

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 9th January 2022
The Baptism of the Lord (Year C Week 3)

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

First Anniversary Mass: Jack Donovan, Slieve Bawn on Saturday 15th January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Willie Mc Kenney, Drumdoo on Sunday 16th January at 12noon in Star of the Sea Church.
First Anniversary Mass: John Doherty, Ballygorman on Saturday 22nd January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Months Mind Mass: Neil Mc Laughlin (Big Mickie), USA/Lower Brahey on Sunday 23rd January at 9am in St. Mary's
First Anniversary Mass: John Mc Gilloway, Lower Braghey on Sunday 13th February at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: John Mc Laughlin, Ballylannon and Greencastle, on Sunday 20th February at 6pm in St Patrick's
Anniversary Mass: Billy Farren, Glentokert on Saturday 6th March at 6pm in St. Patrick'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 the last Three week: Thank You.

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	1260	460	385
<i>Restoration</i>	1255	455	380
<i>Parish</i>	300	215	150
<i>Restoration</i>	295	215	145
<i>Parish</i>	585	245	185
<i>Restoration</i>	585	240	180

Parish Fund –	€2105
Restoration Fund –	€2090
Parish Fund –	€665
Restoration Fund –	€ 655
Parish Fund –	€ 1015
Restoration Fund –	€ 1005

Envelopes for the Parish Collection are available in all churches for January to June 2022. They are the preferred way to support the parish financially. One box for each adult parishioner.

"Unlocking The Mysteries of The Bible" with Jeff Cavins is an eight-week programme being offered by the Living Church Office (Down & Connor Diocese). It is offered as a good opportunity for those interested in deepening their knowledge of their faith, understanding the bible and its timeline, and learning how to approach reading it. Three separate times are being offered: Wed Morning, 11am and Wed Evening, 7pm, starting Wednesday 12th January or Mon Evening, 7pm, starting Monday 17th January. To register for any one of these, please complete an online form <https://forms.office.com/r/g3FWFK5x8w> or if you have any queries please e-mail a.steen@downandconnor.org. Course participants will receive a resource pack and connect online for a time of teaching, discussion and prayerful reflection.

Scoil Treasa Naofa, Malin, Scoil Cholmcille, Glengad, Urblereagh National School .Scoil Naomh Mhuire, Malin Head, now have application forms for admission in September 2022. Contact the schools for details.

Carndonagh Men's Shed Opening Hours: 10am-2pm Mon-Thur and 10am-1.30pm Fri. Phone 083 0282642. Come and join us !! "

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 The Baptist points to Jesus the Saviour, whom God calls "my Son, the Beloved"

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Having a clear purpose in life

During a pilgrimages to the Holy Land I and some friends stood up to our knees in the river Jordan, to renew the promises of our baptism. It was a moving experience as we remembered the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus just after HIS baptism. By being baptised into him we are counted as members of God's beloved family. United with Jesus, we are made like him, God's own daughters and sons. Others who stood that day in the

Jordan will remember that moment today and use it to renew their commitment to Jesus. But all of us were baptised somewhere, sometime, and we can claim that baptism fully as our own.

Our Lord's baptism is a vital moment in our story of salvation, where he joined with humanity in the humble outreach to God, and where the Father and the Spirit are seen and heard to be there with him. Our gospel says that "the heavens were opened," a powerful statement of the point of contact between heaven and earth. Later on, as Jesus completes his life-journey on Calvary, we read how "the veil of the Temple was rent in two," a symbol that we are not completely free to enter the Holy of Holies. Today's gospel has Jesus beginning a journey which each of us is asked to travel. It is a journey full of purpose, a journey of intent. We need a sense of purpose and pattern to our living. St Peter summarised the purpose and pattern of Christ's life when he said, "went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." We are each invited, personally, to make this purpose our own.

Celebrating Baptism

The sacrament I most like celebrating is the sacrament of baptism. It is always such a happy occasion when a child's birth is publicly celebrated and cheered, and here they are received into a larger family, the family of the church. In being received into our church-family, these children become our brothers and sisters in the Lord, sons and daughters of God, and temples of the Spirit. The joy of faith and hope is palpable, especially when the parents and godparents come up to the baptismal font and the water is poured over the head of the child by the celebrant. Each child is anointed before and after baptism with special oil of catechumens and the oil of chrism; the baptismal shawl is placed around the child and the baptismal candle is lit. The whole occasion is uplifting in a way that is unique to that sacrament.

Of course, the majority of baptisms are of children, who are oblivious to what is happening around them. A big decision is being made on their behalf without their knowing anything about it. Yet, just as parents make all kinds of other big decisions for their children without consulting them, so they happily make this significant decision on their behalf. There is a story in the gospels of parents bringing little children to Jesus. When the disciples tried to stop parents doing this, Jesus rebuked his disciples and said to them, 'let the children come to me and do not stop them, for to such as these the kingdom of God belongs.' Parents continue to bring their children to Jesus today whenever they present them for baptism, because in baptism they are being baptized into the person of Christ; they become members of his body; Jesus begins to live within them through the Spirit. When parents bring their children for baptism they are making a decision for them that is very much in keeping with the Lord's desire. 'Let the children come to me and do not stop them.'

Today we celebrate the feast of the baptism of Jesus. It is a good day to reflect on our own baptism and its significance for us. The day of Jesus' baptism was a watershed in his life; it was a day of new beginning. On that day he began his public ministry during which he gave himself fully in the service of God and all of God's people. On that day Jesus launched forth as the one who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. As he set out on that momentous journey for all of us, he was assured of God his Father's favour, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you', and he was empowered by the Holy Spirit, who descended upon him like a dove.

Even though Jesus was baptised by John as an adult and we received Christian baptism as children, our baptism was also a day of new beginning for us. On that day we were launched on the great adventure of becoming disciples of Jesus in our own time. On that day, we too were given an assurance of God's love and favour, and we too were empowered by the Holy Spirit for the journey ahead of us. On that day we were caught up into Jesus' own very special relationship with God and we became a member of Jesus' family of disciples, the church. It is a moment of grace that has the potential to shape our lives in a very fundamental way, in a way that is in keeping with God's purpose for our lives.

In a sense we spend the rest of our lives trying to catch up with that day of new beginning. We are baptized as children but it is as adults that we confirm our baptism for ourselves. It is as adults that we say our own adult 'yes' to the Lord who said 'yes' to us as young children on the day of our baptism. It may be in our late twenties or our thirties or forties or even later that we come to say that 'yes' with all our heart and soul and mind. It is often in those mature years that we can hear the call of Isaiah in today's First Reading, 'O come to the water all you who are thirsty; Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.' The Lord keeps calling out to us from the moment of our baptism, and as the Lord declares in that First Reading, 'the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.' Our response to the Lord's call, the Lord's word, can be slow in coming,

but his call, his word, remains powerfully creative and will in some way or other make of us what God wants for us.