talks of a more specific and positive change of mind: “in your minds, you must be the same as Christ Jesus”, or as an older translation put it, “let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus.” This is the direction in which we must be constantly changing our minds day by day.

Paul emphasises one aspect in particular of the mind of Christ—his humble openness and self-emptying in contrast to the conceited grasping and clinging of Adam: “he did not cling to (or grasp at) his equality with God (as Adam did in Eden) but emptied himself..”

Ever since Adam, we are all born as clingers and graspers. The new-born babe has to have a tight grip, and as we get older the grip often gets stronger. Clinging permeates all of life; we cling to people (possessiveness) ; to things (greed) ; to power and position (ambition) ; we cling to opinions (pride.) At the root of our clinging lies fear and insecurity. The apparently strong person who clings aggressively to set ways or ideas is in reality full of fear. Notice your physical reactions to fright; you clench up and grasp at something or someone, as a frightened child clings to its mother.

In the Buddhist tradition, clinging is seen as the root of all suffering. When you are unhappy, it can be enlightening to pursue the question “What am I clinging to?” It might be an idea, a plan, an expectation, power, possessions, reputation, a place, a person, health, even life itself. All wise traditions recommend a light grasp of everything. Anxious clinging leads to misery. As soon as we begin to relax our tight grasp and let go, we begin to be free and happy. (“Letting go” is a useful modern equivalent for “self-emptying.”)

Jesus did not cling. He knew that reality could be trusted, because at the heart of reality is “Abba—dear Father,” and that underneath everything, even death, are the everlasting arms. So he did not cling even to life, “accepting death, death on a cross.” “Into your hands, I commend my spirit.” May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.