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**Weekday Masses:**

**St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay:** 7.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 10.00am Tuesday  
6pm Thursday .

**Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:** Monday 10.00am, Tuesday at 7.30pm, Friday 7.30pm

**St. Mary's Church, Lagg:** Wednesday at 9:30am

**Anniversary Mass:** for Louise Colhoun on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm in St Patrick's Aughaclay

**Anniversary Mass** for John Mc Dermott, Glengad on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Aughaclay

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

**Relaxation of restrictions on Public Religious Services: Public Masses resume on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May.** Aughaclay and Malin Head churches will use pods of 50 upstairs and downstairs, with separate doors being used. St Mary's Lagg will use 3 pods with the 2 wings either side of the altar using the sacristy door. All adults are required to wear masks and to sanitise hands on entry and exit. Please avoid gathering at the doors or outside the churches.

**Confirmations in Malin Parish will be held during June. There will be four ceremonies, one for each school separate, on weekday evenings. Dates and full details will be issued through the schools.**

**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".

**Synodal Assembly:** "As you may have heard via the media, the Irish Bishops have decided to initiate a process in the Irish Church, leading to a Synodal Assembly in perhaps five years. The Bishops' Conference plans the next two years as a period of prayer, listening and discernment, involving a nationwide consultative conversation on this theme. Following this, there will be a 3-year preparation for a National Synodal Assembly. Before embarking on the Synodal Pathway consultation, bishops are inviting submissions to reflect on what methods/models to adopt in these coming two years of conversations. Individual and groups are invited to submit ideas as to how the national conversation might best be conducted, what hard-to-reach groups need to be involved. For further information on making a submission go to [www.catholicbishops.ie/synod](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/synod) . Please note that submissions are sought by 23<sup>rd</sup> May and can be made directly online through that website."

**1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10 Peter baptises the household of Cornelius**

On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshipped him. But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-10 Not that we first loved God but that he loved us**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**Gospel: John 15:9-17 Chosen by Jesus, abiding in love** "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's

commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. “If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you.

**Reading 1:** This is a major, defining moment in the life of the early Church. Up until this point, the first years after Pentecost, the Apostles basically preached to the Jewish people and to Greek converts to Judaism. But God had broader plans for the followers of Jesus. Jesus came to save all by his death and resurrection, both Jews and Gentiles. But up until now, the law of circumcision and the precepts of Moses were still the norm, besides baptism.

God leads Peter to enter into Cornelius’ house, a Gentile, something considered forbidden by the Mosaic Law. Prior to this, Peter had seen a vision in which God said that all things are clean. Because of this Peter has a new insight: “God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.”

Then Peter shared the core Gospel message of salvation through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Miraculously, God intervened in a sovereign way. Cornelius and his whole household experienced the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles received on the Day of Pentecost. They manifested the same gifts of the Spirit, praising God.

This was enough for Peter to get the picture from God. He ordered them to be baptized.

When Peter goes back to Jerusalem, the converts from Judaism were upset. First, Peter entered into a Gentile’s house and secondly, he baptized them without first imposing circumcision and the Mosaic dietary laws. Peter explained what he had done was only to follow the lead of God in the matter. Who was he to question God’s plan when the Spirit manifested himself in such a dramatic way, first in a vision, then in the grace of Pentecost.

Sometimes we have a fixed understanding of how things should be done and then God intervenes to show us what his will is in a given situation.

**Gospel:** When God shows us his plan, he does so in love. How does God show us his love? “God so loved the world, that he gave us his only Son, that whoever believes in him will have eternal life.” “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” “The love of God is poured forth in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have manifested their love for us in powerful ways.

How do we respond to this amazing truth of revelation? Love can only be responded to with love: love of God and love of others. Too simple? Maybe that’s the mystery of life. We complicate life and God simplifies it. What happens when we attempt to love this way? First, Jesus says, God remains in us and we remain in him. Love opens us to more love.

Secondly, love moves us to embrace God’s word which gives us a plan of life, enabling us to remain in his love.

Thirdly, love brings joy into our hearts, knowing that I am loved by God for who I am and knowing that I love God for who he is.

Fourthly, love enables us to lay down our life for another as Jesus, in love, laid down his life for us.

Fifthly, love creates a bond of friendship and intimacy with God and others.

**Reading 2:** John continues his reflections on love. He emphasizes truths that we sometimes forget. God loves us for who we are as we are here and now through and through. It is the Spirit of God, given to us in Baptism and renewed in a fresh new way in Confirmation, who is a sign of God’s love within us.

What makes us more like God is love! What separates us more from God is the lack of love. Love is at the heart of our being. A basic human instinct is to be love and to love. The more we are loved, the more we reflect the mystery of God who is love. Our brokenness is related to the lack of awareness of God’s love for us or from the absence of love from others. Our wholeness comes from the healing and renewing power of love.

Accept God’s love, at least in faith, whether you feel it or not. Act on God’s love, at least in faith, whether you feel it or not. Then love will have a chance to transform your life from ordinary to extraordinary, from plain to exceptional, from mere lip-service to concrete reality. And, eventually, perfect love will overcome all fear, which motivated Peter to act in the life of Cornelius.