

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 11th October 2020
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A Week 4)

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Mass Times:
No Masses

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

Holy & Saints Days: 11th – 17th October: Wednesday: *St. Callistus I* Tuesday: *St. Teresa of Avila*
Friday: *Ss. Hedwig, Margaret Mary Alacoque & Gall* Saturday: *St. Ignatius of Antioch*

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

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

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

Anniversary Mass: Eugene McGeoghegan, Muff and Crackna, on Saturday 17th October at 6pm 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".

A Series of Presentations on Mission Today: Throughout October, Month of Mission, the Derry Diocesan Mission Team is offering a series of presentations on what mission means in today's society. Each presentation is free and will be available online through Zoom. They will consist of a short film, discussion on the topic and a chance to ask questions. Guest speakers: Martina Purdy, Elaine Kelly, Noel Bradley, Oliver Barrett and Marriage Encounter Ireland. For further information, visit www.derrydiocese.org

Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry, intends to host the following events in November. Offering a safe welcome back, numbers will be restricted, with social distancing and all Northern Health and Executive directives being adhered to: 'Broken Open': How difficult times can help us grow - a Workshop that will explore the potential for discovering courage, compassion and wisdom even in the most painful of life circumstances. Presented by Fr Hugh Lagan SMA: Monday 2nd November, 9.30am – Tuesday 3rd November, 5pm. Full cost £115 or €125. 'Loss and Recovery': This seminar will explore loss in its many facets and how it is also an invitation to wholeness. "While the heart grieves for what it has lost, the Spirit dances for that which it has found." Presented by Fr Jim Cogley: Saturday 14th November, 9.30am – 5pm. Full cost £35. To book, or for further enquiries, Tel 028 3082 1964 or email sma.dromantine@sma.ie.

"Hope In A Time Of Pandemic": Lecture by Dr Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ, theologian and spiritual director. Hosted by Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, via Zoom, at 7pm on Thursday, 22nd October. This is the first Lecture in the Elizabeth Prout (Foundress of the Cross & Passion) Bicentenary Series. Suggested Donation: £10. For further details or to book a place, please contact Drumalis – 028 28276455 /8272196 (during office hours Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm) or email katrina@drumalis.co.uk

The Net: The October edition of The Net is now available online, on www.derrydiocese.org. As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read The Net, on the diocesan website, at your convenience.

Malin Parish CEP Ltd. Vacancies 2020 – 2021. 2 General/Parish Workers and 1 Water Treatment Operator (Bunn Water). DSP conditina apply. Contact: John Mc Laughlin 93 70605, Danny Mc Gonagle 086 8124 568 or email malincep07@yahoo.co.uk

11 October, 2020. 28th Sunday, Year A

By baptism we are called to the wedding feast in the kingdom of God. But somehow, we need get a wedding garment, to take our place at the feast. While the Gospel invites us to reflect on how we are doing, it is not all our own work, says St Paul. It is God's grace that prompts the good we do. And we can do all things through him who strengthens us

1st Reading: Isaiah 25 **The image of a banquet symbolises the blessings God has in store for His People**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he

might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 God is like a king who invites us to a banquet. Many refuse their invitation

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Thoughts on the Readings: Tomorrow’s World

What does tomorrow hold for us? What is there to hope for? Often our imagination projects into the future. As children, we wondered “What will it be when like when we grow up?” Parents promised new freedoms and new possibilities “When you are older.” Human nature lives in vital tension between the Already and the Not Yet. As adults we may indeed have to trim down and focus our hopes and fantasies into more precise channels, with the passing years. But we are still gripped with interest in what lies ahead—not just for oneself and family, but for the wider society and world. What steps in science and technology lie just around the corner? How will society develop, between now and the year 2050? The changing balance between richer and poorer countries; the unstable marital climate of our own nation; proposed educational changes and law reforms; new employment initiatives; the provision of better medical and recreational facilities—all are subject to our keen analysis and hopeful projections.

Elderly people may ponder more on the past than the future and to dwell on bygone events and treasured relationships. Their looking forward is more often marked with resignation or anxiety than with hope. In the dignity of their mature years, they accept that “Che sera, sera; whatever will be, will be”. And, if they have learned the habit of prayer, they peace-fully leave their future in God’s hands.

Today’s Scriptures invite us all to raise our sights, and our hearts, when thinking of the future. Beyond this present life, God has planned a great future for all of us. Isaiah’s prophecy of the heavenly banquet is an invitation to think of our eternal destiny. There is more to live for than what we see in this present world, interesting and challenging though it is. What really counts, indeed, is whether we succeed in reaching our eternal happiness with God.

Perhaps our predecessors in the faith had a stronger sense of the afterlife than we have today. Like Saint Paul, they believed that history is in God’s hands and that divine justice will have the last say. Difficulties in one’s present life could then be seen as growth-pains, or as a means of purifying the spirit from selfishness and sin. Under it all, the world was “in travail,” in process of bringing a new era into existence. So it was that Paul—and many other men and women of faith—could be inwardly at peace, no matter how hard the circumstances in which they found them-selves. We can “do all things in Him who strengthens us,” if we hold on to the hope of everlasting life.

The eternal banquet must not be abandoned as so much “pie in the sky”! Christians don’t literally expect to sit down to an everlasting meal, an eternal eating and drinking festival somewhere in the stratosphere. While heaven is described in vivid anthropomorphic images, we realise that “eye has not seen.. nor can the human heart imagine, what God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor 2:9.) Still, the banqueting atmosphere of friendly conviviality is a good image for that perfect loving communion with God and with others towards which our lives are destined.

Jesus emphasises that this wedding-banquet is open to all people indeed, that God sends his messengers out to scour the highways and byways in order to fill his house with guests. It is a comforting thought that God wants us to be saved, even more than we do ourselves.

On the other hand, there is a special regalia or wedding-garment that must be worn. This is the level of personal commitment required, in order to accept our place at the wedding feast. I like to think that this refers primarily to community spirit, an ability to share our well-being with other people, in the presence of God. Though founded on faith in God’s creative love, Christian hope retains a strong ethical dimension. Our wedding-garment is therefore being woven daily, by the quality of our interaction with others. In this sense, we hold tomorrow in our own hands, as with the help of God’s grace we build our own eternal future.