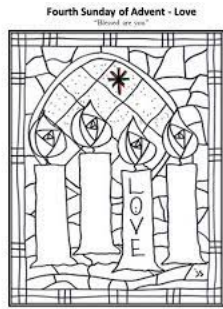


Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 18th December 2022
4th Sunday of Advent (Year A Week 4)

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

Confessions: *St. Patrick's Aughaclay* Tuesday at 7pm and Friday 6.30pm to 7.30pm
Star of the Sea Church: Tuesday & Friday from 6:30 - 7:25pm and Saturday from 6 - 6:50pm

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

St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay: Christmas Eve: 6pm and Christmas Day at 10:30am
Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head: Christmas Eve: 7pm and Christmas Day at 11am
St. Mary's Church, Lagg: Christmas Day 9am

Anniversary Mass: Charlie Monagle, Brookefield Terrace, Malin on Sunday 18th December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Michael Mc Laughlin (Fildara) on Friday the 23rd December at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Rose Kelly, Glentoskert on Christmas Morning at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Mary Ellen Gallagher on Christmas Day in the Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Susan Quigley, Lagg on Sunday 1st January at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Months Mind Mass: Mark Mc Daid, Templemoyle on Sunday 1st January at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Jim Mullin on Thursday 5th January at 8pm in the Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Patricia Josephine Mac Laughlin on Friday 6th January 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 the last week: Thank You.**

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	655	220	245
<i>Restoration</i>	655	215	245

Parish Fund	€1120
Restoration Fund	€1115

Parish Draw for November and December

	€200	€100	€50
6/11	425 Fr Devlin	428 Sarahjoe Colhoun	299 Mary Mc Gonagle
13/11	243 John James O Donnell	410 Mary and J Mooney	337 Oliver Mc Laughlin
20/11	398 Noel Doherty	273 Maura Monagle	338 Patricia Mc Menamin
27/11	423 Gerard Kelly	364 Martin and Elaine Mc Colgan	413 Diane and Paddy Doherty
4/12	294 Jessie & Mollie Farren	401 Oliver & William Monagle	257 Annmarie, Celine Doherty
11/12	225 Peggy Doherty	238 Mary Mc Colgan	427 Helen Kearney
18/12	178 Sheila Mc Dermott	346 Raymond Doherty	272 Rita Colhoun
25/12	379 Patricia Devlin	351 Henry Mc Closkey	170 Noah Doherty

Penitential Service in Preparation for Christmas on today Sunday 18th at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church Aughaclay.
Please Note Change of Time!!!

Fr Devlin will attend the sick on Tuesday 20th December afternoon.

New Parish Collection Envelopes for January to July 2023 are in the Churches. Every adult is expected to support the parish financially. Envelopes are the preferred way to support the parish. The Christmas Day Envelope Collection is for the priests of the parish.

Prayer Day for Marriage and Family Life. On Tuesday 20th December, our parish prays for the 24 hours for Marriage & Family Life. To make this prayer continuous, many people in our parish have committed themselves to a specific hour of prayer in such a way that the whole day and night are covered. Our proposed theme for December: A child is born for us. The Joy of Love – Pope Francis: Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares, as when they met with Herod's implacable violence. Like the Magi, our families are invited to contemplate the Child and his Mother, to bow down and worship him. Like Mary they are asked to face their family's challenge with courage and serenity, in good times and in bad, and to keep in their heart the great things God has done. Family prayer is a special way of expressing and strengthening this paschal faith. A few minutes can be found each day to come together before the living God, to tell God our worries, to ask for the needs of our family, to pray for someone experiencing difficulty, to ask for help in showing love, to give thanks for life and its blessings, and ask Our Lady to protect us beneath her maternal mantle.

The much-loved Malin Community Carol Service on today Sunday the 18th December at 7pm around the Christmas tree on the village green. The Malin branch of the IFA will also be in attendance again this year with their live crib. We have also heard that a very special visitor will join us for a song or two with some yummy treats for the kids! And not forgetting the mince pies and Bridie the Hatter's hot fruit punch for the big kids. We look forward to welcoming everyone back around the tree as we join together to sing all our favourite festive Hymns and Carols.

The Priory Institute is delighted to offer an online retreat Word Becomes Flesh: An Advent Retreat "Oh that you would tear apart the heavens and come down!" (Isaiah 64:1). Visit our website prioryinstitute.com or click on link <https://bit.ly/3DWrtKx> to register/find out more.

