

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 4th October 2020
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A Week 3)

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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: 4th – 10th October: Tuesday: *St. Bruno* Wednesday: *Our Lady of the Rosary*
Friday: *Ss. John Henry Newman, John Leonardi, Denis and Companions***

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

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

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

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.

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".

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

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

Honk Your Horn Bingo: Due to the current Covid restrictions within the county, we have put our popular Bingo on hold for the next few weeks. More details will be available through the usual channels in the coming weeks

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

04 October, 2020. 27th Sunday, Year A

The church is the choice vineyard of the Lord, planted for a noble and productive purpose. Here we can grow to maturity in the sunshine of God's grace. But the vineyard can fall into disuse, or fail to produce the expected fruits of loving mercy. We pray that our lives may never be soured by bitterness or disillusionment

1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 Israel is the vineyard God has tended. It is expected to bear fruits of holiness

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed, righteousness, but heard a cry!

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:6-9 We should do whatever is true, honourable, just and right

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43 God is master of the vineyard and expects a proper return from the tenants

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders: "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit."

Reflection on the Readings: Our personal "Vineyard"

Our God is a God who trusts his workers. Just as the landowner gave the tenants a fully equipped vineyard in which to work and produce, God creates the possibilities for work, fruitfulness and success for us too. He provides us with opportunities and resources and trusts that we will make the most of these. Our own, personal vineyards are completely unique. Do we recognise how our lives are moulded by God? Do we recognise the opportunities and resources that God has given us? Have we experienced the freedom and trust that God gives us? Have we responded responsibly or have we responded similar to the tenants at times?

The first reading from Isaiah echoes this truth. The friend of Isaiah owns a fertile hillside, he spades it, he clears it of stones, plants the choicest vines, builds the traditional watchtower, installs the typical wine press and then anticipates an excellent and abundant harvest. What he gets instead are wild grapes. We feel the pain of unrequited love in the second half of the reading of Isaiah. We feel the pain of a broken heart acting out in anger—an earthy, anthropomorphic illustration of the disappointment God feels in his people who have not acted justly and with compassion to the lowly and oppressed.

The social background to the parable

We can read the parable in the social context of the time. Jesus does not necessarily approve of what people do in his stories. John J Pilch (The Cultural World of Jesus Cycle A) writes: "The parable reflects a reality familiar to all peasants, namely, the extortion practiced by hard-nosed absentee landowners. Modern scholars have pieced together bits and pieces of information to gain a better understanding of the situation of tenant farmers based on what is known about peasant free-holders, that is, peasants who were fortunate enough to own and farm their own land. Some of the crop would have to be used for trade to gain other necessities of life. There were also social dues (gifts), religious tithes, and taxes adding up to about 35 or 40%. About 20% of the annual produce would be left to feed the family and livestock of a free-holding peasant. Far less would be left to tenant farmers who also owed land rent."

In addition to this, in the story the landowner shows little concern for his servants/slaves and even for his own son and heir: he too in a different way is dispossessed. All are losers.

And yet the story describes reality, then and now. Injustice leads to desperation, desperation to violence, and violence to yet more violence. The more we have, the more we have to protect. There is a strong message here for society today—and for the church and its leaders. Who delivers the fruit?

With so much violence in the news, our mind could be overcome with the powers of evil. We need what St Paul says: "beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."