

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 25th April 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B Week 4)



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

Fr. Charley Logue C.C.
Malin Head
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Mass Times
St. Patrick's Church – No Mass
Star of the Sea Church – No Mass
St. Mary's Church – No Mass

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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>

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".

Baptisms in Malin Parish: Baptisms can now be celebrated in the parish with a maximum of six people.

Parish Draw: Thanks to all our Promoters for organising the Parish Draw so efficiently. The draw for the weeks of April will be done at the end of the month. There are still a few lines left for anyone who has not yet joined the draw. Contact Fr Devlin .

	€200	€100	€50
4 th April	204 Philomena Gallagher	154 Vinnie+Breedge Kelly	124 Pat+Elaine McLaughlin
11 th April	258 Mary Doherty	136 John G Mc Laughlin	154 Vinnie+ Breege Kelly
18 th April	384 Mary McColgan	304 Maurice Porter	254 Aoife Doherty
25 th April	412 Niamh+ Aoibheann Lockhart	245 Nell Gallagher	235 Anne Kelly

Trocaire Collection: Parishioners are asked to send their donations directly to Trocaire using the Freepost addressed envelope that was in the pack for Lent.. The address is Caoimhe de Barra, CEO Trocaire, Freepost NS244 Maynooth, Co Kildare..

Trócaire Thank you for your support and help during Lent in promoting our campaign to help Awut and Ajak and their communities in South Sudan. I am contacting you with a very special message from Father James. Please share this message to all in your Parish – please pass on this prayer for all of you from Father James. <https://vimeo.com/536423075> With your support, a new day will come for South Sudan. Thank you for not leaving South Sudan alone this Lent. Thank you for not forgetting the people of South Sudan. P.S Thank you for keeping South Sudan, and families like Awut's and Ajak's in your hearts this Lent. You can share this video on your website or social media pages to be sure that it reaches your Parishioners!

St. Vincent de Paul Malin: If you find yourself in need of support or know someone who is in need please contact SVP Malin Conference on 0830989600. All matters will be dealt with in confidentiality. Thank you to everyone who supports the SVP Malin conference **Accord Inishowen** will be hosting a Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme (Pre-Marriage Courses) via Zoom will be on Saturday 21st August 2021. To book: <https://www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation> or email accordinishowen@gmail.com for more information. **Counselling:** A professional confidential counselling service is available for couples or individuals through ACCORD at the Pastoral Centre, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, F93 XP59. Contact 074 93 74103 or e-mail accordinishowen@eircom.net.

Invitation to respond - Diocese of Derry Environmental Strategy: The Diocese of Derry has launched a consultative plan about climate change and the environment and is inviting everyone within the Diocese to read, engage and respond to it. The plan identifies actions and behaviours that support rather than destroy the environment. The suggestions cover such areas as land, buildings, energy, food, travel and waste. A draft of the Environmental Strategy has been posted on the Derry Diocesan website, to view and/or download:

<https://www.derrydiocese.org/diocese/environmental-strategy>. Every attempt has been made to make the Strategy both comprehensive and practical so as to suit each parish's particular situation. In order to ensure that it is as helpful as possible to your various parish communities however, we would appreciate any constructive feedback on it that you may have to give. We ask if you could: - Read the draft Strategy document and give feedback on aspects that you feel could be supplemented/improved. - Begin to implement any aspect(s) of it that you feel can be put into practice quickly and easily. - Draw the attention of both parish groups and individual parishioners to the Strategy and encourage them to give feedback. (This would be especially relevant to schools and any groups/individuals with particular interest in environmental issues). **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Monday, 31 May 2021 Submit your comments, questions and suggestions to Patricia McCormack by: Email: laudatosiderry@gmail.com Telephone/text: 077 1190 0420 Facebook: Laudatosiderry.

Gospel: John 10:11-18 Christ is the true Shepherd; nobody can take away his sheep

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

A very personal relationship

When people go to Rome on pilgrimage, they usually try to include a visit to the Catacombs, the earliest Christian cemeteries in existence. The earliest Christian art is there in the catacombs, in images are very simple and unadorned compared to the art that would emerge in later centuries. Yet these pictures are very striking just because of their simplicity and directness. One of the images of Jesus most found in the catacombs is that of the Good Shepherd. One is in the Catacomb of San Callistus, showing a young beardless man with a sheep draped around his shoulders and holding a bucket of water in his right hand. Clearly the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd that we find in today's gospel spoke to Christians from the earliest days of the church.

The shepherd image in the catacombs appealed to Christians from the start, because it conveys the personal nature of the relationship between Jesus and his followers; it portrays the close personal care that the shepherd has for the sheep. The shepherd has gone looking for the one sheep that was wandered off and having found it, he takes it home to the flock upon his shoulders. There is a bond between the shepherd and this one sheep. That is what Jesus conveys in today's gospel. He declares that he knows his own and his own know him, just as the Father knows him and he knows the Father. It is an extraordinary statement to make. Jesus is saying that the very personal relationship he has with his heavenly Father is the model for the equally personal relationship he has with each one of us. Jesus knows us as intimately as the Father knows him, and he wants us to know him as intimately as he knows the Father. There is a great deal to ponder there. When it comes to the Lord we are not just one of a crowd, lost in a sea of faces. In a way that we will never fully understand, the Lord knows each one of us by name. He relates to us in a personal way and he invites us to relate to him in a personal way. He wishes to enter into a personal relationship with each one of us. I am often struck by a line in Saint Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia, where he says, 'I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me'. We can each make our own those words of Saint Paul. When Jesus says in today's gospel that, as the good shepherd, 'I lay down my life for my sheep', he is saying that he lays down his life for each one of us individually.

The Lord who knows us by name, who gave himself in love for each one of us, also calls us by name. Today is Vocations Sunday. The Lord has a calling that is personal to each one of us. He calls us in our uniqueness with our very particular temperament, our unique identity, the background that is specific to each one of us. No one of us is like anyone else. Parents know how distinct and unique each of their children is. They will all have been given the same love; they grow up in basically the same environment. Yet, from a very early age, their uniqueness becomes very evident. The family is a microcosm of the church as a whole. From the time of our baptism, we are each called to be the Lord's disciples, to follow the good Shepherd. However, the way we do that will be unique to each one of us. The particular way in which the Lord works through us is unique to each one of us. I can do something for the Lord that only I can do. Each person in this church can do something for the Lord that only he or she can do. Each one of us has a unique contribution to make to the work of the Lord in the world, to the life of the church, and that contribution is just as vital as anyone else's contribution. We each have a unique vocation and each vocation is equally significant. Each one of us is vitally important to the Lord. When we each respond to our unique vocation, we give a lift to everyone else. When any one of us fails to respond to that vocation, we are all a little bit impoverished.

The first reading talks about the stone that was rejected by the builders becoming the keystone of the building. There is a clear reference there to Jesus himself, the rejected one. We can all feel at times like the rejected stone, for whatever reason. Yet, we are never rejected in the Lord's eyes. He continues to call us in the way that is unique to us. He sees us as the keystone for some aspect of his work. He recognizes the potential for good that is within us all. On this Vocations Sunday we commit ourselves anew to hearing and responding to the call of the good shepherd.