

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 22nd August 2021
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B Week 4)



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

Memorial Mass and burial of Ashes: Denis McLaughlin, Leiter, on Wednesday 25th August at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.

First Anniversary Mass: Paddy Mc Laughlin, Muff, Culdaff on Friday 27th August 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.

First Anniversary Mass: Bobby Monagle, Manchester/Dunegard, on Saturday 18th September at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

Anniversary Mass: Moya Mc Laughlin, Carrowmore on Saturday 25th September at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

Anniversary Mass: Kathleen Doherty, Ballysallagh, Glengad on Sunday 26th September at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

Anniversary Mass: Margaret Kelly, Gortnarrin, on Sunday 3rd October at 10 30am in St Patrick's Church

Parish Collection: Given the serious financial deficit which the parish suffered due to Covid your increased support is essential at this time. 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>	400	230	155
<i>Restoration</i>	400	230	150

Parish Fund –	€ 785
Restoration Fund –	€ 780

Weddings in Malin Parish in 2022 and 2023: Please contact Fr. Devlin to ensure that all proposed wedding details are in the Parish Diary.

Scoil Treasa Naofa, Malin, has developed an ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) special class. The school cherishes children of different abilities and feels the integration of children where possible, is beneficial for all children. In a unit setting, children access the curriculum with hands on and sensory activities. A Speech and Language Therapist has recently joined the staff to complement its staff resources. The school welcomes pupils from all areas.

Malin Parish and Malin GAA, "Honk Your Horn Bingo" at 6pm in Connolly Park on Sundays.

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 Saturday 13th November. To book:

www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation or email accordinishowen@gmail.com for more information.

Study Theology Online, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register now for Autumn 2021. Find out more on our website, prioryinstitute.com

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Gospel: John 6:60-69 **When many turn away from Jesus, his friends must choose**

When they heard his doctrine, many of his followers said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe."

For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Minorities can be right

In our culture success can often be a game of numbers. A successful television programme is one that has a very large viewing audience. If the numbers watching declines, the programme is in trouble. Democracy is based on majority vote. The candidate with the most votes gets elected. Every political party is anxious to maximize their vote on election day. In all kinds of ways, numbers matter in our society. The schools with the biggest number of graduates going on to University are considered the better schools. If some event that is organized only attracts a small crowd it is considered a failure.

The gospel suggests that Jesus was not too concerned about numbers. The gospels for the last four Sundays have been taken from chapter 6 of John's gospel where Jesus speaks of himself as the Bread of Life and of the need to eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have life. In today's gospel some of Jesus' own disciples express their unease with this language. 'This is intolerable language', they say, 'How could anyone accept it?' Jesus is portrayed in that reading as being very aware that some of his followers were complaining. Yet, he did not make any effort to soften his teaching in order to hold on to his numbers. Rather, he insists that the words he has been speaking, all his words, are spirit and life. As a result, the gospel tells us that 'many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.' Jesus suddenly lost a whole swathe of his following. From the perspective of the culture of the time and of our own culture he was suddenly less successful. According to the gospel, Jesus even turned to the Twelve apostles, his core group, and asked them, 'What about you? Do you want to go away too?' He was prepared to suffer a haemorrhage from that core group rather than compromise on the teaching that he had given. It seems that numbers were not important to him. What was important to him was proclaiming the truth as he had heard it from God his Father. On this occasion Jesus held onto the Twelve. Peter, their spokesperson, grasped the moment to declare their faithfulness to Jesus, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life.' Yet, Jesus would go on to lose even some the Twelve. At the time of his passion Judas betrayed him and Peter denied him. If success is to be measured by numbers, by the end of his earthly life, Jesus was a total failure.

The whole life of Jesus shows that the value of something does not bear any necessary relation to the number of people who support it. Popularity does not necessarily show where truth is to be found. We can be tempted to think that if a lot of people reject some viewpoint that, therefore, it must be wrong. Numbers are not everything. We follow Jesus not because he was or is popular but because, in the word of Peter in the gospel, we recognize that he has the message of eternal life, or in the language of Jesus himself in that same reading, we acknowledge that the words that he speaks are spirit and life. We will find some of his teaching very challenging. We may be tempted to say, in the words of some of the disciples, 'This is intolerable language. How can anyone accept it?' We may not be troubled so much by his identification of himself as the Bread of Life or his call to eat his flesh and drink his blood. It may be some other aspect of his teaching, perhaps his challenging words in the Sermon on the Mount, to love our enemies, to pray for those who persecute us. Some people react negatively to some of Jesus' parables. They feel sorry for the older son in the parable of the prodigal son and for the men who worked all day and who got the same wages as those who worked for the last hour in the parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. It should not surprise us when we find ourselves struggling with some of what Jesus says. In the language of the prophet Isaiah, God's thoughts are not our thoughts; God's ways are not our ways. It has been said that Jesus comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable. We all need Jesus to do both for us. We need his comforting and sustaining presence when we are afflicted, but sometimes we need his disturbing presence in our comfort.

The teaching and the life of Jesus will always challenge us at some level of our being. There may even be times when we will feel like walking away from it. That is why it is so important for us to keep renewing our response to the Lord's presence and invitation. The Eucharist is the primary moment when we commit ourselves again to the Lord's vision for our lives; it is our weekly opportunity to make our own those words of Peter in today's gospel, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life.'