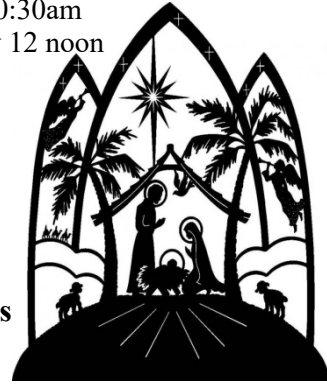


**Parish of Malin (Clonca)      Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022**  
**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (Year A Week 1)**

**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



**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

**Fr. Devlin and Fr. Logue wish all our parishioners a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas**

**No Weekday Masses (except Funerals)**

**The Epiphany of The Lord Masses: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
*St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay*                              Friday 11am and 7.30pm  
*Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head*                              Thursday at 8pm and Friday at 12noon  
*St. Mary's Church Lagg*                              Friday at 9am

**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.  
**Months Mind Mass:** Mark Mc Daid, Templemoyle on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Jim Mullin on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in the Star of the Sea Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Patricia Josephine Mac Laughlin on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 9am in St. Mary's Church.  
**Months Mind Mass:** Ellen Mc Laughlin, Glengad on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 9am in St. Mary's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** John McGilloway, Lougherbraghy, David McGilloway (London/Lougherbraghy), and Sr. Bridget McGilloway, Convent of Mercy, Newry/Lougherbraghy on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 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>	475	195	225
<i>Restoration</i>	470	195	225

<b>Parish Fund</b>	<b>€895</b>
<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>€890</b>

**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.

**|Christmas Midnight Mass** Isaiah 9:1-7 *God brings them from darkness and bring them to peace and security*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Gospel: Luke 2:1-14** *How Jesus our Saviour was born*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the

heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

**No Room For Them:** Christmas cards feel a bit old-fashioned in our digital age. Apart from their conventional triteness, the problem is deciding who to send them to. In order to ensure you write to those who are likely to send you a card, the lines can get blurred and the list can expand beyond the bounds, along with the cost of the stamps. In the end, you find yourself including everybody who might possibly send you seasonal greetings. The two lists never quite match and there is a last minute rush to fill the gaps. But whatever the defects of the cards, the thought behind them is undeniably good. Also, they are a yearly exercise in handwriting, where otherwise we tend to use just a keyboard. It is a pity that Christmas cards so rarely reflect an authentic message about what the birth of Christ means. What about a simple black and white line drawing of a street with a row of houses, with a few touches – a milk bottle outside the door, an open window with a fluttering curtain – indicating that the houses are lived in. In the centre would be a man knocking at a door. His head is turned towards the street, where a woman is waiting. The street should be recognisable to us all, as the very street where we live. The stranger knocking at the door of your home. ... *NO ROOM!* The major test for Christmas is easy and foolproof. When last did I/you last stretch out a helping hand to someone in need? open heart or home to somebody in want? Any unanswered knock on my door may be an ignoring of Christ. If HE is not born in my heart and in my home this Christmas, what happened in Bethlehem long ago has not really taken root in my heart.

**Grafted into the Tree of Life:** Words are often a weak method of communication. However, we have to use words, and today’s gospel is an attempt, in simple language, to describe what happened on that extraordinary day, so long ago. It speaks of Jesus being born, and of the second meeting of heaven and earth, on that same night, when the angels appeared to the shepherds. This was the beginning of a process that is still on-going, as I speak. It is an old story that is ever new.

“Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and always.” With God there is no such thing as time. All of time is totally present to him right now. God’s work among us is always in process, it never comes to an end. In God’s eyes, Christmas is an everyday event, that involves Jesus knocking on the door of my heart, seeking admission. The God-dimension never changes, the offer is always there, the good news is delivered with greater consistency than the morning newspaper. What happens after that is totally dependent on whether I accept the offer, open the door, and make my heart available as a manger.

One important point: when the shepherds heard the message they said, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see it for ourselves.” The life of the Christian is a journey of discovery. It involves coming to find out for myself the truth and the reality of what I had been told by my parents, teachers, or preachers in church. I have to cross that bridge. The gospel is in between two phrases. At the beginning, we are invited to “Come and see,” and, at the end, we are instructed to “Go and tell.”

**Lord of the welcomes:** At Christmas more than at any other time, *there’s a welcome on the mat*. Many families have visitors home for Christmas; and we will surely be making a round of social calls, over the Christmas days. But among all the greetings and the welcoming of friends, there is one welcome of special depth and meaning. For the people of the Old Testament, light and darkness held special significance. They tended to associate them often with virtue and wickedness in the community, and also with the day of the Lord’s coming. Indeed, at Qumran on the Dead Sea shoreline, during the life-time of Jesus, light and darkness were seen as two opposing kingdoms, and the sun’s victory over darkness was held to be a symbol of the triumph of faith over the blind pursuit of evil. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.” So begins the Bible account of the first creation, and when it was ended, “God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very good.”

This original goodness and justice was fragmented when our progenitors abused the freedom of will granted them by God, so that once again, as the prophet Isaiah says “darkness came to cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.” (Is 60:2), To dispel this darkness, a new creation was needed, and the ideal of goodness and perfection became a living reality, when the light of Christ came into the world. “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; for those who lived in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.” (Is 9:2). For God, who had created humanity in his own image and likeness, had now identified with the human race, and by assuming the body of a human child, had come down among us. The Christmas invitation is, Come to Jesus and feel welcome. No matter what we’ve done, or how badly we may feel – he can help us become all that we’re meant to be: beloved sons, beloved daughters of God. Come to him... and yes, even if you feel that “churchy things” are not for you. “I don’t like organized religion” you mutter. OK, but Jesus want to open doors for you, not close them. To those accept him this Christmas day, he gives power to become children of God. It is he, our Lord Jesus Christ, who brings us here today. With his help we can make a new beginning as individuals, as family and as a parish. So let us say it again. Come to Jesus this Christmas Day. His mercy, from a heart aware of all human suffering, has no limit. To those who accept him he gives power to become children of God. Come to Jesus, and make this Christmas truly happy, in your heart of hearts.