Prayer Resource At Christmas we celebrate the gift of Jesus, our hope and peace, Jesus, the light of the world. We pray this Christmas that each of us will rediscover the meaning of Our Lord's Nativity and the great hope that it proclaims for the world. You are invited to spend time with scripture, reflection and prayer. A Christmas prayer resource is available to download on the Diocese of Derry website for private prayer at the church or home, to share with a neighbour who may have no online access or for a time to gather each day with your family at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/12-days-of-christmas-2022>.

Scoil Naomh Mhuire Enrolment 2023/2024: The following are the dates applicable for admission to Naíonáin Bheaga / Junior Infants: The school will commence accepting applications for admission on 5th January and will cease accepting applications for admission on 3rd February. Pupil Enrolment Form is available online at www.malinheadns.scoilnet.ie.

St. Stephen's Day Swim at Port Mór Pier: In aid of The Friends of Inishowen Hospice and Malin Head Community Centre. Time of the swim is depending on the tides and will be confirmed later. Sponsorship forms are available from The Malin Head Community Centre, The Seaview Tavern and in Mullins shop. You can donate on the 'Go Fund me Page'.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24 *The virginal conception of Jesus is revealed to the just man, Joseph*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

What's in a name?

King Ahaz could be honoured as the patron of skeptics. He simply would not rely on God to help him through the greatest crisis in his life. In the crisis facing his kingdom, he preferred to trust in his soldiers and his military plans. Are we much the same? Do we trust only the range of our own power and resources, and turn to the true God only as an extra insurance, a vague source of possible help in moments of crisis? But such faith is weak and inadequate. A fuller kind of faith would see us relying on God's invisible, helping presence, not just in those moments when human support fails us. Real faith accepts the reality of God in every moment of life. It sees God as a dimension of all our experience, literally, the Emmanu-El, God-with-us.

The promise that God is with us was not for Isaiah's time only, it is for our own. Even now the sign of that continuing presence is a young woman and her child, the Virgin Mary and her son Jesus. For Joseph the unexpected pregnancy of Mary was not a sign to confirm his trust either in her or God, it was a contradictory sign. In the hours of his darkness he found the enlightening Spirit of God, the Spirit who teaches us not to judge by what our eyes see or by what our ears hear (cf. Is 11:3.) This gospel shows us that the signs God gives are not always the ones we would choose for ourselves. He gives signs for those who are willing to take on the darkness of doubt in openness and sincerity.

What can a name tell us about a particular person? Not much, usually. Names like Helen, Paula, Sharon or Jason are useful for distinguishing various members of a family, but they don't *describe* the people themselves. With some Biblical names it is different. For instance, Abraham meant "Father of a great people" (Gen. 17:5) and Moses meant "Rescued from the Waters" (Ex. 2:10.) Above all, our blessed Lord has names which are full of meaning. "Jesus" means "God saves," "Christ" means "God's Anointed Messiah" and the name "Emmanuel" in today's Gospel, means "God in our midst."

How important is Jesus for our religious belief? Be honest. Ask the question what is the heart of Christianity and what will people say? Something to do with loving your neighbour; keeping the law; going to church on Sunday? Will there be any mention of Jesus Christ, who is at the very centre of our faith. Ghandi once said, "If only you Christians took your Christ to heart.."

Jesus shares our lot, our life-experience and our troubles. At Christmas we will concentrate on the simplicity and poverty of Our Lord's birth: how human he was, born of a young woman, not in luxurious comfort, but in the discomfort of a stable. That shows him as one of us, the human side of "Emmanuel." This gospel however mentions the divine origin of Jesus. Although he has a human mother, he has not a human father, but was conceived in Mary by the power of God. This unique way of coming into life, with God as father, and the virgin Mary as mother, underlines who Jesus truly is: both God and man, one of ourselves and yet one with the eternal God.

If this seems mysterious to us, it must have been baffling for St Joseph. Close to Mary as he was, and finding her pregnant without any involvement by him, Joseph could only accept in faith what God's messenger told him, that the child was in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. With great patience and humility, Joseph accepted the part for which God had chosen him, as guardian and foster-father to our Lord and Saviour. This kind of faithful acceptance is asked from each of us, when Christ comes into our lives, as "God-with-us."