

**Parish of Malin (Clonca)      Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**  
**Thirtieth-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B Week 3)**

**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](mailto:malinparish@hotmail.com)                                      St. Mary's Church - Sunday 9am  
**Web Site:** [www.malinparish.ie](http://www.malinparish.ie)      **Facebook:** Malin Parish



**Masses: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November Feast of All Saints**

**St. Patrick's Church, Aghaclay:**                                      Monday at 10:30am and 7.30pm  
**Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head**                                      Monday at 12 Noon, and 8pm  
**St. Mary's Church, Lagg:**                                      Monday at 9am

**Weekday Masses: Tuesday is All Souls, Commemoration of the Faithful Departed**

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

**Month's Mind Mass:** Margaret Houton, Portaleen on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in in St. Patrick's Church.

**Month's Mind Mass:** Willie Mc Laughlin (white paddy) Carrowmore, Malin.on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 9am in St Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Eddie Doherty and Robert Mc Laughlin, Ross Head, on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Liam Doherty, Killourt on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 12noon in Star of the Sea Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Annie and Eugene Doherty and Family, Leiter, on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 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>Aghaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	505	255	145
<i>Restoration</i>	500	250	145

Parish Fund –	€ 905
Restoration Fund –	€ 895

**Relaxation of Covid Restrictions.** It is recommended that masks are still worn inside Church.

**LAUDATOSI - PRAYERS FOR SUCCESS OF COP26:** On Sunday, 7th November, Bishop McKeown will offer Mass in St. Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, for the success of the proceedings at COP26. Each parish, each school, each home - united with people of faith throughout the world - are invited to pray for our world at this time.

**Malin Parish Bingo** will resume in the Parochial Hall on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30pm. All are welcome.

**Malin Parish Auction** will be held as soon as the Committee considers it safe to do so. This year there will be no suites of furniture accepted, in order to maximise space in the hall, and to ensure the safety of those attending the auction.

**Malin Parish CEP** is recruiting the following workers: 1 Administrator, 2 General Workers, 1 GAA Coach Assistant. . Full details from Danny McGonagle, 0868124568,

**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](mailto:accordinishowen@gmail.com). Accord Inishowen are hosting Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme (Pre-Marriage) Courses via Zoom on Saturdays 29<sup>th</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 12<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022. To book: [www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation](http://www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation) or email [accordinishowen@gmail.com](mailto:accordinishowen@gmail.com) for more information.

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend** 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November, hosted by Catholic Marriage Encounter: Restore Communication, Renew Commitment and Rekindle Romance. This is an online experience, starting on Friday evening at 8pm and ending on Sunday afternoon at 2:30pm. Full details on: <https://www.marriageencounter.ie>

**Gospel: Mark 12:28-34      Which commandment is the first of all?**

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to

him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself,’-this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

### **With all your heart**

At first sight, today’s gospel seems to contain nothing new or startling that was not already known by the Jews of the Old Testament. Indeed the words, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind,” were words written on the heart of every Jew, and to this day they form part of the daily prayer a devout Jew is required to say. This prayer is referred to as the Shema, because it begins with the Hebrew words, “Shema Yisrael,” meaning “Listen Israel.” “Listen Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord,” and it continues with the words just quoted. And yet, there is a certain paradox about today’s gospel reading, in that it tells us that love of God is realised by our love for each other.

In other words, our love of God is illusory if it stops short with God, if it does not result in our loving each other, reaching out to everyone without exception, even our enemies. But then, a word of caution, love of neighbour, if it is divorced from love of God, can well become refined self love. For one can easily end up loving others purely for the response one gets from those loved, for the feeling of satisfaction and self-gratification one derives from being generous and kind to them. A Jewish Rabbi, named Hillel, a renowned scholar, a spiritual and ethical leader of his generation, who had a great following just before the birth of Christ, when asked, “Which is the greatest commandment?,” gave the famous reply, “What you hate for yourself, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole law; the rest is commentary.”

Jesus, however, stated that love of God linked with love of neighbour jointly form the greatest commandment. Commenting on that, the advice of St Augustine was, “Love God first, and then do what you will,” meaning that if we love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, then we cannot but be obedient to his will, which wants others to share in that love. St John, the evangelist, who saw all the events of Christ’s life on earth in terms of love, and kept preaching about this virtue to the early Christians, to the extent that they became wearied of it, and asked him to talk about something else, St John in his first letter puts it forcibly like this, “Anyone who says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, is a liar, for how can a man who does not love the brother that he can see, love God whom he has never seen. So this is the commandment that he has given us, that anyone who loves God must also love his brother” (1 Jn 4:20f).

If we embrace this commandment, if we try and put it into practice, as did the saints, then we will be doing something which is truly radical, which to the non-Christian outsider will often be seen as odd, a seeming contradiction, difficult to understand. These seeming contradictions abound in our faith. For we believe that life comes from death, that gain comes from loss, that receiving comes from giving, and that Christ had to die and come to life again that we might share a new life with him in heaven. We profess to be followers of Christ, who made a complete offering of himself to the Father – “Not my will but yours be done” – who gave his life, his energies, his time in the service of others, who returned to his Father devoid of any earthly goods – the clothes he had worn ceasing to be his before he yielded up his spirit, having been made over by lots into the possession of his executioners.

All this does not imply that we have to tread exactly the same path as Christ. What it does indicate, however, is that our surrender to God does not mean that we retreat into a paradise of unreal spirituality. It means that if we love God, then we have to concern ourselves with others, with the members of our family and community. It means that we must rise above ourselves, and our own interests, and become convinced from Christ’s words that St Paul has given us, that “there is greater happiness in giving than in receiving” (Acts 20:35).

“The world is too much with us,” the poet Wordsworth wrote, “late and soon, getting and spending, we lay waste our powers.” We pass this way but once, and while we are on our way let us do as much good as we possibly can with our God-given powers, the gifts that each of us has, in serving God and others. But always keep in mind as well the promise of Jesus (Jn 15:5), “Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty,” and because of the presence of Jesus, this fruit will last.