

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 9th April 2023
Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection (Year A Week 3)

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**

Week Masses:

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay: Tuesday at 7.30pm
Connollyly Foundation Oratory: Friday at 10am
Confessions: Star of the Sea Church: Saturday 7:15 – 7:45.

Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday and ends on Sunday 16th.

Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (40hrs) on Sunday 16th after 12noon Mass and ends with Rosary and Devotions at 6pm resumes on Monday 17th after 10am Mass and finishes with Rosary and Devotions at 7pm.

Anniversary Mass: John & Teresa Doherty, Sheskin on Saturday 8th April at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

Anniversary Mass: Noreen Mc Gonagle on Sunday 9th April at 9am in St. Mary's Church

Anniversary Mass: Kathleen Kelly, Druncarbit, on Saturday 22nd April at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.

First Anniversary Mass: Sadie Kelly, Denny, Ballysalla, on Saturday 29th April at 6pm in St Patrick's Church

Anniversary Mass: Rose Gallagher, Francistown on Sunday 30th April at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

First Anniversary Mass: Joe Gorman, Carnmalin on Saturday 6th May at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

Anniversary Mass: Louise Colhoun on Saturday 13th May at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.

Anniversary Mass: Isabella Mc Laughlin, Lower Braghey on Sunday 14th May at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

Months Mind Mass: Patrick Mc Laughlin, Lower Braghey on Sunday 14th May at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

Parish Collections for the last week: Thank You.

| | <i>Aughaclay</i> | <i>Malin Head</i> | <i>Lagg</i> |
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| <i>Parish</i> | 560 | 240 | 200 |
| <i>Restoration</i> | 555 | 240 | 200 |

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| Parish Fund | €1000 |
| Restoration Fund | €995 |

Parish Draw begins again in April. New cards are available. Promoters are asked to make outstanding returns asap.

Aughaclay Chapel Re-painting Committee: Thank you for attending the Fundraising Coffee morning yesterday Holy Saturday, 8th April in the Parish Hall Malin Town, for all donations of home baking and shop bought food and for all the help on the day. Check out "Aughaclay Chapel Re-painting" Facebook Page for more information.

Malin Parish Charity Shop will be upstairs in G & S Supermarket, Carndonagh from Monday 15th May for 6 weeks.

Items for the shop and staff volunteers are needed. Contact Martin on 086 8606 890.

In life, many hear God's call to priesthood. Is your heart open to the Lord? Have you ever considered taking the risk to follow in the footsteps of Jesus? If so, you are invited to the national seminary of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, on 25th April, to attend a special conference on evangelisation and vocations in Ireland today. Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro Prefect of, the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation will be the keynote speaker. Please register directly on www.vocations.ie, or contact the National Vocations director Father Willie Purcell at willie.purcell@iecon.ie or Rev Eric Cooney secretary of the National Vocations Office at eric.cooney@iecon.ie.

Gospel: John 20:1-9 *The empty tomb seen by Peter and the Beloved Disciple is a sign of the resurrection of Jesus*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

New life, with Jesus

The Easter story begins very early in the morning of the first day of the week while it is *still dark*. As an old man, John would later write that '*the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining*'. But he links this strictly to one condition: '*Whoever loves his brothers and sisters,*' John says, '*lives in the light.*' On the other hand, '*whoever prefers to hate... is still in the darkness.*' (1 Jn 2:8-11).

On Friday, as we remembered the sufferings and death of the most marvellous human being the world has ever known, we came face to face with the dark side of human nature, the darkness that led the enemies of Jesus to torture, humiliate, and finally murder him on a cross. On that black day in Jerusalem, the capacity of human beings to hate, hurt and harm one another went completely out of control. It's no wonder, then, that '*darkness came over the whole*

land until three in the afternoon', that 'the sun's light failed', and that 'the curtain of the temple was torn in two' (Lk 23:24). Between light and darkness, between good and evil, one mighty struggle is still going on. It's going on in the physical cosmos, in human societies, and within our own personalities. Although the darkness often appears to be stronger than the light, it has not yet triumphed. The light is remarkably resilient. Often in danger of being extinguished, it manages to survive, and even to win many victories. The words of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of modern India, still ring as true as when he spoke them seventy years ago: 'When I despair I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but, in the end, they always fall.' The words of the Easter Vigil liturgy express the same truth in an equally appealing way: 'The power of this holy [Easter] night,' it proclaims, 'dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy. It casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride.' Our celebration of Easter reminds us that the darkness of evil and hatred will never have the last say. For the resurrection of Jesus proclaims the ultimate triumph of light over darkness and goodness over evil, both in us and in our world.

