

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 4th July 2021
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B Week 1)



Fr Peter Devlin P.P. Fr Charley Logue C.C. Mass Times
 Malin Malin Head St. Patrick's Church - Saturday 6pm Sunday 10:30am
 074 93 70615 074 93 70134 Star of the Sea Church - Saturday 8pm Sunday 12 noon
E-Mail: malinparish@hotmail.com St. Mary's Church - Sunday 9am
Web Site: www.malinparish.ie **Facebook:** Malin Parish

Weekday Masses:

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay: Tuesday to Friday at 7:30pm
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head Monday at 10am, Tuesday & Friday 7.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Lagg: Wednesday at 9:30am

Anniversary Mass: Danny McDaid (PJ), Glentoskert, on Saturday 3rd July at 6pm in St Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: MaryAnn and Rodger Doherty, Lowerbraghey on Saturday 10th July at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

Months Mind Mass: Máire Doherty, Umgall, Malin Head on Sunday 11th July at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Patsy Noone, Malin Town on Tuesday 13th July at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Cassie Mc Colgan,,Lematuder, Saturday 28th August at 6pm in St Patrick's Church

New boxes of Parish Collection envelopes for July to December are in the churches. Parish envelopes are the preferred way to support the parish. Please take one box per adult parishioner. Given the serious financial deficit which the parish suffered due to covid your increased support is essential at this time. **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". **Collections for last week: Thank You.**

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	385	205	170
<i>Restoration</i>	385	205	170

Parish Fund –	€ 760
Restoration Fund –	€ 760

PARISH DRAW

	200	100	50
6/6	PAT & ELAINE MC LAUGHLIN	GARY FARREN	MARTIN MC COLGAN
13/6	KATHLEEN KEARNEY	ANGELA MC DAID	ELEANOR FARREN
20/6	NIAMH & AOIBHEANN LOCKHART	MARY T DOHERTY M	MARY HANNIGAN
27/6	NOAH DOHERTY	BRIAN MC LAUGHLIN	OLLIE MC LAUGHLIN

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@gmail.com. **Accord Inishowen** are hosting Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme (Pre-Marriage) Courses via Zoom on Saturdays 18th September, 9th October or 13th November. To book: www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation or email accordinishowen@gmail.com

The Diocese of Derry is hosting its annual 'Come and See' Day for those interested in exploring the life and spirituality of a diocesan priest. This 'Come and See' day is open to those who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood, and will involve talks and discussions, led by local priests and students studying for the diocese, who will share from their own experiences and vocational journey. This event will be held in Saint Mary's Church, Creggan, Derry City on Saturday, 10th July, 10am-4pm followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Celebration of the Eucharist. If you would like to reserve a place or find out more details, please contact: Fr, Chris Ferguson by Tuesday 6th July, on 00 44 (0)79 73421352 or chris_j_ferguson@hotmail.com. Full details are available on derryvocations.org

The Irish Catholic Newspaper is available free in each of our churches. It provides a useful commentary on all important issues from a faith perspective, which is essential to counter the aggressive secularism of much of the alternative media. Please take a copy to deepen your understanding of what living the faith means today.

Gospel: Mark 6: Jesus is rejected by his Nazareth neighbours; no prophet is honoured in his home town
 Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town,

and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

Leaving home

When family members leave home for the first time to make some kind of a home of their own it can be a very difficult experience for all the family. The one leaving will often have mixed feelings, wanting to strike out and become independent and yet feeling the pain of leaving loved ones. Parents will often have the same mixed feelings, happy that their son or daughter is ready to move on and yet knowing that they will miss them very much. In contrast to partings, homecomings are more likely to be very happy experiences for all involved. Yet, homecomings can also be complicated affairs. The one returning for a visit may have changed significantly since leaving home, and those at home may have changed too. There can be certain expectations all round that are more appropriate to how things were in the past than to how things have become in the meantime. Adjusting to the changes that have taken place while the family member was away can be a challenge for everyone.

In today’s gospel, Jesus returns to his home town of Nazareth, having left there some time previously. He had spent the best part of thirty years in Nazareth. During that time he was known by all as the carpenter, the son of Mary. However, since leaving Nazareth, Jesus’ life had taken a new direction. He had thrown himself into the work that God had given him to do. He had left Nazareth as a carpenter; he returned as a teacher and a healer. There was in fact much more to Jesus than his own townspeople had ever suspected while he was living among them. The gospel suggests that they could not accept this ‘more’; they rejected him. They wanted him to be the person they had always known; they would not allow him to move on from that. Jesus’ homecoming turned out to be more painful than his leaving home. God’s unique Son who proclaimed the presence of God’s kingdom was experienced by the people of Nazareth as a thorn in the flesh, to use an image from today’s second reading.

The people of Nazareth thought they knew Jesus. The image they had of him, which they held on to with great tenacity, became a block to their learning more about him. We too can easily assume that we know someone, when, in reality, we only know one side to them. We can form strong opinions about people on the basis of past experiences. We can become so attached to these opinions that even when the evidence is there to challenge them, we are completely unmoved. There was more to Jesus than the people of Nazareth were aware of. Indeed there is always more to every human being than we are aware of. That is true even of those we would claim to know well, such as family members and good friends. We are each made in God’s image. There is a profound mystery to each one of us. We can never fully probe the mystery of another person’s life. We each need to approach everyone with the awareness that there is more here than I can see. It was Jesus’ very ordinariness that made it difficult for the people of Nazareth to see him as he really was, in all his mystery. God was powerfully present to them in and through someone who was as ordinary, in many respects, as they themselves. God continues to come to us today in and through the ordinary, in and through those who are most familiar to us. In the religious sphere there can be a certain fascination with the extraordinary and the unusual. The gospels suggest that the primary way the Lord comes to us is in and through the everyday. This is what we mean by the incarnation. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The ordinary is shot through with God’s presence.

The Lord can even come to us in and through what we initially experience as something very negative. St Paul made this discovery for himself, according to our second reading today. He struggled with what he called a thorn in the flesh. It is not easy to know what he means by this. Whatever it was, Paul wanted to be rid of it. He saw no good in it and he prayed earnestly to the Lord to take it from him, fully expecting that his prayer would be heard. Paul’s prayer was answered, but not in the way he had expected. In prayer he came to realize that God was powerfully present in and through this thorn in the flesh. When we find ourselves struggling with something inside ourselves or with something outside ourselves, some person perhaps, we can be tempted to see the struggle as totally negative and just want to be rid of it. Like Paul, however, we can discover that this difficult experience is opening us up to God’s presence. The very thing we judge to be of little or no value can create a space for God to work powerfully in our lives. There is something of a paradox in what Paul hears the risen Lord say to him, ‘My power is at its best in weakness.’ It is often when we most feel life as a struggle that God can touch our lives most powerfully and creatively.