

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 3rd April 2022
5th Sunday of Lent (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

Station of the Cross at 6pm in Star of the Sea Church – today Sunday 3rd April.

Weekday Masses:

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay: Friday at 7.30pm
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head: Friday at 7:30pm

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: Kathleen Kelly, Drumcarbit on Friday 22nd April at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Months Mind Mass: Bridie Mc Geoghegan, Crackna on Saturday 23rd April, at 6pm in St. Patrick'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.
Anniversary Mass: Eamon Devlin, Templemoyle on Monday 30th 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.
First Anniversary Mass: Maire Doherty, Umgal on Sunday 12th June at 9am in St. Mary'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>	325	190	150
<i>Restoration</i>	325	190	150

Parish Fund –	€665
Restoration Fund –	€665

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE (+Confession) for Easter will be on Sunday 11th April at 6pm in St Patrick's Church Aughaclay

SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2023 SYNOD LISTENING SESSION:

The entire Catholic Church is called to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops! In preparation for the international synod of Bishops in 2023, Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of "For a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation, and Mission." You are invited to join us in a parish listening session on Thursday 7th April at 8pm in the Parish Hall. Please invite family, friends, neighbours – we want everyone to participate in this listening session. If you can't make the listening session, share your opinion online at derrydiocese.org/synod.

Sharing the Good News: The current issue can also be linked to and downloaded from the home page of www.catholicbishops.ie.
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.

Online Easter Triduum Retreat. The retreat consists of four short video reflections based on the artwork of the Dominican artist Fra Angelico. The presenter is Michael Dunleavy OP a member of the Irish Dominican Province. He studied theology at the Dominican House of Studies, Tallaght and the Angelicum University, Rome. Michael has always had a keen interest in music and the arts; and, in his Dominican ministry, has preached retreats and presented conferences on the theme of the beauty of the Christian faith as portrayed in masterpieces of art and masterworks of music. Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday. Visit our website prioryinstitute.com or <https://bit.ly/3DWrTlx>.

Healing Sunday, Franciscan Friary, Rosstown: Healing Sunday Service will be on this Sunday, April 3rd and on the first Sunday of every month, going forward. Rosary is at 2.45pm followed by Mass/Healing Service at 3pm. Confessions are from 2 – 5pm. All welcome.

Easter Retreat at SMA Dromantine Retreat Centre: Wed. 13th April at 5pm – Easter Sun 17th April at 9am. This will be an opportunity for quiet reflection as we celebrate the ceremonies of the Easter Triduum. It begins with the Seder Meal on the Wednesday and ends with Dawn Mass and Easter breakfast. Cost (accommodation and meals) £340 / €400. Tel: 02830821964 admin@dromantineconference.com

Following on from the successful Men's Rosaries in towns in different parts of Ireland, we have organised a public men's rosary in Buncrana on 2nd April at 1pm. For the next 5 First Saturdays.

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.

Update on Crua Climb at 10am this Sat 2nd April in support of #climbwithcharlie. A free park and ride facility will be available from Glengad Community Centre. Bus will be available from 9.20am onwards and will bring people back down afterwards. Remember to wear a high viz, appropriate footwear and bring a snack/drink. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. Photographs/Videos might be taken during the climbs. Donation buckets available at the centre and up at the climb and proceeds will go to Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Pieta. Ending Suicide. Beginning Hope. The second climb will take place at **Knockamany** at 3pm. Alpacas kindly provided by Wild Alpaca Way lead the way at both climbs. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday to support these worthy causes. Donations currently being collected in Seaview Stores Malin Head, Fisherman's Inn, Lafferty's Shop, Glengad and Malin Post Office.

Gospel: John 8:1-11 *Instead of judging, the accusers must examine themselves*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground.

When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

No more machismo

They brought in a woman they had caught in adultery. Three terms express their sense of dominance: "They caught her." "They brought her." "They made her stand before them all." They bristled with righteous indignation as they asked Jesus for his view. In their eyes, her fate is sealed: it must be death by stoning, according to the law. No one talks about the adulterous man involved. As always happens in a sexist society, the woman gets condemned and the man walks free. Their challenge to Jesus is head-on: "*In the law, Moses has ordered us to stone women of this kind. What have you got to say?*" Jesus opposes such arrogance and *machismo*. No sentence of death comes from God. With admirable audacity, he brings in truth, justice and compassion to bear on the act of judgment: "*Let the one among you who is guiltless be the first to throw a stone at her*".

The accusers go away shamefaced. They know that they are guilty of many things themselves. Then Jesus speaks with tender respect to the woman who has just escaped execution: "*Neither do I condemn you*". He encourages her to make her gift of forgiveness the starting point for a new life: "*Go away, and from this moment on, sin no more*". That's how Jesus is. Here, finally, is a man not conditioned by any oppressive law or power; a free, magnanimous individual who never hated or condemned, never returned evil for evil. In his defence of this sinner there is more truth and justice than in our resentful demands and name-calling.

Maybe we haven't yet managed to unpack all the consequences in Jesus' liberating action in the face of this woman's oppression. Working in a Church that is directed and inspired mostly by men, we often fail to be aware of all the injustices that women keep suffering in all areas of life. One theologian spoke a few years ago about the *revolution ignored* by Christianity.

We still live in a society where women often cannot move about freely without fear of men. Rape, physical abuse, humiliation aren't imaginary things. On the contrary, they form perhaps the most deeply rooted violence and the one that causes the most suffering. Doesn't the suffering of women need to echo more strongly and more concretely in our church celebrations, and have a more important place in our work of social conscience-raising? Above all, don't we need to be closer to each oppressed woman in order to denounce abuses, offer an intelligent defence and effective protection?

The Pharisees' mistake

What motivated the Pharisees in that confrontation about sin and punishment? They caught a woman in the act of adultery and brought her into the Temple precincts, thronged with people, to shame her as publicly as possible. Then they wanted to carry out the death penalty as laid down in the Torah, namely death by stoning. As an added extra, they wanted to use the occasion to discredit Jesus in the eyes of his followers. "What have you to say?" they demand of him. If his response was simply, "Leave the woman along; let her go free," they could accuse him of condoning adultery. But if he agreed with their sentence, he would be seen as lacking in mercy. Jesus saw through their plotting and made them withdraw in confusion.

What did Jesus write with his finger on the ground? The Gospel gives us a possible clue. It does not use the normal Greek word for "write" (*graphein*), but a compound word (*kata-graphein*) which means to draw up a condemnation. Possibly he may have listed on the ground some common sins against humanity, to make them think. At any rate, his challenge that the person who was without sin should cast the first stone met with no response. Although Jesus did not condemn the woman, neither did he excuse what she had done. "Don't sin any more," was both a pardon and a warning to her.

Like the Pharisees, we may be tempted to imagine a God in our own image and likeness, as a stern, punitive father, who can be persuaded to forgive only after our abject repentance. This kind of religion can be cold and loveless. And as St Paul says in the 2nd Reading, trying to relate to God just by strictly keeping the Law is an obsolete kind of religion. Only when we let God's love, as seen in Christ, to embrace and change our heart, can we begin to grow.

To judge from today's gospel, the worst of the *seven deadly sins* seems to be not lust, but pride. The Pharisees' proud self-righteousness left them feeling no need to ask God for mercy. Like the woman in danger, we need to admit our own sins and pray for mercy rather than condemn others. Even when we fail in our ideals, we trust in the mercy God extends to the sinner. For even our sins make no difference to God's enduring love for us.