

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 27th March 2022
4th Sunday of Lent (Year C 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

Station of the Cross at 6pm in St. Mary's Church – today Sunday 27th March. **Star of the Sea Church** – Sunday 3rd April.

Weekday Masses:

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay: 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: 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>	415	200	135
<i>Restoration</i>	415	195	140

Parish Fund –	€750
Restoration Fund –	€750
St. Patrick's Day –	€1045

The Parish Draw begins again in April. Promoter Cards are available from Fr. Devlin in the Parochial House. Thanks to all for your continuing support. Returns on Monday 28th March. The draw costs €35 for 6 months and €70 for the year.

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/>

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem - annual Spring Mass celebrations in Derry - Over the weekend of Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd April, Knights and Dames from this prestigious Catholic Order will travel from all over Ireland to Derry City. They will be present at 12.30pm Mass on Sunday afternoon in St. Eugene's Cathedral. They will attend also a special Mass celebration on Saturday afternoon at 4.30pm in St. Columb's Church, Waterside. Both events are open to the public and parishioners from the Diocese are invited to attend in person or join virtually, as the masses will be live-streamed on the Cathedral and Parish websites. The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem has approximately 30,000 members worldwide organised in 60 Lieutenancies, including Ireland. It works to support the 150,000 Christians remaining in the Holy Land. Each year, the Order contributes approximately €3 million towards Capital Investment projects, Humanitarian Aid initiatives and Pastoral Support activities. Donations go to support poor families, an orphanage, crèches, health care institutions, homes for the elderly and disabled, 40 primary and secondary schools, staff and clergy in 60 parishes of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and most recently refugees displaced from Syria and Iraq who are resident temporarily in Jordan. HolySepulchre.ie and Facebook page EOHSJ IRELAND

Donagh Safety Training Ltd will provide training on Thursday 31st March in Glengad Community Centre. Contact them to secure your place 0749140841 or email info@safety-professionals.com.

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.

Glengad Community Association and Malin Head Community Association together with Wild Alpaca Way are holding a day of fundraising on Saturday 2nd April 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. Donation buckets will be available at the events and in Lafferty's shop, Glengad, Malin Post Office and Seaview Stores, Malin Head. Please wear appropriate footwear and high viz. 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.

Spring & Easter Craft Fayre Weekend takes place in St. Mary's Community Hall Muff on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd April, 11am-4pm, many local stalls on both days, everyone is welcome to attend.

Carrowmenagh Community Centre (93 67251). Stan A lone music nights on Sunday 27th March at 8pm. Refreshments included. A few places are still left on our Getting the Most out of your Tablet/ Smartphone course for the over 50s starting on Wednesday 30 March from 2-4pm. 8 week Introduction to Upholstery course starting on Wednesday 13th April from 7-9pm.

Malin GAA Club Membership is now open for the coming year. All memberships are available online on Foireann.ie. Just log in or set up your account for the membership you require. Membership can also be paid in the clubhouse over the next 2 weekends: 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th March from 10am - 12noon. Membership can also be paid in the club shop. Youths membership is just €2 while adult membership is only €20. For info call Roisin on 087 7714420.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 *The vivid parable of the Prodigal Son, on the Father's patient love:* Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe' the best one-and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

What kind of justice is this?? People might feel some dissatisfaction at how the Prodigal Son was welcomed home. Rather than seeing it as the wonderful mercy of God, we may feel irked by how the father treated his elder son. And yes, some parents do indeed show favouritism. If they hear a complaint about the apple of their eye, they just shake their heads in disbelief. "You don't know him (or her). No, they couldn't do a thing like that. It's just not in their nature." At other times the concerned teacher, priest or kindly neighbour will hear the lament, "I don't know what to do with him, Father. He has my heart broken. I can't understand him at all." Could it be that this prodigal offspring was the favourite? Is it that we know that feeling all too well .. a resentment of those who have been careless, but seem to get all the luck? We can feel some sympathy for the elder son. Sometimes the dutiful quality of our lives make us envy the Prodigal's wild freedom. We might grudge the sinner his good times. It is probably why we so readily accept the notion of ultimate retribution. We cherish the thought that our good times are ahead of us and hope that the playboys of this world will pay for their pleasures in due time. So the elder son is the patron of all the solid citizens, "the salt of the earth", while behind the banner of the Prodigal huddle all the rakes and misfits, drop-outs, lame-ducks and the rest of the world's rejects. But the parable is about the boundless mercy of God and the message is clear. Why divert any attention to the resentful elder son? Perhaps our Lord is warning us not to do likewise. What the grudging elder son failed to see was how God's love reaches out to all creation.

