

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 25th February 2024
2nd Sunday of Lent

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

St. Patrick's Church: Aughaclay:	Monday at 8pm
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:	Tuesday and Friday at 7:30pm
St. Mary's Church Lagg:	Wednesday at 9.30am
Connolly Foundation Oratory:	Friday at 10am

Stations of the Cross: St. Mary's Church on Sunday 25th at 6pm

Anniversary Mass: Tommy & Sadie Gallagher, Magherard on Sunday 10th March at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Neil Mc Laughlin, Kilourt/Wales on Friday 15th March at 7:30pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Ellen Nora Doherty, Bree on Saturday 16th March at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Bridie Mc Geoghegan, Crackna on Saturday 23rd March at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Patrick Mc Laughlin, Lower Braghey on Sunday 24th March at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Owen Mc Cullagh, Malin Town, on Easter Sunday, 31st March at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Kathleen Doherty, Carnmalin on Saturday 6th April at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Philomena Mc Callion, Francistown on Sunday 14th April at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Gerard Doherty (Unkey), Middletown on Saturday 13th April at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Isabella Mc Laughlin, Lower Braghey on Sunday 5th May at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

Parish Collections for Last Week: Thank You.

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	535	245	235
<i>Restoration</i>	535	240	240

Parish Fund	€1015
Restoration Fund	€1015

Temporary Suspension of Star of the Sea 12noon Mass. From next weekend there will no longer be a 12noon Mass in Star of the Sea Church. The other Four Masses remain at the normal times.

Weddings for 2024: Those couples who have booked weddings in Malin Parish are asked to contact Fr Logue, 074 9370134, to ensure the necessary Church and State paperwork is prepared in adequate time.

The Parish Draw begins again in April. Promoters are asked to get the new Draw cards which are now available from Teish Crua, 0861683842 and from Martin Fildara 0868606890.

Trocaire Boxes are available in all the churches. The giving of alms, (charity) is an important part of our Lenten journey.

Christenings: Christenings will not take place as frequently as before, from now on, they will be held on specific dates. The next scheduled Christenings will take place on Sunday 24th March in Star of the Sea Church at 2pm and Sunday 7th April in St. Patrick's Church at 2pm. Please contact Fr Logue, 07493 70134 in advance of Christenings.

Confirmation Preparation Symbols of the Church and Introduction to Prayer, a meeting for children only on tomorrow Monday 26th February in Aughaclay at 7pm. More information will be given out through the schools.

Vocation: That those aspiring to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry will, like Abraham, have the faith and trust they need to follow the Lord's call. Vocations Retreat in Drumalis, Larne, 8th -10th March. Anyone interested should contact the diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Pat O'Hagan, at pgoh2111@gmail.com

Accord Inishowen Face-to-Face Pre - Marriage Course for 2024: March 8th & 9th. Friday 7 - 10pm and Saturday 10am - 4pm. Book online, contact Accord on 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 30th July to 8th 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 00 44 2871264087.

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.

Ist Reading Genesis: After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10 The apostles glimpse Christ's glory, to sustain them through his imminent passion

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

Freedom to let go

I came across a sentence in a book I was reading recently which struck me very forcibly: 'all love relationships flourish only when there is freedom to let go of what is precious, so as to receive it back as a gift'. It is not easy to let go of what is precious. The more precious someone is to us, the harder it is to let go of that person. The more attractive someone is to us, the more we feel inclined to possess that person. Yet, in the effort to possess someone we can easily lose them. At the heart of all loving relationships is the freedom to let go of the other, and in letting go to receive the other back as a gift. Parents know that there comes a time when they have to let go of their sons or daughters, even though they are more precious to them than anything else. They may have to let them go to another country or to the person whom they have chosen as their future spouse. Yet, in letting go of their children, parents invariably discover that they receive them back as a gift. Single people too have to learn the freedom of letting go what is precious so as to receive it back as a gift. In any good and healthy friendship, people need to give each other plenty of space.

In today's reading Abraham is portrayed as being willing to let go of what was most precious to him, the only son of his old age. In being willing to let his son go to God, he went on to receive him back as a gift. Many people find it a very disturbing story, because it portrays God as asking Abraham to sacrifice his only beloved son as a burnt offering to God. We are rightly shocked by the image of God asking a father to sacrifice his son in this way. Abraham lived about a thousand years before Christ. In the religious culture of that time it was not uncommon for people to sacrifice their children to various gods. The point of the story seems to be that the God of Israel is not like the pagan gods. If Abraham thought that God was asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac like the people who worshipped other gods, he was wrong. God was not asking this of Abraham. Yet, the willingness of Abraham to let go of what was most precious to him if that was what God was asking remained an inspiration to the people of Israel. He had already shown a willingness to let go of his family and his homeland as he set out towards an unknown land in response to God's call.

The early church came to understand the relationship between Abraham and Isaac as pointing ahead to the relationship between God the Father and Jesus. Like Abraham, God was prepared to let go of what was most precious to him, his one and only Son, out of love for humanity. God was prepared to let his Son go to humanity, with all the dangers that entailed for his Son. Saint Paul was very struck by this extraordinary generosity of God on our behalf, as he says in the 2nd Reading, 'God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all'. God let his precious Son go to humanity even though the consequences of that were the rejection of his Son and, ultimately, his crucifixion. Even after Jesus was crucified, God continued to give him to us as risen Lord. When Paul contemplates this self-emptying love of God for us, he asks aloud, in the opening line of that 2nd Reading, 'With God on our side who can be against us?' Paul is declaring that if God's love for us is this complete, then we have nothing to fear from anyone. Here is a love that has no trace of possessiveness, a love that makes us lovable.