

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 20th December 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A Week 4)



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

E-Mail: malinparish@hotmail.com

Web Site: www.malinparish.ie

Facebook: Malin Parish

Weekday Masses:

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 7:30pm
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head: Monday at 10am, Tuesday at 7:30pm
St. Mary's Church, Lagg: Wednesday at 9:30am

Christmas Eve Masses: *St. Mary's Church* 4pm, *St. Patrick's Church* 6pm, 8pm & Midnight, *Star of the Sea Church* 7pm & 9pm.

Christmas Day Masses: *Star of the Sea Church* 8am & 11am, *St. Patrick's Church* 8:30am, 10am & 11:30am, *St. Mary's Church* 9am.

No 6pm Aughaclay or 8pm Malin Head Vigil Masses on Boxing Day, Saturday 26th December
Normal Sunday morning masses on Sunday 27th December.



Father Devlin and Father Logue wish all our parishioners a very happy and peaceful Christmas

Anniversary Mass: Mary Ellen Gallagher on Friday 25th December at 11am in Star of the Sea Church

Anniversary Mass: Mary McDaid, Bunn, Glengad on Saturday 2nd January at 6pm in St Patrick's Aughaclay.

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".

Collections for last week: Thank You.

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	2740	510	320
<i>Restoration</i>	2740	505	325

Parish Fund –	€ 3570
Restoration Fund –	€ 3570

Parish Collection Envelopes for January to June 2021 are now available in all churches. Please use these envelopes for your weekly contribution to the parish.

Level 3 Regulations: Parishioners are required to wear masks to all Public masses in our churches. . All masses will have the usual restricted numbers to ensure safety and social distancing. Only those with tickets for a particular mass will be able to attend that mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Tickets can be collected on Sunday 20th in the Parish Hall Malin from 5-6pm. There are now only limited tickets available for the Midnight and Christmas morning masses. Christmas Eve masses are full.

December Parish Prayer Day for Marriage and Family Life: A child is born for us. Sunday 20th December. As we prepare for another twenty-four hours of Continuous Prayer for Marriage & Family Life this Sunday, our focus is Christmas. This year Christmas is going to be very different. Some people will hear that statement as saying that it could be a disaster! Hopefully, it can be heard as a call to make it even better than ever because of the focus on our family life. Everyone is invited to join in this prayer..

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Nathan prophesies that God will single out the dynasty of David, from – a promise fulfilled in Jesus

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits

iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 The annunciation to Mary, and her total Yes to God

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel as sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

That special person

If you were to ask a married couple how they came to fall in love, or asked two good friends how they came to be friends, they may have difficulty answering and might say something like, "It just happened." In one sense that may be true. In another sense it didn't just happen. If two people are in a significant relationship with each other, be it marriage or friendship, it is because they have chosen each other. Why does someone choose one person rather than another as a spouse or friend? Why does someone choose to share his or her life with someone else? This is the mystery of human freedom, human preference. The more significant relationships cannot be forced. Love is freely bestowed by one person on another; the other freely receives what is bestowed and freely reciprocates, and a new relationship is born. There is a depth about all that.

If there is mystery in the relationship of one human being with another, even more so in the relationship between God and us. Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of his Son? Why this particular woman in this small village at this particular time of human history? It was the mysterious freedom and preference of God. Yet, there is a difference between God's choice of Mary and the choice any one of us might make of another. When any one of us chooses another to love or to befriend, there is always, of necessity, an exclusive element to that choice. We choose this person rather than any number of others. Although we choose several people in the course of our lives in each case our choice of one excludes others.

God's choice of Mary was not exclusive in that sense. In choosing Mary, he was choosing all of us. He chose Mary for all our sakes. God chose her to carry God's Son on behalf of us all, because her future child was God's gift to us all. That is why how Mary responded to God's choice of her was not just a matter that concerned herself. It concerned us all. We all had a vested interest in how she responded. Her response would also be our response. In a sense we looked to her to make an appropriate response on behalf of us all to God's choice of us. The good news is that Mary did not let us down. Although initially disturbed and perplexed by the message, she eventually surrendered fully to that mysterious choice of God. Having been graced in this mysterious way, she responded wholeheartedly, "Let it be to me according to your word." God freely chose her, and she in turn chose to place her freedom at God's service. God's choice of Mary, and her choice of God in response had the most wonderful consequences for all of us. She went on to sing, "the Almighty has done great things for me." And because of her response to God's choice, we can all sing, "the Almighty has done great things for us." We have all been graced through Mary's response to God's choice of her.

Welcoming the Grace of God

Today's readings tell of God's gracious initiative towards us. Their focus is not on what we do for God but on what God does for us. In the Book of Samuel, David plans to do a great service for God, no less than to build a beautiful temple as a house of prayer. King David was an achiever who had accomplished a great deal. Yet Nathan says that God did not want the king to build the Temple. Rather, it was God who would do something for David; whereby David's descendants would lead God's people into the future. David had to let go of his great plans and learn to let God lead the course of his life. Accepting favours can be difficult for us. We like to be the givers, the organizers, the achievers. To let others give to us is to acknowledge our need, our dependence, our limitations, and that does not always come easy. Maybe we sense that to allow ourselves to be graced by others is to put ourselves under obligation to them. That reluctance to receive can carry over into our relationship with God. The heart of the good news is that God is a gracious God who wants to give us all things. As Paul says in his epistle, 'God who did not withhold his won Son, but gave him up for all of us, will also with him give us everything else!' This is the special time of year when we allow God to be the God of abundant grace in our regard; it is a time when we come before him in our need and open ourselves to his gracious love and presence.