The ideal short story: Luke 15 is a masterly story. Some of its phrases are so powerful that they have become proverbial. Prodigal Son, fatted calf. . . lost and found. A story that has enriched the vocabulary of the world. And not just the world's vocabulary" the world's mentality as well. Its way of looking at things. No story tells us more about God or makes us feel better about ourselves. It's a short story with enormous scope, with the widest possible diameter, in that it embraces our sinfulness at one end and God's forgiveness at the other. The best part of it, of course, is that it brings both extremities to the centre. What provoked it? What led Our Lord to tell it? The fact that the Pharisees objected to the company he kept, to his eating with sinners. So he tells the story to give an insight into his own mind and the mind of God. It plays out in three vivid character sketches. First there is the younger son, an impatient lad who wanted his inheritance now. Couldn't wait for the father to die. Greedy fingers, itchy feet, a sensual nature; wanting to live it up, and to hell with the commandments. A life based on doing whatever he feel like doing" not an unfamiliar story, really. We make excuses: "Sure you might as well, while you're young. As long as you're enjoying yourself, and stay safe." But the happiness ran out, and he came to his senses. And that's the big point about him. He came to his senses. He really was repentant. Repentance is to be sorry to be in one place, to want to be in another, and to have the will and determination to get there. To be sorry for our sins, to want a different kind of life, and to have the motivation and determination to change. Well, he had that. He was graced with that. "I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired men" (Lk 17:19). As I say, the big thing about him is that he acknowledged his sins and wanted to be rid of them. He was really repentant. The second character is the father, who was on the lookout for the son's return. "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him" (Lk 15-20). Still a long way off, a dot on the horizon. Doesn't that mean he was on the look.out for him, from the day he left, watching and waiting and praying, like many a father or mother? Doesn't it illustrate how God the Father feels about each of us, how much every one of us matters to him, how anxious he is that we'd come back? And he didn't just wait for the son; he ran out to meet him" met him half-way. Some people feel we should call this story "the Prodigal Father." To be prodigal is to be wasteful or lavish in your use of things. Well, the father threw his forgiveness around. Not in any grudging or reproving way, but in an explosion of sheer generosity and joy: Kill the calf, we're having a feast, the son is alive again. The father is noted for the prodigality of his forgiveness and the intensity of his joy: "There will be more rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner repenting than over ninety-nine upright people who have no need of repentance" (Lk 15:7). The third character is the elder son, so angry that he couldn't enter into the mood of the party to celebrate his brother's return. He's indignant at his father's easy pardon of the returned prodigal, and refuses even to go in. Of course his anger is quite understandable and he's treated with some sympathy by his father, but the elder son's attitude helps to illustrate how much more forgiving God is than we are, and how inclusive, all-embracing, is the Father's embrace. It includes the two of them" the rock and the rover. "My son you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right that we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found." What a lesson for the Year of Mercy in which pope Francis has invited us to join. The story of the Prodigal Son really needs no elaboration. The most respectful response to it is personal reflection. Just think about it; savour it and let it sink in. We'll all be touched by different pieces of it, because that's the way with everything we hear. I doubt if any of us can ignore its central message, that there is no limit to God's forgiveness and that our repentance brings joy to the Father's heart. You imagine that God doesn't want us to turn away from sin? You think God doesn't love you? Then you haven't been listening to the story of the Prodigal Son.