

**Parish of Malin (Clonca)      Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year A Week 2)**

**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



**Immaculate Conception** - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December:

*St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay*                                      Thursday at 11am & 7:30pm  
*Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:*                                      Wednesday at 8pm & Thursday at 12noon  
*St. Mary's Church, Lagg:*                                      Thursday at 9am

**Weekday Masses:**

*Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:*                                      Monday at 10am & Friday at 7:30pm  
*The Oratory, Connolly Foundation:*                                      Friday at 10am

**Month's Mind Mass:** Philomena Mc Laughlin, Gortnacool on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6pm 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>Aughaclay</i> | <i>Malin Head</i> | <i>Lagg</i> |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| <i>Parish</i>      | 650              | 145               | 130         |
| <i>Restoration</i> | 650              | 140               | 130         |

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Parish Fund</b>      | <b>€925</b> |
| <b>Restoration Fund</b> | <b>€920</b> |

**Sacramental Preparation Talk for Parents :** of those children receiving the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 7:30pm.

**St. Vincent de Paul:** Church Gate Collection next weekend 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**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).

**Thank You. €5045** was raised for Oncology Unit Letterkenny and North West Cancer Centre, Altnagelvin Hospital at the recent Coffee Morning hosted by Angela Mc Daid in Malin GAA Club House.

**'Christmas Bazaar'** in the Malin Head Community Centre on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December. 1<sup>st</sup> draw at 2pm. Large variety of prizes

**Christmas Events at Fahan:** Christmas coffee morning with craft and cake stall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 11am to 1pm. Carol Service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in Fahan Presbyterian Church, Tooban, Co. Donegal F93 XY65. We are accepting gifts at the Carol Service for Ukrainian refugees and Gypsies in the Algarve organised by Ronnie McCracken (Eschol Christmas Appeal).

**The next monthly Holy Hour for Vocations** will take place in St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, at 8pm, and will be led by the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Pat O'Hagan, PP Bellaghy and Greenlough. Those unable to attend are invited to follow the Service on the Cathedral webcam at: [www.steugenescathedral.com](http://www.steugenescathedral.com).

**Christmas Card Making Class** in Wesley Hall on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm till 4pm. Cost €15. Lunch and card making material supplied. Limited places available. To Book call 0864404377 or pm Hall.

**Pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome:** As part of St Eugene's Cathedral 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, Bishop Donal McKeown will lead a pilgrimage to San Giovanni & Rome from 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Visiting the birthplace of Padre Pio, Shrine of St. Michael Archangel, St. Peter's Basilica and other important sites. Price is £879pps (Single room supplement £150). For more details, email [info@marian.ie](mailto:info@marian.ie) or call Belfast on (028) 956 80005 or Dublin on (01) 878 8159.

**2nd Sunday in Advent, Theme: John the Baptist's life work was preparing the way for our Messiah. Once Christ came, it only remained for John to disappear gracefully. Like John, we should make way for Christ in the lives of others.**

**Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 *John the Baptist prepares us to welcome Jesus Christ***

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'"

**Preparing the way of the Lord**

John the Baptist could be the central figure in our thoughts today. He prepared the way for the people of his time to understand the good news of their salvation. That is the way God normally works; He sends the message of salvation to us through each other. As St Paul once put it, how can people know the truth about God if they have never heard it; and how can they hear if nobody is sent to them?

Jesus found his first disciples among those who were influenced by the preaching of John the Baptist. He had showed them the value of self-control and of prayer; he urged them to listen to the inner voice of God, with repentance and a faithful heart. The high point of John's short ministry was his meeting with Jesus. Not only did he get to baptise Our Lord but he also helped some of his own followers to go with Jesus and become the first Christian disciples. Through him, Andrew and his brother Peter, and Philip and Nathanael became apostles of Jesus.

Clearly, God wishes us Christians also to help help other people to know and love him. If in the first place, we were more committed to our own Christian calling, we would be more effective in influencing others towards religious commitment. Parents have the first opportunity to point their children towards God. But their words will only be effective when backed up by the actual example of their own faith and prayer.

People can influence others, for good or ill, in all sorts of ways. A special kind of influence rests with the journalists and opinion-formers who work in the media, press, radio and television and through the internet. But ordinary people outside the media can also influence the views and values of those with whom they talk and live. When looked at in light of today's Gospel, does our way of speaking and behaving in any way help others to share our values, or do we confirm their suspicion that this world is a selfish and cynical place?

And what about fostering vocations to some active form of church service? The ability of our Church to go on as a visible, organised community continuing in the prayer-life and values of Jesus is under serious question today. If people open their hearts to inspiration, Andrew and Philip and Peter, a way will be found to spread the saving message of Christ.

**Pre-Christmas contrasts**

Being half-blinded by the Christmas lights swaying on the back of a bin truck and the rise in traffic infringements set me thinking about the lead-up to Christmas that is now in full swing. From mid-November, aspects of the impending "ding dong merrily on high" cacophony have been evident. The shops and the roads are significantly busier. Every year at this time we shake our heads and complain about the traffic, the shops, and all the commercialisation. But we go along with it, just the same. Does the idea of Advent being a time of preparation for Christmas affect us? Isn't it being blared from the rooftops that we should enjoy be out partying as if our lives depended on it. Yet on the other hand some people are facing a Christmas of misery, homelessness and want. But isn't that the world we live in? By the way, a worthy gesture today would be to contribute generously to the St Vincent de Paul annual Christmas appeal. In many ways Christmas is some sort of paradigm of our lives, trying to quell our constant search for pleasure or transient gratification, a state of permanent unease.

We have heard John the Baptist quoting from Isaiah: "A voice cries in the wilderness:/Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight." And in the response to the psalm, we read: "In his days justice and peace shall flourish." Makes me wonder, have we lost our way, with our preparation for Christmas? It's the ideal topic for a good rant. But does it not seem that what we do by exaggerated Christmas preparation is more or less what we do with all aspects of our lives, an element of talking out of both sides of our mouths at the same time?

John the Baptist called for change as he pointed the way towards Christ. Of course, our world is never going to be a paradise, but are we not running riot with double-speak, nowadays? And every organisation, every state, every religious tradition is prone to such behaviour. It requires the prophet, the wise person to stand back and question the culture of the day. Just because we are so caught up in a frenzy of buying and following the fashionable tide does not mean it's what's best for us.

Of course, Christmas, our preparations for it, have great aspects also. But it's too easy to lose all sense of what we are actually celebrating and recalling. These are days of waiting, days of wonder. Remember the lines of Patrick Kavanagh: "We have tested and tasted too much, lover -/ Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder." Those words might well help us to stop and think for a second as we await our recalling and celebration of the birth of Christ.