Jesus was buried at sunset, as darkness was once again creeping over the earth, to all appearances a victim and a failure. But on the third day afterwards the sun came up on him victorious and triumphant, alive, powerful and influential. Once again, 'the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world' (Jn 1:9)

So we celebrate his resurrection today by rising from darkness and death ourselves. The Risen Lord himself, represented here by this beautiful Easter candle burning in our midst, is asking us to leave behind the works of darkness, to renounce and reject anything and everything in our lives which is dark, sinister and evil, and as persons connected to him by baptism, to 'walk always as children of the light', following in his footsteps.

So we are now invited to renew our baptismal promises. Reject darkness, evil and sin in every shape and form. And promise to follow Jesus Christ from now on, in a life of light, goodness and love, a life shaped by his own powerful example, a life supported and guided by the Holy Spirit, whom he first gave us at baptism and whom he gives us again right now. So together, dear People of God, let us renew our baptismal promises, and renew them as loudly and enthusiastically as we can.

Meeting the Risen One

Mary of Magdala was first to go to the tomb, before the dawn when it was still dark, and discovered it empty. Jesus was missing — the master who had understood her and cured her, the prophet she had followed faithfully until his death. Who would she follow now? So her lament to the disciples was: *They've taken my Lord from the grave and we don't know where they have put him.* Her lament could express the experience that many Christians are living through today: What have they done with the Risen Jesus? Where have they put him — the Lord in whom we believe: is it a Christ full of the promise of life or a Jesus whose memory keeps fading little by little in our hearts?

We don't need scientific proofs in order to believe more firmly. To experience the joy of Easter it's not enough to turn to the magisterium of the Church, or to study theological books. In order to meet the Risen One we need above all to journey within. If we don't meet him inside ourselves, we won't meet him anywhere. Later, John describes Mary going about looking for information. But when she does see Jesus, she's so blinded by grief and tears that she does not recognize him; she thinks he's the gardener. Jesus just asks her a question: *Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?*

Maybe we too need to ask ourselves something similar: Why is our faith so sad and low-key? What are Christians today looking for? What do we yearn for? Are we going around looking for a Jesus that we need in order to feel full of life in our communities? When Mary doesn't recognize Jesus, he calls her by her name, with the same tenderness in his voice as when they were walking through Galilee: *Mary!* She turns around quickly: *Rabbuni! Master!* Mary meets the Risen One when she feels herself personally called by him. That's the core of resurrection faith. Jesus shows himself full of life to us when we feel ourselves called by our own name and we hear the invitation that he makes to each one of us. That's when our faith grows. Our faith in the living Christ won't be revived only by the Easter accounts alone. We won't properly meet him if we don't seek a living, personal contact with him. A combination of the love of Jesus known through the Gospel and sought personally in the depths of our hearts, can best lead us to meet the Risen One.

Discovering Easter

The resurrection is deeply mysterious and we can't quite experience its original impact in the hearts of his followers. This gospel, this *great news*, spans the centuries and is still a living force for *here and now*. In a sense, you and I are reflected in elements of that story, and may place ourselves within the account given by Saint John today. Am I like Magdalene, announcing the news of resurrection? Or like the apostles who respond immediately by running off to the tomb to see for themselves. On Easter morning, the stone was rolled back from the mouth of the tomb. Is my heart like a tomb awaiting resurrection? Can I identify any "gravestone" that is holding me back from a fuller, freer life? It could be an addiction, a compulsion or some dark secret I have never shared with anyone. We can be sickened by our secrets. But as pope Francis said, we are meant to be "people of joyful hope, not doomsday prophets!" If we too discover the risen Jesus, we can all find hope and joy, and go out to share them with others.