

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 20th March 2022
3rd Sunday of Lent (Year C Week 3)

Fr. Peter Devlin P.P. Malin 074 93 70615 E-Mail: malinparish@hotmail.com Web Site: www.malinparish.ie	Fr. Charley Logue C.C. Malin Head 074 93 70134	Mass Times St. Patrick's Church - Saturday 6pm Sunday 10:30am Star of the Sea Church - Saturday 8pm Sunday 12 noon St. Mary's Church - Sunday 9am Facebook: Malin Parish
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Station of the Cross at 6pm in *St. Patrick's Church* – today Sunday 20th March. *St. Mary's Church* – Sunday 27th March. *Star of the Sea Church* – Sunday 3rd April.

Weekday Masses:

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay:	Tuesday and Thursday 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 9am

Anniversary Mass: Mary Anne & Roger Doherty, Lower Braghy on Saturday 19th March at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Ellen Nora Doherty, Bree on Saturday 26th March at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Susan McAvenue, Easkey on Sunday 27th March at 12noon in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Ellen Mc Laughlin, Cullourde on Friday 8th April at 7:30pm in Star of the Sea Church.
First Anniversary Mass: John McDermott, Bunn Glengad on Saturday 9th April at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Noreen Mc Gonagle on Sunday 10th April at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Rose Gallagher, Francistown, on Saturday 30th April at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Bill Monagle, Donegard, on Saturday 30th April at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Isabella Mc Laughlin, Lower Braghy on Sunday 8th May at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Louise Colhoun on Friday 13th May at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Michael Deery, Keenagh on Saturday 4th June at 8pm in Star of the Sea 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>	490	230	205
<i>Restoration</i>	490	225	205

Parish Fund –	€925
Restoration Fund –	€920

March: Parish Prayer Day for Marriage and Family Life: today Sunday 20th March, our parish of Malin prays for the 24 hours for Marriage & Family Life. This is part of a Movement of Continuous Prayer for Marriage & Family Life as other parishes and groups take on the prayer for the other days of the month. To make this prayer continuous, many people in our parish have committed themselves to a specific hour of prayer in such a way that the whole day and night are covered.

The Parish Draw begins again in April. Promoter Cards are available NOW from Fr. Devlin in the Parochial House. Thanks to all our promoters and members for your continuing support. Promoters are asked to make returns on Monday 28th March. The draw costs 35 euros for 6 months and 70 euros for the year.

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. The yellow pages give 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..

The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, London, offers the **Masters in Catholic School Leadership**. This is a post-graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The Derry Centre to date has 42 graduates and 30 more students at different stages of the programme. Applications for the Autumn intake close 30th September 2022. If you require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org
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 9374103 or e-mail accordinishowen@gmail.com. Accord Inishowen are hosting **Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme (Pre-Marriage) Courses** via Zoom for 2022. To book: www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation or email for information accordinishowen@gmail.com.

Trocaire is delighted to offer its Lenten workshops this year again. Please register so we have knowledge of numbers attending. You can register here on this link for our workshops- <https://forms.gle/jbb8mxLt8t1NpSzU8>. In preparation for these workshops- please have a look at our resources for Lent on our parish page; <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/lent-2022/>
The Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 3rd – 8th July 2022. Cost: £689 per person sharing, €150 with single room supplement. Price includes flights, transfers and full board. The pilgrimage will be suitable for pilgrims who do not require medical, nursing or personal assistance which cannot be provided this year. The intentions of the sick can be taken to Lourdes. The Pilgrimage Office, 164 Bishop Street, Derry, will be open for enquires and application forms on Thursdays and Saturdays, 11am – 1pm, from 3rd March. Tel: 028 71 260293 or email derrypilgrim@outlook.com.

Are you between the age of 16 and 18? You are invited to join the Pope John Paul II Award Youth Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on Tuesday, 22nd March. Join youth from all over Ireland in a day of prayer, talks and music. Guest speaker will be Fr. Peter McVerry of the Peter McVerry Trust. Music by Elation Ministries. The pilgrimage will start at 11am and will conclude after 2:30pm Mass, celebrated by Award patron, Bishop Donal McKeown. For transport information contact your local secondary school or the Derry Youth Ministry office on 00 44 (0)28 7126 4087 or email lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org.

Malin GAA is looking to source land in the Malin Parish or the surrounding areas to develop a training ground. If anyone is selling or leasing land long term, can they contact the Club Secretary: Brendan Monagle on 086 3777 015.

