

**Parish of Malin (Clonca)      Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022**  
**1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:malinparish@hotmail.com)                              *St. Mary's Church* - Sunday 9am  
**Web Site:** [www.malinparish.ie](http://www.malinparish.ie)                              **Facebook:** Malin Parish



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

**Anniversary Mass:** Mary Margaret Lafferty on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Sarah Sexton, on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 9am in St Mary's Church.  
**Month's Mind Mass:** Philomena Mc Laughlin, Gortnacool on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Norman Henderson, Drumcarbit on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in St Mary's Church  
**Month's Mind Mass:** Eddie Kelly, Glentoskert on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Maureen & Charlie Doherty, Ballygorman/Carndonagh on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 12noon in Star of the Sea Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Pat Mc Laughlin, Ballymena Cottages on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Jim Rudden, Tully on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.  
**First Anniversary Mass:** Josephine Mc Gonagle, Leiter on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Charlie Monagle, Brookefield Terrace, Malin on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Michael Mc Laughlin (Fildara) on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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>Aghaclay</i> | <i>Malin Head</i> | <i>Lagg</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| <i>Parish</i>      | 515             | 245               | 220         |
| <i>Restoration</i> | 515             | 240               | 220         |

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|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Parish Fund</b>      | <b>€980</b> |
| <b>Restoration Fund</b> | <b>€975</b> |

**Christmas Cleaning in Aghaclay Church:** Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. All help would be very welcome.

**Malin Parish Auction:** Thanks to the Auction Organising Committee, all who donated items, those who purchased items, Neil Doherty Auctioneer, and all who helped in any way to make the auction an outstanding success. **€9000 was raised for Parish Funds**

**Night Vigil in Knock:** 7<sup>th</sup> December. Bus will leave Carndonagh at 3.45pm. Cost €51, including meal. Vigil is 12 to 5am. Bus returns immediately afterwards. For details contact Sara 0863647242 or Betty 0863496143

**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](http://prioryinstitute.com) or click on link <https://bit.ly/3DWrtkx> to register/find out more.

**Accord Inishowen** are hosting a Marriage Preparation Programme (Pre-Marriage) In Person Course on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in Carndonagh. To book: [www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation](http://www.accord.ie/services/marriage-preparation) or email for information [accordinishowen@gmail.com](mailto:accordinishowen@gmail.com).

**1st Sunday in Advent, A Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44** *We must make ready for the day when Christ will come again*

For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

**Another Advent**

*What's another year?* was the name of a song that won the Eurovision Song Contest long ago! Today we start another liturgical new year, with the songs of Isaiah singing the praise of Advent. Our year of prayer will carry

through to Christmas, then on to Jesus' Public life, then Lent and Holy Week and the drama of Easter and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Then our time moves towards next Advent, when another year of liturgical prayer begins. This rhythm and pattern can be a blessing for us, providing a spiritual framework of meaning for all the bits and pieces of daily living, during the different seasons. The liturgical year can help us keep our lives grateful and centred on God.

We begin this season of Advent in a spirit of expectation. During this time we look forward not just to the birthday of Jesus at Bethlehem but also for his second coming at the end of time!

Here's an instance of a woman with something to teach us this Advent. Before we had cell phones or WhatsApp or Voicemail, we depended on the humble landline. There was a mother in Mayo whose son in New York used to phone her up at eight o'clock every Sunday evening. As it neared the time her eyes were fixed on the telephone. No call in or out was allowed as she waited! She would not miss the joy of hearing her son's voice and all his news. That woman was a model for our spirit of waiting in Advent! The key attitude is one of being alert, being ready, so as not to miss the time of his coming, 'you must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect'. These words sound like a warning as though God were ready to pounce and catch us off guard with our affairs not in order! But they are also a promise, filled with hope. The coming of the Christ was and is the best of good news, a gift beyond imagining! It calls for joy and gratitude. Our response should be not fear, but awe and wonder. John Betjamen has expressed it beautifully in this Christmas poem:

'Is it true? and is it true, this most tremendous tale of all,  
a baby in an ox's stall?

The Maker of the stars and sea become a child on earth for me,  
that God was man in Palestine  
and lives today in bread and wine.'

Let's imagine ourselves in that stable on the first Christmas night. See there a girl from Nazareth with her quiet husband and a new baby. Then go up to Jerusalem and tell the priests what you saw. Say that helpless, newborn baby is the Anointed One, the long awaited Messiah, the Son of God. They would think you were out of your mind; they would accuse you of blasphemy; they would tell you that God is not like that. They have studied the scriptures and they know God cannot be small and vulnerable like that. But the Son of God has chosen to come among us just like that.

That is the great, joyful surprise of our faith. The presence of God among us is not what we expect, not where we expect. That's how we miss it. As we begin Advent, we are invited not to miss the amazing gift of God. Be awake and look for God in the most unlikely places. Find God's call to our goodwill in the doorway where the homeless sleep. Look for God's presence where refugees are corralled. Grace is present not only in comfortable places and spaces! God is looking out from the wrinkled faces of senior citizens. It's great to be alive and wide-eyed like a child, at the beginning of our new year of grace. We can welcome this time of Advent with a heartfelt *céad míle fáilte*

### **Sobering thoughts**

1. Advent tends to be swamped by Christmas music and Christmas noise. It should be a quiet time, where we step back to the fundamental experience of Israel, the experience of trustful waiting on the Lord's deliverance. It's a desert time, when we try to empty our minds of the clutter of the past and when our hearts learn from the Prophets what are the deepest needs in our lives. Advent reawakens hope and longing for a better future. Not just a secure financial future for me or you, but a future of Redemption for the entire people.

2. Beyond all the worries and impassioned debates of politics and economics today are two deep and growing threats that we don't like to think about. They are threats of an apocalyptic level worthy of the fearful language of today's Gospel. One of these is the threat of nuclear extinction. The other is the threat of climate catastrophe.

The nuclear threat demonstrated its horrific power on the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and has since been enshrined as the status quo, with superpowers threatening each other with mutual destruction. Since 1945 humanity, as well as all plants and animals, have been a hair-trigger away from nuclear extinction, and there have been dozens of lucky, narrow escapes. Noam Chomsky attributed this remarkable record of good luck to divine intervention. The climate-change threat has grown more slowly, like the rising waters of a tsunami, and awareness of it is muddied by a culture of denial, encouraged by commercial interests. Registering the full extent of the danger one is inclined to cry, "Only God can save us now!" We are tempted to ask, "How could God let his creation get into such a dangerous state? Where is Providence in all this?"

3. The consoling hymns of Christmas hardly engage with harsh issues like those we have mentioned. For this we need the more abrasive words of the Prophets, who often spoke up in times of crisis. Their opening words are often laced with doom, while their final words offer hope and consolation. First they try to wake us up and shake us out of our complacency, but they generally end by affirming that all will be resolved by the power and faithfulness of God. Their language is sometimes so deep that we tend to ignore them and focus instead on things that are of little account. But let's pay special attention to the message of Isaiah, this Advent.

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