

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 30th August 2020
Twenty-Second 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: 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: 30th – 5th September: Monday: *St. Aidan of Lindisfarne* Thursday: *St. Gregory the Great*
Friday: *St. Mac Nissi*

Months Mind Mass: Agnes Doherty, Crossroads, Malin Head on Friday 4th September, at 7:30pm in Star of the Sea Church.

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>
Parish	315	85	145
Restoration	310	90	140

Parish Fund –	€ 545
Restoration Fund –	€ 540

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=I3JY2lChUU4&t=36s>

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

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/>

Anam Cara Donegal, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Thursday 10th September at 7:20pm in the Raddison Blu, Letterkenny. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. * subject to change in accordance with government guidelines*.

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. **Malin GAA: Lotto:** There were no winner of this week lotto jackpot of €500. Sequence drawn was 4-3-2-5-6-7-1. Winner of the €50 consolation prize was Teresa Bagnall. Next weeks lotto jackpot is €550 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.

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7 Jeremiah complains to God at having to preach such an unwelcome message O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

2nd Reading: Romans Do not follow the social conventions of this world, but try to discern what is the will of God

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Gospel: Matthew The disciple of Jesus must also follow the way of suffering and self-renunciation Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

The Cost of Discipleship

If invited to pick and choose within the Gospels, and form our religion only with what appeals to us, what a cosy, comfortable church we would have! We might keep the stories about Christ’s birth and infancy, his temptation in the desert and his healing miracles. We would include our favourite parables, like the Prodigal son, the Pharisee and the Publican, and of course, the Good Samaritan. But would we leave out that Gospel for today, that hard teaching about renouncing self, taking up the cross, losing our lives for the sake of Jesus? And even if we have not removed those words from our Gospels, do we remain deaf to them in practise, in our lives?

In a way, isn’t following Christ like accepting a friend whom we must accept in full or not at all; welcoming the demands as well as the benefits of friendship? Just as we need to take people as they are, without trying to change them to suit ourselves, so with the Gospel: we accept the whole of Christ’s recorded words, because we trust him and know that his ways are truth.

So what does the Lord want from us? What does he mean by “renounce yourself,” “lose your life for my sake,” “carry your cross,” or (in the epistle) “present your bodies as a holy sacrifice?” Surely these words don’t refer to anything suicidal, to devaluing of this present life, its joys and its achievements? And yet, are these not something more than a pious way of saying: Put up with what cannot be changed? These are questions to revolve in the mind, without expecting any quick or simple solution. If we will allow, God’s Word challenges us out of any complacency with a comfortable, conforming religion. It unmasks our many evasions, our double standards, our desire for “cheap grace” — wanting salvation at cut price, unwilling to involve ourselves in sacrifice.

Perhaps a clue to this demand is in the first reading, in Jeremiah’s extraordinary accusation that he was seduced by God. Letting his prophetic vocation overpower him, Jeremiah was involved in many a thankless task. He had fallen in love with God, so that nothing held him back from doing God’s will, no matter where this might lead. Have we fallen in love with Christ? Are we seduced by him, so as to give to his service all that is ours to give? Wouldn’t that be becoming a living sacrifice?

We might overly focus on the “renunciation” in today’s Gospel so as to miss its positive aspect. All growth, all lasting achievement demands effort and sacrifice. Yet the sacrifice can be a satisfying part of experience, when orientated towards a high and valued goal. (Examples: athletic training; mountain-climbing; studying a language; practising any skill.) So, the self discipline involved in Christian life, and accepting the circumstances in which God places us, contribute to our personal destiny. And we look forward in hope to the great reward of loyal service — when the Son of man, coming in glory, will reward all according to their behaviour.