Glengad Community Centre: Kids Drama classes running in the centre on Tuesday evenings by Réalta Academy of Speech and Performance. Contact Bernie for further details 086 882 7323. **On Saturday 2nd April** Glengad Community Association and Malin Head Community Association together with Wild Alpaca Way are holding a day of fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease and PIETA HOUSE in support of the National Campaign #climbwithcharlie. First walk 10am from the bottom of the Crua Mountain, Glengad, all the way to the top, with the Alpacas leading the way. Take in the spectacular panoramic views overlooking the Atlantic, Inistrahull Island, North Inishowen and as far as the Western Isles of Scotland. Second walk 3pm on Knockamany Bens, Malin Head, again led by the Alpacas to the top. Enjoy more spectacular views of the Atlantic, Glashedy Island, Banba's Crown, all the beautiful peninsulas of North Donegal and Tory Island. Donation buckets will be available at the events on the day and in Lafferty's shop, Glengad, Malin Post Office, and Seaview Stores, Malin Head. Please wear appropriate footwear and high viz. For any further information please contact Glengad Community Association on 086 0675 914 (Mairéad), Malin Head Community Association on 074 93 70478 or Wild Alpaca Way 086 1789 955 (Sheila). No need to register... just turn up.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 *The Lord of the vineyard offers us ample chance to bear fruit*

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Inviting us to think again

Some unnamed people spread the news about the slaughter of some Galileans in the holy precincts of the Temple. The perpetrator has been acting on the orders of Pontius Pilate. They add the horrifying detail that the victims' blood has been mixed with the blood of animals that were being offered in sacrifice. We don't know why they brought the news to Jesus. Did they want him to express solidarity with the victims? Or did they want him to explain what sin those victims could have committed to merit such a shameful death? Or why God allowed them to be murdered in the sacred area of the temple? Instead of a direct answer, Jesus recalled another tragedy that happened in Jerusalem: the death of eighteen people crushed by a falling tower near the pool of Siloam. Then he made two comments about both events. First, that victims were no more sinners than anyone else. And second, that any such tragedy can serve as a warning about the shortness of life. "*Unless you repent you will all perish as they did*".

This roundabout answer should make us stop and think. *Jesus rejects the popular myth that all misfortunes are divine punishments.. We are not to imagine a stern, punitive God* who metes out sickness, accidents, misfortunes, as a response to people's sins. Then he changes the topic and invites them to examine their own lives. They must listen to God's call to conversion and to a change of lifestyle.

On our mass-media we often learn of tragic earthquakes, hurricanes and floods. How can we reconcile such tragedies with our belief in divine providence? Jesus suggests that rather than asking how God could let them happen, we should wonder what positive lesson we can learn from them. Rather than ask, "why does God allow this misfortune", let's ask, "how can we leave so many human beings to live in misery, so defenceless and ill-provided for?" We won't find salvation by protesting at God or denying his existence, but by doing our bit to mitigate suffering in our world. Then, maybe, our heightened awareness of the fragility of life will bring us closer to God.

Learn from the gardener

Death stares out at us from our newspapers and TV screens. Apart from natural deaths, somewhere in the world there's always some natural calamity, a terrorist attack, ethnic brutalities, murder for gain, epidemics, tsunamis, earthquake or famine. Death does not predict its calendar, but is a certain fate for us all. People who were expected to live to old age die suddenly while others whose childhood was marked by illness often survive to a remarkable age.

Our reactions to other people's death can be either a philosophical acceptance like, "Maybe it was his/her time to go" or a more shocked sense of loss: "It should not have happened so soon!" When people told Jesus how some Galileans died, victims of Pilate's anger, they wondered how God could have let this happen; but instead of explaining it, Jesus asks "do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?" He goes on to warn about the need of repentance.. "unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!" and illustrates this with the parable of the fruitless tree.

Real repentance is a reflection about whatever is unfruitful in our lifestyle. Jesus' words "Repent or you will perish" remind us of what Socrates said at his trial, after he had opted for death rather than exile: "*The un-examined life is not worth living.*" The parable of the fruitless fig tree is thought-provoking. It is not about doing wrong but about failure to do what is positively right. The fig tree that bore no fruit is like a Christian who attempts no good work and lives a purely selfish life.

Francis of Assisi once invited a young friar to go with him into town to preach. Francis and the young friar spent all day walking through the streets and then came home. When the day's journey was done, the young friar was disappointed and asked "Weren't we supposed to preach today?" Francis replied, "Son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. We were seen by many and our behaviour was noted. It is of no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach wherever as we walk!" He summed up his idea in these words "Preach the Gospel everywhere, and if necessary, use words." To him witnessing to Jesus wasn't merely quoting some words out of the Bible from time to time but one who lives by the word of God each day.

The gardener in the Gospel asked the owner of the vineyard to give the barren fig tree another chance to produce fruit. He promised to dig around it and manure it, to give it one last chance to prove itself. It suggests that we too need to nurture our faith and commit ourselves to being helpful to the lives of others. Are we nurturing our faith and trying to love, so as to bear the kind of fruit God wants from us?