

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 23rd March 2025
3rd Sunday of Lent

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



Stations of the Cross today Sunday in St. Patrick's Church at 6pm

Weekday Masses:

Star of the Sea Church Monday at 10am and Friday at 7:30pm
St. Mary's Church: Wednesday at 9:30am
St. Patrick's Church Tuesday at 7:30pm
Connolly Foundation: Friday at 10am

Anniversary Mass: Bridie Mc Geoghegan, Crackna, Malin on Saturday 22nd March at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Month's Mind Mass: Patsy Jordan, Carrowmore on Sunday 23rd March at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Month's Mind Mass: Ann Marie Mc Laughlin, Glengad on Sunday 23rd March at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Majella Gibbons on Saturday 29th March at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Philomena Mc Callion, Francistown on Sunday 30th March at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Joe Curley Magherard on Saturday 5th April at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Teresa & John Doherty, Sheskin, Malin Head on Saturday 5th April at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Owen Mc Cullagh, Malin Town on Sunday 6th April at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Months Mind Mass: Danny Mc Colgan on Sunday 6th April at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Patrick and Isabella McLaughlin on Sunday 13th April at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: James Douglas, Beaugh, Malin on Saturday 3rd May at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Seamus Mc Closkey on Sunday 4th May at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Kathleen Mc Laughlin, Dreenagh Road, Malin Head on Sunday 18th May at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Donal Mor Family, Shantla on Saturday 31st May 6pm St. Patrick's Church.

Please e-mail your anniversaries to malinparish@hotmail.com or leave them in the sacristy after mass.

Parish Collections for Last Week: Thank You.

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	565	210	305
<i>Restoration</i>	565	205	305

Parish Fund	€1080
Restoration Fund	€1075
St. Patrick's Day	€1195

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL: SUNDAY 23RD MARCH AT 7PM IN ST PATRICK'S CHURCH.

VISITATION OF THE SICK: FR DEVLIN WILL ATTEND THE SICK ON WEDNESDAY 26TH MARCH

PARISH DRAW BEGINS AGAIN IN APRIL: RETURNS TO THE PAROCHIAL HOUSE ON 31ST MARCH
Anyone who wishes to join can contact any promoter or drop details into Parochial House, Malin.

Inviting us to think again

Some unnamed people spread the news about the slaughter of some Galileans in the holy precincts of the Temple. The perpetrator has been acting on the orders of Pontius Pilate. They add the horrifying detail that the victims' blood has been mixed with the blood of animals that were being offered in sacrifice. We don't know why they brought the news to Jesus. Did they want him to express solidarity with the victims? Or did they want him to explain what sin those victims could have committed to merit such a shameful death? Or why God allowed them to be murdered in the sacred area of the temple?

Instead of a direct answer, Jesus recalled another tragedy that happened in Jerusalem: the death of eighteen people crushed by a falling tower near the pool of Siloam. Then he made two comments about both events. First, that victims were no more sinners than anyone else. And second, that any such tragedy can serve as a warning about the shortness of life. *"Unless you repent you will all perish as they did"*.

This roundabout answer should make us stop and think. *Jesus rejects the popular myth that all misfortunes are divine punishments.. We are not to imagine a stern, punitive God* who metes out sickness, accidents, misfortunes, as a response to people's sins. Then he changes the topic and invites them to examine their own lives. They must listen to God's call to conversion and to a change of lifestyle.

On our mass-media we often learn of tragic earthquakes, hurricanes and floods. How can we reconcile such tragedies with our belief in divine providence? Jesus suggests that rather than asking how God could let them happen, we should wonder what positive lesson we can learn from them. Rather than ask, "why does God allow this misfortune", let's ask, "how can we leave so many human beings to live in misery, so defenceless and ill-provided for?" **We**

won't find salvation by protesting at God or denying his existence, but by doing our bit to mitigate suffering in our world. Then, maybe, our heightened awareness of the fragility of life will bring us closer to God.

