

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 12th February 2023
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A Week 2)

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 at 7:30pm
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:	Friday at 7:30pm
St. Mary's Church Lagg:	Wednesday at 9:30am
The Oratory, Connolly Foundation:	Friday at 10am

Station Mass: Jim & Claire Grant, Dunegard, Friday 17th February at 5:30pm.

Anniversary Mass: William Doherty, Leiter, on Sunday 12th February at 10.30am in St Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Frances Coffey, Carnmalin on Sunday 5th February at 12noon in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: John Mc Laughlin (R), Ballylannon/Greencastle on Sunday 19th February at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Frank Hasson on Sunday 19th February at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Mary Margaret Fallon, Malin and Luton on Sunday 26th February at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Billy Farren, Glentoskert on Saturday 4th March at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: John Mc Grory, Bree on Saturday 4th March at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Roger and Mary Anne Doherty, Lower Braghey on Saturday 11th March at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Tommy & Sadie Gallagher, Magherard on Sunday 12th March at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Bridie Mc Geoghegan, Crackna, on Saturday 25th March at 6pm in St Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Mary Mc Laughlin, Ballyheeny on Saturday 1st April at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

Parish Collections for the last week: Thank You.

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
Parish	505	250	265
Restoration	505	255	265

Parish Fund	€1020
Restoration Fund	€1025

Online Lenten Retreat. The Priory Institute is delighted to offer a **FREE OF CHARGE** online retreat 'Reflecting on the Sunday Gospels of Lent as Stepping Stones on our Journey to Easter'

Visit our website prioryinstitute.com or click on this link <https://bit.ly/3DWRTkx> to register/find out more

Parishioners who are sick or housebound who wish to be attended at home are asked to contact Fr. Devlin to be added to our lists for monthly visitation.

Those interested in serving the Church as a priest in the diocese of Derry should contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Pat O'Hagan, PP Bellaghy and Greenlough, at (028) 7938 6452 or at pgoh2111@gmail.com.

St. Vincent de Paul Malin Conference wants to thank everyone for their continuous support. Looking for a collector to take up the SVP collection on a Sunday morning after 9am Mass in St. Mary's Church, Lagg. If interested please call/text 083 0989 600. If in need do not hesitate to contact us on this number, all help provided is carried out in confidentiality.

Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – 3rd – 7th July 2023: The Pilgrimage office at 164 Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6UJ will be open to the public on Saturdays only from 11am until 1pm commencing on Saturday 11th February. Intending pilgrims can also leave a message on 028 7126 0293 with their full postal address and the number of booking forms required, or email this information to derrypilgrim@outlook.com or write to us at the above address. We very much regret that once more we are not in a position to provide medical, nursing and personal care as was customary in the past. It is our earnest hope and prayer that we will be able to restore these services in 2024.

Ards Friary is hosting a residential retreat, 'Things that Matter', on the first weekend in Lent, 24th -26th February. It will be led by Philip McParland. Cost €175. To register, tel 074 91 38909 or email: info@ardsfriary.ie. Enquiries / further information can be obtained by emailing: philipmcpaerland@hotmail.com.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 We must obey the spirit, and not just the letter of the law

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you

are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

The choices we make

As Sirach says, each person must choose between life and death ... and whichever one chooses will be given. The choices we make every day have a life or death quality. Every day we are choosing in one direction or the other.

We all have reasons for the choices we make. Sometimes we are seeking approval and acceptance, wanting to fit in and be liked. We choose based upon the costs, benefits and risks involved. Sometimes we may just give up and refuse to choose. Sometimes we choose power, control, or security. Often our choices are about self-protection or making ourselves feel happier. Or we might choose to make another feel bad, and attempt to get back at him or her; or more positively, we may choose to make amends and make up.

Our experience of making choices brings us back to our reading from Sirach. There is one fundamental choice to be made — the choice between life and death. Where will I spend eternity? The choice that really matters in the end is between life and death. This ultimate criterion should affect all other choices. What good does it profit a person to gain the whole world, and lose ones soul? (cf Mark 8:36)

Bringing this to an everyday level: could our daily lifestyle be described as life-giving? Do we choose to help sustain and nurture life for ourselves and others? Or do we choose to diminish or ignore the good of others? Do we try to make our world a better place? While Jesus sets us a very high standard, Sirach claims that we can keep the commandments if we really want to. Both readings call us to evaluate our habitual ways of choosing.

The Sermon on the Mount offers high moral ideals, not a set of firm commandments. Jesus forbids not merely murder but also lesser forms of injuring others. The importance of forgiveness is so great that it comes before strictly religious duties. He tells us “leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your neighbour.” We must respect not simply people’s right to life but also their right to dignity and self-respect.

The prohibition of oaths is not taken literally in Christian countries, where oaths are taken in a courts of law. But in a perfect society characterised by trust and truth-telling, oaths should not be needed to reinforce our words. Jesus promoted an atmosphere of openness and trust. What he offers as a supplement to the Law of Moses is a morality of values held from the heart.

Seeking what unites

The Jews were proud of the Law of Moses. According to tradition, God had given it to their ancestors, as something precious and unique. In that Law was contained the will of the one true God. There they could find all that they needed to be faithful. For Jesus too the Law is important, but now it’s not in the centre. He communicates another priority: God’s Reign is coming, the Father is looking for a path to open among us for the building of a more human world. It’s not enough for us to just keep Moses’ Law. It’s necessary to open ourselves to the Father and to collaborate with God in building a more just and fraternal life.

That’s why it’s not enough to fulfil the law that orders: “Don’t kill”. It’s also necessary to root out of our lives aggression, looking down on others, insults or revenge. Whoever doesn’t kill fulfils the law, but if we don’t free ourselves from violence, then that God who seeks to build a more human world with us still doesn’t reign in our hearts.

There’s a growing tendency in our society to speak in ways that express aggression. More and more we see offensive insults cast about just to humiliate, look down on others, wounding their dignity; words born of rejection, resentment, hate or revenge. How often are our own conversations woven from unjust words that spread criticism and suspicion? Words spoken without love or respect, that poison our living together and cause damage – words born of irritation, meanness or baseness.

This malice isn’t just found in our day-to-day living together. It can also be a serious problem among church leaders. Pope Francis warned against conflicts and confrontations between different groups. He shared this sobering thought: “It pains me greatly when some Christians can foster enmity, division, calumny, defamation, vendetta, jealousy, and the desire to impose certain ideas at all costs. Whom are we going to evangelize if this is how we act?” Ideally outsiders should be able to admire in our church how we care for one another, encourage and support each other.