

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 6th February 2022
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C 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 and Friday at 7:30pm
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:	Monday at 10am and Friday at 7:30pm
St. Mary's Church, Lagg:	Wednesday at 9:30am

Anniversary Mass: William Doherty, Leiter on Tuesday 8th February at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: John Mc Gilloway, Lower Braghey on Sunday 13th February at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Frank Hasson on Sunday 20th February at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: John Mc Laughlin, Ballylannon and Greencastle, on Sunday 20th February at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Billy Farren, Glentoskert on Saturday 5th March at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Thomas and Sadie Gallagher, Magherard on Sunday 13th March at 9am in St. Mary's.
First Anniversary Mass: John McDermott, Bunn Glengad on Saturday 9th April in St Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Rose Gallagher, Francistown, on Saturday 30th April at 6pm 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". Envelopes for the Parish Collection are available in all churches. **Collections for the last week: Thank You.**

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	565	165	195
<i>Restoration</i>	560	165	190

Parish Fund –	€925
Restoration Fund –	€915

CONFIRMATION : SATURDAY 14TH MAY AT 12 NOON IN ST PATRICK'S AUGHACLAY

FIRST COMMUNION MALIN TOWN AND GLENGAD. SATURDAY 7TH MAY 12 NOON

FIRST COMMUNION MALIN HEAD AND URBALREAGH, SATURDAY 21ST MAY 12 NOON

SYNOD: Rome 2023. Pope Francis has asked that every parish throughout the world participate in a consultation on the living of our faith and how we can respond to the challenges of our times. Please take one of the yellow pages giving fuller details of this process and how we can join in his call to renewal and faith. See also on Malin Parish and Derry Diocesan website/synod.

Scoil Treasa Naofa, Malin, Scoil Cholmcille, Glengad, Urblereagh National School and Scoil Naomh Mhuire, Malin Head, now have application forms for admission in Sept. 2022. Contact schools for details.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 Awed by the miraculous catch of fish, Peter is called to follow Christ.

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were

James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The ones I want

Jesus has begun to draw followers, whom he will inform, and eventually transform, so they can continue his mission when he returns to his Father. Today’s gospel presents a beautiful and simple picture. There is something special about a lakeside, and the presence of the odd fishing boat makes it even more attractive. By now, Jesus had begun to attract crowds, who gathered to listen to his message; and this was in the days before megaphones or public address systems! The nearest thing to a pulpit he could find was a boat, and by pulling out a bit from the shore, his voice would carry much better on the water, and give his space from the pressing crowds.

The next scenario is both simple and central. Peter was disappointed, without even one fish to show for his work, and so the scene was set for a miracle. As usual with Jesus, the outcome was abundant, “pressed down and flowing over” as with the wine at Cana, or the baskets of loaves and fish left over after everyone had been fed. Then Peter was his impulsive self and asked Jesus to leave him, because he was a sinful man. That must surely have brought a smile to the face of Christ, because it was precisely to draw such sinful people to himself that he had come. So Jesus ignored Peter’s remark, and instead invited Peter and his friends to join him full-time in the mission he was undertaking. There was something magnetic about Jesus, and, immediately, they abandoned ship, and set off down the road with him.

Christianity is more about attracting than promoting. Throughout history, we read about founders of religious communities and orders. These were people with a vision, dynamic, filled with zeal, and had a powerful sense of mission. Their enthusiasm was highly contagious! Such people always attract attention, and this leads to attracting followers. In our own time we have seen aberrations in the form of cults, based on mind control, that led hundreds to their deaths through suicide pacts. It is the duty of leaders to lead, but they should also know where they’re going. Like Moses headed for the Promised Land, Jesus was totally open and definite in the direction of his life. He came to do the Father’s will, and he was led by the Spirit. Thank God for the many wonderful leaders and founders with which the Lord has provided us down the centuries. Thank God, for the many such people who are alive and active among us today.

Today’s Gospel presents Jesus as teaching rather than preaching. The art of teaching is to bring the learner from the known to the unknown. Jesus speaks of fish, of sheep, of vines, of trees, of water, etc., all of which would be there within the view of his listeners. The Acts begins by telling us that Jesus came to do and to teach. A cynic described education as a process in which information is transferred from the notebook of the teacher to the notebook of the student, without having passed through the heads of either! Jesus spoke and taught from the heart, and what comes from the heart of the speaker always reaches the heart of the listener. In himself, Jesus was the message, and that was what gave weight and power to his words.

Was Peter wrong when he judged himself unfit and unworthy to be in the presence of Jesus? He did not yet grasp that Jesus came to call sinners. What Peter should actually have said was, “Lord, stay with me, because I am a sinful man.” Sometimes our church has not been good in its dealing with sinners. What with emphasizing hell-fire and condemnation, sinners were left in no doubt that they did not belong at the Eucharistic table! The message often came across as “Depart from us, for you are a sinful person.” Thankfully, under Pope Francis’ inspirational leadership, we are reminded of the mind and the message of the Jesus who came to seek out sinners and bring them safely home. If he had a hundred sheep, and one went astray, he would leave the ninety-nine to go after the one that is lost. This message is central to the Year of Mercy proclaimed by the Holy Father.

Peter’s prayer could have been, “Lord, please stay with me, BECAUSE I am a sinner. Don’t ever leave me, because, apart from you, I’m lost.” Indeed, the whole message of Jesus is to reassure sinners that he is always there for them. Peter was well aware of his brokenness, and several later episodes confirmed that fact. It is significant that Jesus made Peter head of the apostles. The principle of evangelising is that one sinner tells another the good news, just as with Alcoholics Anonymous, where one recovering alcoholic helps another to sobriety.

So many of us could come up with some instance in our lives, when, like Peter, we have tried hard and caught nothing. This could be anything from an addiction, to resentment, an inability to forgive, to a scar of mind or memory, which has never healed. This has the potential for a miracle, if I am willing to hand it over. Let go, and let God. There is nothing impossible with God.