

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
 Second Sunday of Advent ( Year A Week 2)



Fr. Peter Devlin P.P. Fr. Charley Logue C.C.  
 Malin Malin Head  
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Mass Times  
*St. Patrick's Church* - Saturday 6pm, Sunday 10:30am  
*Star of the Sea Church* - Saturday 8pm, Sunday 12 noon  
*St. Mary's Church* - Sunday 9am

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Web Site: [www.malinparish.ie](http://www.malinparish.ie)

Facebook: Malin Parish

**Weekday Masses:**

**St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30pm  
**Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:** Monday at 8pm, Tuesday at 12noon and Friday at 7:30pm  
**St. Mary's Church, Lagg:** Tuesday at 9am, Wednesday & Thursday at 9:30am

**The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary 8<sup>th</sup> December Masses:**

St Patrick's, Aughaclay Monday 6 30pm Tuesday 6.30pm *Star of the Sea Church:* Monday at 8pm  
 & Tuesday at 12noon *St. Mary's Church:* Tuesday at 9am,

**Details on the times of online Masses and Prayers for the Covid 19 Crisis:** <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>

**Sincere Thanks** to those who have sent in their collection envelopes, cheques and donations for the Parish during the past week. Please make cheques payable to "Malin Parochial".

**Level 3 Regulations:**

Parishioners are required to wear masks to all Public masses in our churches. Those with symptoms of covid 19 should not attend masses. There will be 12 masses for Christmas in Malin Parish. All masses will have the usual restricted numbers to ensure safety and social distancing. To enable this there will be tickets for each mass available at a later date. Only those with tickets for a particular mass will be able to attend that mass. Tickets will be non-transferable. Tickets are one for each person who is attending. Please decide which mass you want to attend. If there are no more tickets available for that mass, then parishioners need to have a second or third choice. The Christmas season is from the first mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve to the last mass on the feast of the Epiphany, 6<sup>th</sup> January, so parishioners have a very wide choice of masses to attend.

CHRISTMAS EVE		CHRISTMAS DAY	
4PM	ST MARY'S LAGG	8AM	STAR OF THE SEA
6PM	ST PATRICK'S	8.30AM	ST PATRICK'S
7PM	STAR OF THE SEA	9AM	ST MARY'S LAGG
8PM	ST PATRICK'S	10AM	ST PATRICK'S
9PM	STAR OF THE SEA	11AM	STAR OF THE SEA
12 MIDNIGHT	ST PATRICK'S	11.30AM	ST PATRICK'S

**SVP Malin Conference:** Please support the SVP Collection, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020. SVP Malin Conference will be conducting their Giving Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Each year our SVP Malin Conference makes essential visits to families and people in need in this community. Unfortunately due to Covid -19 restrictions we currently can't collect at the Church door but you can still donate to our Conference at [www.svp.ie/malinappeal](http://www.svp.ie/malinappeal) or by placing your donation in our collection boxes located in parish shop counters: Laffertys shop (Glengad), McCleans, Malin Cash Stores, Boggs Butchers (Malin), Stop and Shop and Mullins (Malin Head) or ringing the SVP Malin Conference on 0830989600. The funds raised will be spent in the community helping those who need it most with food, heating and education costs throughout the winter and beyond. We rely almost entirely on the support of you, the generous parishioners. Thank you in advance for your continued support. SVP Malin Conference. If you find yourself in need of support or know someone who is in need please contact SVP Malin Conference on 0830989600. All matters will be dealt with confidentially.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 God is coming to save his people and to open up our way into the future.**  
 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the desert prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of their Saviour**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

### Reflection on the Readings

This Sunday marks the second stage of the Season of Advent], a marvelous time which reawakens in us the expectation of Christ’s return and the memory of his historical coming. Today’s Liturgy presents us with a message full of hope. It is the Lord’s express invitation from the lips of the Isaiah: “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God” (40:1). These words open the Book of Comfort, in which the Prophet addresses the joyous proclamation of liberation to the people in exile. The time of tribulation has ended; the people of Israel can look trustingly toward the future: at last they can return to their homeland. This is the reason for the invitation to let themselves be comforted by the Lord.

Isaiah addresses people who have passed through a dark period, who have been subjected to a very difficult trial; but now the time of comfort has come. Sorrow and fear can be replaced with joy, for the Lord himself will guide his people on the way to liberation and salvation. How will He do all this? With the solicitude and tenderness of a shepherd who takes care of his flock. He will in fact provide unity and security and feed his flock, gather the lost sheep into his sure fold, reserve special attention to the most fragile and weak (v. 11). This is God’s attitude toward us, his creatures. For this reason, the Prophet invites those who hear him — including us, today — to spread this message of hope: that the Lord consoles us. And to make room for the comfort which comes from the Lord.

We cannot be messengers of God’s comfort if we do not first feel the joy of being comforted and loved by Him. This happens especially when we hear his Word, the Gospel, which we should carry in our pocket: do not forget this! The Gospel in your pocket or purse, to read regularly. And this gives us comfort: when we abide in silent prayer in his presence, when we encounter Him in the Eucharist or in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All this comforts us.

Let us therefore allow Isaiah’s call — “Comfort, comfort my people” — resound in our heart in this Season of Advent. Today there is need for people to be witnesses to the mercy and tenderness of God, who spurs the resigned, enlivens the disheartened, ignites the fire of hope. He ignites the fire of hope! We don’t. So many situations require our comforting witness. To be joyful, comforting people. I am thinking of those who are burdened by suffering, injustice and tyranny; of those who are slaves to money, to power, to success, to worldliness. Poor dears! They have fabricated consolation, not the true comfort of the Lord! We are all called to comfort our brothers and sisters, to testify that God alone can eliminate the causes of existential and spiritual tragedies. He can do it! He is powerful!

Isaiah’s message, which resounds in this second Sunday of Advent, is a salve on our wounds and an impetus to prepare with commitment the way of the Lord. Indeed, today the Prophet speaks to heart to tell us that God condones our sins and comforts us. If we entrust ourselves to Him with a humble and penitent heart, He will tear down the walls of evil, He will fill in the holes of our omissions, He will smooth over the bumps of arrogance and vanity, and will open the way of encounter with Him. It is curious, but many times we are afraid of consolation, of being comforted. Or rather, we feel more secure in sorrow and desolation. Do you know why? Because in sorrow we feel almost as protagonists. However, in consolation the Holy Spirit is the protagonist! It is He who consoles us, it is He who gives us the courage to go out of ourselves. It is He who opens the door to the source of every true comfort, that is, the Father. And this is conversion. Please, let yourselves be comforted by the Lord! Let yourselves be comforted by the Lord!