

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 19th December 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C Week 4)



Fr. Peter Devlin P.P. **Fr. Charley Logue C.C.** **Mass Times**
 Malin Malin Head St. Patrick's Church - Saturday 6pm Sunday 10:30am
 074 93 70615 074 93 70134 Star of the Sea Church - Saturday 8pm Sunday 12 noon
E-Mail: malinparish@hotmail.com St. Mary's Church - Sunday 9am
Web Site: www.malinparish.ie **Facebook:** Malin Parish

Weekday Masses:

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay: Tuesday and Thursday at 7.30pm
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head: Monday at 10am and Tuesday at 7:30pm
St. Mary's Church, Lagg: Wednesday at 9:30am

The Nativity of the Lord: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses:

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay: Christmas Eve: 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, Christmas Day. 10.30am
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head: Christmas Eve: 6pm, 8pm .Christmas Day at 11am
St. Mary's Church, Lagg: Christmas Eve: 4pm. Christmas Day 9am

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sunday 26th December: Masses at usual time

Weekday Masses: from Monday 27th December: No weekday Masses



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

Month's Mind Mass: William Glackin, Ballygorman on Sunday 19th December at 9am St. Mary's Church.

First Anniversary Mass: Michael Mc Laughlin (F) on Thursday 23rd December at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church.

First Anniversary Mass: Rose Kelly, Glentoskert on Christmas Day at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

Anniversary Mass: Mary Ellen Gallagher, MalinHead on Christmas Day at 11am in Star of the Sea Church.

Anniversary Mass: Charlie Monagle, Brookefield Terrace, Malin on Sunday 26th December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

Anniversary Mass: Jim Mullen, Bree on Wednesday 5th January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

First Anniversary Mass: John Mc Gilloway, Lower Braghey on Sunday 13th February at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

Parish Collection: Given the serious financial deficit which the parish suffered due to Covid your increased support is essential at this time. 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>	535	270	275
<i>Restoration</i>	535	270	275

Parish Fund –	€ 1080
Restoration Fund –	€ 1080

Envelopes for the Parish Collection are available in all churches for January 2022 to June 2022

They are the preferred way to support the parish financially. One box for each adult parishioner.

THE NET: The December edition of The Net is now available online, on

<https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-december-2021> As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese

SVP Malin Conference: Each year our SVP Malin Conference makes essential visits to families and people in need in this community. It is also possible to donate to our Conference by placing your donation in our collection boxes located in parish shop counters: Lafferty's 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. 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.

Parish Draw for December

	200	100	50
5/12	218 Philip Mc Laughlin	169 Bridie Mc Laughlin	415 Angela Farren
12/12	347 Robert Campbell	139 Oisin Mc Daid	175 Eddie Houten
19/12	389 HESSIE DOHERTY	408 Serena Deegan	145 Roy Kelly
26/12	333 Roisin Campbell	384 Mary Mc Colgan`	340 Gerry Campbell

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44 Elizabeth recognises the unique child that Mary carries within her

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

Holding our breath

The readings invite a final pause, one further holding of the breath, before the birth of Jesus. The Visitation, in particular, with its explicit and implied encounter(s), may help us reflect on all the encounters of this season, not forgetting "the" encounter to which we are all invited.

Honouring the Madonna

When a mother is expecting, all the focus is on her health. She gets loads of advice — 'be careful,' 'don't lift that' and 'don't forget your afternoon nap.' Once the baby is born the main attention moves to the baby — 'who does she look like?' 'what name will you give him?' ...and so on. So on this last Sunday before Christmas the Gospel is focussed on Mary, the expectant mother, and in particular, on her visit to her cousin, Elizabeth.

One could say that Mary is even more honoured in the Eastern Church than she is in the West. In the West, after the 16th century reformation, many Protestants stopped honouring Mary. Many shrines were levelled, stained glass windows were broken, statues of Mary shattered, pictures of the Madonna burnt. Still, not all Protestants disowned Mary. A frequently quoted line about her is where William Wordsworth refers to her as 'our tainted nature's solitary boast.' Martin Luther had a lifelong devotion to Mary and even kept a picture of her on his desk, though many Lutherans seem unaware of this.

All Christians, whether Catholic or Protestant, like to meditate on the Magnificat, that prayerful song brimming over with anger at the way the world is tilted against the poor. It is Mary's cry for justice: He has filled the hungry with good things/ And sent the rich away empty. This is Mary who inspires all followers of her son to challenge injustice also in our own time and place.

Two great women

The two pregnant women in our Gospel today are different in age, yet both full of joy and concern for each other. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth because of the dangers attendant on so late a pregnancy. That she went with haste, halfway across the country, to make the visit is a clear sign of Mary's generosity and goodness. Through the light of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognised Mary's privilege as the mother of the longed-for Messiah. She greets Mary in the words we are so familiar with in our Hail Mary. And Mary responds in the equally familiar words of the Magnificat. These two great women understand the miracle of conception and birth. But in each case there was divine intervention in a truly exceptional way. The Gospel says that both were informed of this fact by the words of an angel; they each had a message from God telling them so.

The fact that these two women had this divine intervention is a reminder that our own lives too are a gift of God; what we might call ordinary grace. It is from this understanding that the Church takes its position on all life issues.

At some moments we may recognise the hand of God in our lives. Maybe at the point when we felt we had a priestly or religious vocation or when we finally decided on our partner in marriage. Maybe it was at the birth of a child, a change in job circumstances, or the death of a parent. Maybe it was a moment in prayer, the grace of a sacrament, advice in the confessional, wise words from a friend or relative at a critical moment.

God continues to work with us and for us. God takes the long view and there are periods of seeming barrenness, seeming aloneness. But these are all part of that gestation which is life on earth. We were born into this world and we will be reborn into eternal life.

Every now and then like John the Baptist we leap in this womb which is our life on earth. Every now and then we recognise God's presence, as John recognised Jesus' presence, and we leap with joy. But life is always moving on and God is always with us. It was God caused us to come into being, who sustains and feeds us, and who will welcome us into life eternal. As well as the birth of Jesus, we celebrate our own birth too at Christmas — a birth, a life that flows towards death and final resurrection.