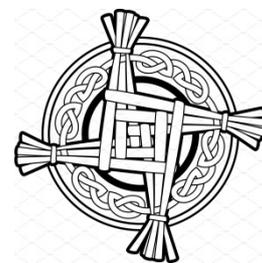


Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 31st January 2021
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B Week 4)



Fr. Peter Devlin P.P.
Malin
074 93 70615

Fr. Charley Logue C.C.
Malin Head
074 93 70134

Mass Times
St. Patrick's Church – No Mass
Star of the Sea Church – No Mass
St. Mary's Church – No Mass

E-Mail: malinparish@hotmail.com

Web Site: www.malinparish.ie

Facebook: Malin Parish

Details on the times of online Masses and Prayers for the Covid 19 Crisis: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>
Feast of the Presentation, 2nd February: Blessed candles are available in Laffertys shop, Village stores Malin town, and Mullins shop.

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". New envelopes are available now January to June 2021 are now available in all churches and from Fr. Devlin. Please use these envelopes for your weekly contribution to the parish.

Parish Draw 2021-2022: Parish Draw Cards are now available from Fr. Devlin. Due to the risk to promoters and parishioners, the parish draw this year will not begin until April. Hopefully by then it will be safe for all. The draw cards will be available from next weekend and promoters will have plenty of time to contact draw members when it is safe to do so. The first draw will be in April and the parish draw will run from April to April in future years. Sincere thanks to our promoters and members of the draw. It is an important part of parish fundraising.

Scoil Cholmcille, Glengad, Enrolment application forms for the 2021-2022 school year are now available from the school's website, scoilcholmcilleglengad.weebly.com or by emailing the school at glengadns@gmail.com or writing to: Scoil Cholmcille, Ballymena, Glengad, Malin, Co. Donegal, F93 N663. The school will cease accepting applications on 8th February. Please inform relations or friends who may not pupils currently attending the school. We are now carrying out a '**Projected Enrolment**'. If you have a child or know of anyone who has a child that may be enrolling in Scoil Cholmcille in the next 5 years, please let us know.

St. Mary's N.S, Malin Head, will commence accepting applications for admission to Junior Infants in Sept 2021 on Monday 11th of January. The school will cease accepting applications on Monday 1st February 2021. The school's Annual Admission Notice is uploaded on the schools website, www.malinheadns.scoilnet.ie. Enrolment forms available online and from school office.

Urbleragh National School - Enrolment application forms for the 2021-2022 school year are available from the school's website urbleraghns.weebly.com. We will commence accepting applications from the 6th January 2021. Completed forms must be submitted by Monday 1st March 2021

Scoil Treasa Naofa, Malin enrolment forms available for Children starting in September 2021. Forms are available from the school from 11th January until 1st February 2021. A copy of the school's Admission Policy and the Application Form for Admission for the 2021/2022 is available as follows: – By emailing treasanaofamalin@gmail.com or writing to: Scoil Treasa Naofa, Drumcarbit, Malin, Co. Donegal, F93KP89

Accord Inishowen Counselling: A professional confidential counselling service is available for couples or individuals through Accord at the Pastoral Centre, Carndonagh. F93 XP59. Contact 074 93 74103, e-mail accordinishowen@gmail.com or book: <https://www.accord.ie/services/marriage-and-relationship-counselling>.

St Angela's College, Sligo: Part-Time Certificate in Religious Education (Primary) with Online Delivery. The course is open to: Qualified primary school teachers; Qualified post-primary school teachers who wish to transfer to primary school teaching. Parents, sacramental preparation teams and parish catechists who have a specific interest in the area of primary religious education may also apply. Closing date for Applications is Friday 14th May. This date may be extended. For further information and application forms contact Mary Kearns, Senior Administrator, School of Education, St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo. Email: mkearns@stangelas.nuigalway.ie or visit Website: www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(1) Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Moses predicts the coming of a future prophet greater than himself

Moses said to the people: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.'

Then the Lord replied to me: ‘They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.’”

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 When Jesus heals the man in Capernaum, people recognise the power of his message

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Reflection on the Readings: The authority that sets us free

We have all had teachers in the course of our lives, at primary school, at secondary school, at third level or in other less formal educational contexts. Some of those teachers we might prefer to forget, but others we remember with great fondness. Some of them had a significant influence for good on us. They inspired us with a love for the subject that they taught and we may have gone on to study it ourselves. They shared some expertise with us and encouraged us to head off in a direction of our own. In today’s gospel the people of Capernaum recognise Jesus who had come to their synagogue as a teacher, and not just another teacher but a teacher who was very different to the teachers they had grown used to, the scribes, the experts in the Jewish Law. His teaching, we are told, ‘made a deep impression on people, because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.’ The people in the synagogue exclaimed, ‘Here is a teaching that is new and with authority behind it.’ This journey of Jesus to the synagogue where he taught with authority and healed a man with an unclean spirit is the first public act of Jesus in Mark’s gospel. According to Mark, Jesus first appeared on the scene as an authoritative teacher, as someone whose teaching, whose word, could deliver people from their demons, from the forces that were oppressing them and leaving them diminished as human beings.

Jesus was recognised as someone who taught with authority. The word ‘authority’ has received a rather negative press in recent times. Various ‘authority figures’ have been criticised, often with good reason. Yet, in Jesus people experienced an authority that they found attractive, an authority that, in the words of the gospel, left them so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. Jesus was recognised as a person of authority because of the word that he spoke and the impact for good of that word on others. Ultimately, his authority was rooted in God, in the Spirit of God that descended upon him at his baptism. The first public words he spoke after his baptism were, ‘the reign of God, the power of God, is at hand.’ God’s life-giving, liberating power was working through him, and, so, he was recognised by others as authoritative. The power of God’s love working through him gave him that authority which people found so attractive and so new.

Jesus defines authority as the exercise of God’s life-giving and liberating power, the power that raises the lowly and fills the hungry with good things, that includes within the community those who have been living on the edge, the power that forgives those who have done nothing to deserve forgiveness. This is the power of the good Samaritan who took care of his fellow traveller even though he was a Jew; it is the power of the Father who welcomed his returning son, the prodigal, who had messed up; it is the power of the widow who in giving two copper coins to the temple treasury gave everything she had. Within the gospel’s vision of life, these are the exercises of power that confer authority. Not all power is worthy of being recognised as authoritative. The imposing figure of G.K. Chesterton, the English writer and wit, was, apparently often seen squeezed behind a table in London restaurants. During one of his literary lunches, Chesterton was expounding on the relationship between power and authority. He described the difference in these terms: ‘If a rhinoceros were to enter the restaurant now, there is no denying he would have great power here, but I should be the first to rise and assure him that he had no authority whatever.’

For us as Christians, Jesus remains the ultimate authority. Like the people of Capernaum, we recognise his authority, the authority of his teaching and his deeds, the authority of his life, death and resurrection. That is why we confess Jesus not just as our teacher but as our Lord. We are happy to submit to his authority, to his lordship, because we recognise that in doing so we will have life to the full, and, like the man in the gospel, be freed of those spirits that prevent us from becoming the person God intends us to be. There can be great reluctance today to submit to anyone. The value of personal autonomy is highly prized and sought after. Yet, it is not possible to live without submitting to some authority even if it is the authority of the self. What matters is to submit to the right authority and today’s gospel suggests that such authority is to be found in the person of Jesus.