

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 28th November 2021
First Sunday of Advent (Year C Week 1)

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

Anniversary Mass: Mary Margaret Lafferty, Malin Town on Saturday 27th November at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.

First Anniversary: Ian Callaghan, Northtown on Saturday 27th November at 8pm in Star of Sea Church.

Month's Mind Mass: Anthony Mc Laughlin (Hemish), Chicago/Drumnaske on Sunday 5th December at 9am St. Mary's Church.

First Anniversary Mass: Mickey Duffy, Glengad and Scotland on Saturday 11th December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church

Anniversary Mass: Jim Rudden, Tully on Sunday 12th December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

Anniversary Mass: John McLaughlin Briney, Leiter on Sunday 12th December at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

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

First Anniversary: Rose Kelly, Glentoskert on Christmas Day 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>	445	220	220
<i>Restoration</i>	445	215	220

Parish Fund –	€ 885
Restoration Fund –	€ 880

Malin Parish Bingo: Many new exciting prizes! Bingo begins at 8.30pm every Sunday in the Parochial Hall. All are welcome.

Malin Parish CEP is recruiting the following workers: 1 Administrator, 2 General Workers, 1 GAA Coach Assistant. . Full details from Danny McGonagle, 0868124568,

Priory Institute Online 'Theology' Open Evening invites you to attend a short introductory lecture on theology to find out if studying theology with them is right for you. This Open Evening takes place on Thursday 2nd December at 7pm. Question and Answer time available. For further information, or to register: <https://prioryinstitute.com/events/priory-institute-open-evening> or Email: enquiries@prioryinstitute.com or telephone 003531 4048124. The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures from the comfort of your own home.

Counselling: A professional confidential counselling service is available for couples or individuals through Accord at the Pastoral Centre, CarnDonagh, Co. Donegal, F93 XP59. Contact 074 93 74103 or e-mail accordinishowen@gmail.com. Accord Inishowen are hosting **Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme (Pre-Marriage) Courses** via Zoom on Saturdays 26th February, 12th March and 23rd April 2022. To book: www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation or email accordinishowen@gmail.com for more info.

Service of Light: The 'North West Bereaved by Suicide' Support Group is holding its annual Service of Light, on Sunday 5th December, at 5.30pm, in the Foyle Search & Rescue HQ, Prehen, Derry. All are welcome.

The Priory Institute is delighted to offer a Free of Charge online retreat which is a repeat of the popular Advent Retreat in 2018. The Advent Retreat featuring a series of online reflections given in preparation for Christmas. Lectio Divina reflections on the Advent and Christmas Gospels. Website: www.prioryinstitute.com or <https://bit.ly/3DWrtkx>

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 Making ready for the final day when Christ will come as judge

[Jesus said to his disciples]: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Advent Patience

Advent reminds us of the three comings of the Lord — the coming in history over 2000 years ago; the coming in glory at the end of time when God's dream for human kind will be realised; the coming in mystery in the happenings of daily life.

If we can learn in these weeks of Advent the importance of patient waiting we have learned one of the great lessons in life. This is hard for us, especially in the West. We live in an instant age — instant food, instant this, that and the other. We even speed up nature: with artificial light we fool the hens to lay two eggs a day! We are in too much of a hurry in having every possible experience too early in life — the morning-after pill for eleven year olds!

The most important things in life cannot be rushed and require patient waiting. Patient waiting is required from the mother to bring the child to birth, and then from babyhood to adulthood; the teacher requires it with the slow learner; the politician requires it not to give up on the peace process, and everybody requires it to build loving relationships. We wait not mournfully, but in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Expect the Unexpected

Today, the first Sunday of Advent, marks the beginning of a period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ, our Saviour, at Christmas. All the readings in the Mass advise us most urgently to make ourselves ready, to be on the alert, to turn aside from our sinful ways, and give more time to God in our lives. "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord," Isaiah says in the first reading. We must not live lives of darkness and of sin, St Paul admonishes his listeners; but let us put on the armour of God's grace, and appear in the light, meaning that our consciences should have nothing to hide at any time, but rather be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit directing them. "Be vigilant, stay awake," the gospel warns, at any moment you may be called upon to make an eternal choice, and that as unexpectedly as the people who were swallowed up by the Flood, in the time of Noah.

Outwardly, people may appear the same, like the men working in the fields or the women grinding at the millstone, but inwardly they have responded differently to the graces God has given them. So they are in varying states of preparedness for what is to come, with the result that while some will be taken into God's kingdom, others will be left or rejected. This is true of every single individual, for as we pass through life we are all being faced with a choice between two ways, either that of slavery to evil tendencies in our lives, which we call sin, or, on the other hand, that of grace, which is allowing Jesus Christ be our guide and exemplar in all that we do.

It is only when we sincerely try to model our lives on that of Christ that our spirits will experience real freedom. Jesus himself said to the Jews (Jn 8:32), "If you persevere in my word, you will indeed be my disciples. You will learn the truth, and the truth will make you free." Persevering in the word of Jesus demands that we listen to it, as it comes to us from out the scriptures and from within our consciences; also that we think about it and study its requirements, and that we put into action what we have learned. The true disciple of Christ asks the question, "What am I setting before myself as the main purpose of my life?" My career, the gaining of material possessions, the pursuit of pleasure, or the service of God and my neighbour? The truth of Jesus will teach us what things are really important and what are not. Furthermore, discipleship of Christ brings its own rewards. It brings freedom from fear, fear about oneself, fear about one's ability to cope with life, fear about contradiction and opposition from others, fear about death and the uncertainty of life thereafter. "In love there can be no fear," St John wrote (1 Jn 4:18), "but perfect love casts out fear; because to fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love."

If we end up having no love or reverence towards God, no respect or consideration or pity towards others, then we will have reached the stage of choosing to be lost, as Jesus, in his prayer at the Last Supper, said of Judas. "Father, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them, and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost." This is what should really frighten us, that the choice of our own destiny for all eternity rests entirely with ourselves.

Advent is a time for listening. "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord," the first reading tells us, "so that he may teach us his ways, and that we may walk in his paths." The second reading is the one that finally brought about the conversion of St Augustine after he had opened the New Testament at random at that very passage, and please God it will help us to look into our own lives and, if needs be, change them too.