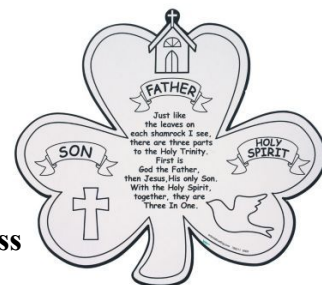


Parish of Malin (Clonca)  
Forth Sunday in Lent

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
( 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](mailto:malinparish@hotmail.com)

Web Site: [www.malinparish.ie](http://www.malinparish.ie)

Facebook: Malin Parish

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

**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.

**BAPTISMS IN MALIN PARISH: BAPTISMS CAN NOW BE CELEBRATED IN THE PARISH WITH A MAXIMUM OF SIX PEOPLE.**

**Reminder! Reminder ! Parish Draw 2021-2022:** Parish Draw Cards are now available from Fr. Devlin. **Returns to the Parochial House Malin on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm.** The first draw will be in April and the parish draw will run from April to April in future years. Sincers thanks to our promoters and members of the draw. It is an important part of parish fundraising.

**Bishop Donal McKeown's Lent Conversations every Tuesday** during Lent at 7pm. Topics include health, homelessness, young people, pastoral ministry and music. Live on the St Eugene's Cathedral Facebook page.

**Knock Shrine:** Exploring the Word of God through Prayer. A series of online Scripture Reflections at 9pm each Tuesday night. Knock Shrine will show a series of online night prayer with reflections on Scripture. Students from St. Louis Community School Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo will deliver this series of talks inspired by Scripture. You can join us online for this new series at [www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live](http://www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live) every Tuesday at 9pm. Knock Shrine are launching a new online series to engage you each Thursday at 8.30pm during Lent.

**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](mailto:accordinishowen@gmail.com) or book: <https://www.accord.ie/services/marriage-and-relationship-counselling>. Accord Inishowen will be hosting a **Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme** (Pre-Marriage Courses) via Zoom on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021. To book online: <https://www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation> or email: [accordinishowen@gmail.com](mailto:accordinishowen@gmail.com) for more information.

**The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre**, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers the Masters in Catholic School Leadership. This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn 2021. If you require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email [tferry@derrydiocese.org](mailto:tferry@derrydiocese.org).

**The Net – March 2021:** Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese. With Covid-19 restrictions still in place, the March edition of 'The Net' will only be available on the Diocesan website - <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-march-2021> However, the publication will be available again in parishes when the restrictions are lifted. Enquiries to – [editorthenet15@gmail.com](mailto:editorthenet15@gmail.com)

**March: Parish Prayer Day for Marriage and Family Life:** On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of March, our parish of Malin prays for the 24 hours for Marriage & Family Life. This is part of a Movement of Continuous Prayer for Marriage & Family Life as other parishes and groups take on the prayer for the other days of the month. To make this prayer continuous, many people in our parish have committed themselves to a specific hour of prayer in such a way that the whole day and night are covered. Just this weekend we celebrated Mother's Day, or as it is traditionally called, Mothering Sunday. So we ask you to pray especially for all mothers during this time.

**This Holy Week, the Priory Institute** offers an online Open Access retreat reflecting on the Passion of Christ. Full details and how to register at <https://prioryinstitute.com/events/holy-week-retreat-2021>.

**Fourth Sunday of Lent: Gospel: John 3:14-21** God sent his only Son, not to condemn but to save us And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

### **HOMILY THEME: LOVE IS ENOUGH Jn 3:14-21**

A businessman visited a farm. He noticed a weather vane on top of the roof of the barn. It was windy, and the weather vane was turning fast. Directly below the instrument were the words painted in large letters: “God is love.” The businessman was curious. There must be some reason why those words were written beneath such a changeable thing as a weather vane. So he asked the farmer: “Do you think God’s love is so fickle and inconstant, like the wind?” “Quite the contrary,” the farmer replied. “It means that, no matter which way the wind blows, God’s love is constant and unchanging.”

The fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday. “Laetare” in Latin means, “rejoice!” In the middle of the serious season of Lent, the Church invites us to rejoice: “Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her” (Entrance Antiphon — Isaiah 66:10-11). This is precisely because of this Good News: God is love, and His love for us sinful humanity is constant, generous and self-sacrificing: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son” (Jn 3:16). If there is one question that can elicit the greatest number of diverse responses, it is the question “What is love?” Each person has his own understanding of love. It has become, unfortunately, the most common victim of what Pope Benedict XVI called the “dictatorship of relativism”. So, what is love, in its real and objective sense?

A four-year-old boy went to the house of a neighbor: an elderly man whose wife just died recently. When he saw that the man was crying, the little boy climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. Later that day, his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor. The little boy said: “Nothing. I just helped him cry.” What the boy did was quite simple – which the world truly needs nowadays: compassion. This word comes from two Latin words: “cum” (with) and “passio” (suffering). So, literally it means “to suffer with”, to be one with people in their sufferings.

Compassion is the most precise expression of love. This is what we hear in the Gospel today: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only and only Son so that all who believe in him might be saved” (Jn 3:16). The world has been in bad shape due to sin. And people are suffering under the slavery of sin and the dominion of evil. God cannot be a passive bystander. He is one with us in our sufferings. So, in the fullness of time, He decided to send His only Son, born of the Virgin Mary, so that he might be one with us and suffer with us. Hence, the most perfect image of total self-giving, and the best expression of perfect love, is the image of Jesus dying on the cross: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:13). That is love, in its real and objective sense. The Greek word used by the Gospels for such kind of love is “agape”.

As we enter the last two weeks of Lent, the Church invites us to hope and to rejoice, as we reflect on God’s self-sacrificing love for us. He truly loves us, despite our being sinful and disobedient, that He is willing to suffer and die for us. This is more than enough reason to smile and rejoice every day. God loves us!

But love is not a one-way movement. In order for love to grow and bear fruit, it has to be reciprocated. So, if God loves us so, what should be our response? It should be to follow the most important command of Jesus at the Last Supper: “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you.” To love should be natural for us. We all come from God who is love. To be greedy and selfish does not belong to our nature. Unfortunately, such is not the case in reality. That is why it is said that while God usually “gives and forgives”, man, on the other hand, usually “gets and forgets”!

As long as we do not obey the commandment of love, the world will continue to be in pain and trouble. As long as our selfishness and greed rule our lives, poverty and shortage of resources are here to stay. As a saying goes: “The world is enough for man’s need, but the world is not enough for man’s greed.” The call and challenge for us, therefore, is to love in the manner that Jesus loved us. It is not easy, though, for it necessarily involves total self-giving and true compassion – to be ready to “suffer with”.

St. John the apostle, the writer of the Gospel this Sunday, spent the last part of his life in exile in the Greek island of Patmos. It is said that when he was already too old, he would just be carried to Church on Sundays. And he would always address the congregation. Each time, his message would be the same: “My dear children, love one another.” After some time, a disciple asked him, “Master, why do you say the same message over and over again?” He answered: “Because it is the command of the Lord. And if it is followed, it is enough.”