Learn from the gardener

Death stares out at us from our newspapers and TV screens. Apart from natural deaths, somewhere in the world there's always some natural calamity, a terrorist attack, ethnic brutalities, murder for gain, epidemics, tsunamis, earthquake or famine. Death does not predict its calendar, but is a certain fate for us all. People who were expected to live to old age die suddenly while others whose childhood was marked by illness often survive to a remarkable age. Our reactions to other people's death can be either a philosophical acceptance like, "Maybe it was his/her time to go" or a more shocked sense of loss: "It should not have happened so soon!" When people told Jesus how some Galileans died, victims of Pilate's anger, they wondered how God could have let this happen; but instead of explaining it, Jesus asks "do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?" He goes on to warn about the need of repentance.. "unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!" and illustrates this with the parable of the fruitless tree.

Real repentance is a reflection about whatever is unfruitful in our lifestyle. Jesus' words "Repent or you will perish" remind us of what Socrates said at his trial, after he had opted for death rather than exile: "*The un-examined life is not worth living.*" The parable of the fruitless fig tree is thought-provoking. It is not about doing wrong but about failure to do what is positively right. The fig tree that bore no fruit is like a Christian who attempts no good work and lives a purely selfish life.

Francis of Assisi once invited a young friar to go with him into town to preach. Francis and the young friar spent all day walking through the streets and then came home. When the day's journey was done, the young friar was disappointed and asked "Weren't we supposed to preach today?" Francis replied, "Son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. We were seen by many and our behavior was noted. It is of no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach wherever as we walk!" He summed up his idea in these words "Preach the Gospel everywhere, and if necessary, use words." To him witnessing to Jesus wasn't merely quoting some words out of the Bible from time to time but one who lives by the word of God each day.

The gardener in the Gospel asked the owner of the vineyard to give the barren fig tree another chance to produce fruit. He promised to dig around it and manure it, to give it one last chance to prove itself. It suggests that we too need to nurture our faith and commit ourselves to being helpful to the lives of others. Are we nurturing our faith and trying to love, so as to bear the kind of fruit God wants from us?

Vocations: In our first reading this weekend God calls Moses to lead His people from exile into the Promised Land. We pray for those being called by God today to lead His people in the ways of faith as priests of the diocese of Derry.

Pope Francis has invited us this Lent to "journey in hope together". A short-term pledge is available via www.pioneerassociation.org for parishioners who wish to become a "pilgrim of hope" for people who are living under the shadow of addiction.

Diocese Of Derry Pilgrimage To Lourdes: 30th June - 4th July. £849pps. Open Thursdays and Saturdays: 11am - 1pm. Tel: (028)71260293. Email: derrypilgrim@outlook.com. Payments for the pilgrimage are acceptable by online payment or cheque

A Theology Course for Lent: An exploration into Theology - Reading the signs of the times: a theology course presented by Fr. Brian Brady will take place on the Tuesdays of Lent at 7pm in St. Eugene's Cathedral Hall. St. Eugene's Cathedral Hall is just a few yards outside the cathedral grounds. All are welcome.

Accord Inishowen is running a Face to Face Pre-Marriage Course on Friday 27th & Saturday 28th June, in Carndonagh. Book online: accord.ie or e-mail: inishowen@accord.ie.

Teach us to Pray Booklet –It can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/teach-us-to-pray>.

Hughie's Corner Good as New is opening from Wednesday 2nd April in G&S, Carndonagh. All donations welcome.

Derry Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima: We are inviting young people aged 16 + to join us on pilgrimage to Fatima for 4 nights from 14th to 18th July. This will be a unique experience for young people and an opportunity to engage with their peers from around the world in a faith context. Cost is £700 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.

Accord NI is recruiting experienced practitioners for the Derry and Enniskillen centres, to train in the specialism of couple counselling. Successful applicants will follow an 18-day (9 weekends) in-person Certificate programme, (144 hours class contact), which will provide the clinical skills essential for safe and ethical couples work. Course fees paid and placement provided by Accord NI. For further information and to obtain an application form please email info@accord.ie. Closing date for receipt of applications 30/04/2025. Programme commences September 2025.