

**Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

|   |                               |   |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Fr. Peter Devlin P.P.</b>  | <b>Fr. Charley Logue C.C.</b> | <b>Mass Times</b>   |
| Malin   | Malin Head                    | <i>St. Patrick's</i> - Saturday 6pm Sunday 10:30am          |
| 074 93 70615  | 074 93 70134                  | <i>Star of the Sea Church</i> - Saturday 8pm Sunday 12 noon |
| <b>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:malinparish@hotmail.com">malinparish@hotmail.com</a></b> |                               | <i>St. Mary's Church</i> - Sunday 9am                       |
| <b>Web Site: <a href="http://www.malinparish.ie">www.malinparish.ie</a></b>         | <b>Facebook: Malin Parish</b> |   |

**Ash Wednesday** (*Ashes Distributed at all Masses on Wednesday*) **and Weekday Mass:**

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| <b>St. Patrick's Church: Aghaclay:</b>     | Wednesday at 7pm                           |
| <b>Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:</b> | Wednesday at 8am, 8pm and Friday at 7:30pm |
| <b>St. Mary's Church Lagg:</b>             | Wednesday and Thursday at 9.30am           |
| <b>Connolly Foundation Oratory:</b>        | Friday at 10am                             |



**Month's Mind Mass:** Patrick McDaid (Ned), Templemoyle, Culdaff, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**Month's Mind Mass:** Margaret Doherty, (Paddymor) on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 12noon in Star of the Sea Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Frank Hasson on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** John Mc Laughlin, Greencastle and Ballylannon on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 10: 30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Tommy & Sadie Gallagher, Magherard on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Ellen Nora Doherty, Bree on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**First Anniversary Mass:** Patrick Mc Laughlin, Lower Braghey on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Owen Mc Cullagh, Malin Town, on Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Philomena Mc Callion, Francistown on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Gerard Doherty (Unkey), Middletown on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Isabella Mc Laughlin, Lower Braghey on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Parish Collections for Last Week: Thank You.**

|                    | <i>Aghaclay</i> | <i>Malin Head</i> | <i>Lagg</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| <b>Parish</b>      | 490             | 250               | 180         |
| <b>Restoration</b> | 495             | 250               | 180         |

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Parish Fund</b>      | <b>€920</b> |
| <b>Restoration Fund</b> | <b>€925</b> |

**Parish Draw: January Winners:**

|             | <b>€200</b>          | <b>€100</b>             | <b>€50</b>              |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>7/1</b>  | 284 Sean Doherty     | 124 Eilish Mc Laughlin  | 374 Maureen Harley      |
| <b>14/1</b> | 209 Mary Mc Gonagle  | 379 Patricia Mc Menanim | 289 Francie Mc Laughlin |
| <b>21/1</b> | 267 Sadie Mc Gonagle | 205 The Porter Girls    | 138 Breege Monagle      |
| <b>28/1</b> | 317 Jack Mc Daid     | 392 Brid O'Neill        | 237 John Kelly          |

**Vocation:** We pray for those discerning a vocation to the priesthood, especially those from our own diocese, that, like St Paul, modelling themselves on Jesus, they will "do everything for the glory of God... helpful to everyone" and working to save souls. There will be a Vocations Retreat in Larne on the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> March for men aged 18+ who are interested in the diocesan priesthood. Anyone interested is asked to contact Fr. Pat O'Hagan at [pgoh2111@gmail.com](mailto:pgoh2111@gmail.com) or at (028) 79386259.

**The Lourdes Hospitalite collection,** which helps those who wish to go to Lourdes and require care and assistance, is due to take place at this weekend Masses 10<sup>th</sup> /11<sup>th</sup> February. As in previous years, we appeal to your generosity for this worthwhile cause as we take the pilgrimage forward once again in the wake of the Covid pandemic.

**Accord Inishowen Face-to-Face Pre - Marriage Course for 2024:** February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> or March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Friday 7 - 10pm and Saturday 10am - 4pm. Book online, contact Accord on [inishowen@accord.ie](mailto:inishowen@accord.ie) or leave your name and number on 074 93 74103.

**Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:** We are inviting young people aged 16 + to join us on pilgrimage to Medjugorje for 9 nights from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with peers from around the world, in a faith context. Up to 50,000 young people attend the Medjugorje Youth Festival each year. Cost is £800 and there will be a budget plan to help with this. Names and deposit of £100 are required as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to book in please contact [lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org](mailto:lizzie.rea@derrydiocese.org) 00 44 2871264087.

**The Priory Institute** provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before February 14<sup>th</sup>. Find out more on our website, [prioryinstitute.com](http://prioryinstitute.com).

**Meeting in the Carmelite Retreat Centre,** Termonbaca, Derry every Sunday at 3pm, for adult children of alcoholic and dysfunctional families. This is an anonymous programme for those 18 years and over who grew up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional homes.

***Lepers had to live apart. Only if a priest pronounced a leper cured could he or she come back into normal life***  
**Gospel: Mark 1:40-45 *Jesus cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand***

A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

## **Healing the isolated**

We all need to connect with others, to be in communion with them. We don't like to feel isolated or cut off from family, friends, or the wider community. One of the most challenging aspects of sickness or disability can be the isolation that it brings. When we are ill or our body grows weak we cannot take the same initiative we used to take to connect with others. People can become housebound because of their physical condition; the things they used to do to meet up with others are no longer possible. Certain forms of illness can be more isolating than others. The most isolating form of illness in the time of Jesus was leprosy. For hygienic reasons, lepers had to live apart, 'outside the camp', in the words of today's first reading. Lepers were only allowed to have each other for company. They lived apart from their family, their friends and the community to which they belonged.

The leper in today's gospel seemed determined to break out of his isolation. He did something that was unconventional and daring in approaching Jesus and pleading on with him, 'If you want to, you can cure me.' His desperation to be healed of an illness that kept him totally isolated drove him to do something that was against the Jewish Law at the time. In response to the leper's daring approach, Jesus did something just as unconventional. He reached out his hand and touched the leper. If it was forbidden for a leper to approach the healthy, it was certainly forbidden for a healthy person to touch a leper. It seems that the leper's desire to be freed from his isolation was met by an equally strong desire on the part of Jesus to deliver the leper from his isolation. The gospels portray Jesus as someone who worked to deliver people from their isolation, whether it is an isolation imposed by illness, as in the case of the leper, or by their lifestyle, as in the case of someone like Zacchaeus.

Both Jesus and of the leper have something to say to us about steps we can take to connect with people, to break out of our isolation, even when the odds seem to be stacked against us. We can all be tempted from time to time to retreat into our shell, whether it is because of our health or some disability or some past experience that has drained us of life. It is at such times that we need something of the initiative and daring energy of the leper. There can come a time when, like the leper, we need to take our courage in our own hands and, against the conventional expectation, to head out in some bold direction. It was desperation that drove the leper to seek out Jesus. Sometimes for us too, it can be our desperation that finally gets us going, gets us to connect with that person who matters to us and to whom we matter more than we realize or gets us to link up with some gathering or some group that has the potential to do us good or maybe even to transform our lives. Sometimes I can be amazed at the initiatives that some people take to connect with others, people who are much less healthier than I am and are much less physically able. I come across it all the time in the parish — older people who have mastered the internet and have come completely at home with Skype; younger people who in spite of some serious disability have found the means to live a very full life that is marked by the service of others. The man in today's gospel who approaches Jesus could well be the patron saint of all those who strive to connect with others against all the odds.

Unlike the leper, Jesus was perfectly healthy, but he had something of the same desire and energy to connect with others. When approached by the leper, he could have turned away, as most people would have done. Instead, Jesus stood his ground and engaged with the leper, reached out to him not only by word but by action. He not only spoke to him, but he touched him. Jesus often healed people by means of his word alone; but this man who had suffered from extreme isolation really needed to be *touched*. Jesus did more than was asked of him; he took an initiative as daring as the leper's move towards him. He went as far as any human being could go to deliver this man from his isolation. What the Lord did for the leper he wishes to continue doing through each one of us in our own day. There are many isolated and lonely people among us. The scope is there for all of us to take the kind of step that Jesus took towards the leper. Again, I can see examples of that in the parish all the time — people who look in on neighbours and make sure that they are all right and have what they need. There are always people among us waiting to be touched by our compassionate presence. When they are, they can experience the same kind of transformation as the leper did in today's gospel.