

**Parish of Malin (Clonca)      Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**



**Fr. Peter Devlin P.P.**      **Fr. Charley Logue C.C.**      **Mass Times**  
 Malin                              Malin Head                              *St. Patrick's* - 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

**Week Masses:**

*St. Patrick's Church: Aughaclay:*                              Wednesday at 7.30pm  
*Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:*                              Monday and Friday at 10am  
*St. Mary's Church Lagg:*                              Wednesday 9:30am  
*Connolly Foundation Oratory:*                              Friday at 10am



**Anniversary:** Jim Rudden, Tully on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.  
**Anniversary:** Willie John and Josephine McGonagle, Leiter, Culdaff on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Month's Mind:** Sarahjo Colhoun on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Anniversary:** Charlie Monagle, Brookfield Terrace on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.  
**Anniversary:** Philip Lafferty, Bunn on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30 in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Anniversary:** Michael McLaughlin on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.  
**First Anniversary:** Paddy Doherty (Paddy Mor), Middletown on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.  
**Anniversary:** Rose Kelly, Glentoskert on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.  
**Anniversary:** Mary Ellen Gallagher, Malin Head on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 11am in Star of the Sea Church.  
**Anniversary:** Jim Mullen, Bree on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**Parish Collections for the last week: Thank You.**

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	385	225	135
<i>Restoration</i>	380	220	135

<b>Parish Fund</b>	<b>€745</b>
<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>€735</b>

**Parish Draw: November Winners:**

	<b>€200</b>	<b>€100</b>	<b>€50</b>
<b>5/11</b>	335 Eddie Mc Daid	311 Mary M Laughlin (B)	353 Eilish Mc Laughlin (D)
<b>12/11</b>	418 Robert Monagle	338 Teish Crua	197 Maureen Hegarty
<b>19/11</b>	369 Damien Mc Clean	204 Thomas Mc Geoghegan	309 Max, Milly & Annie Doherty
<b>26/11</b>	269 Sarah Lafferty	199 Angela Mc Daid	381 Vincent Treanor

**Penitential Service for Christmas** on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay

**Parish Envelopes:** will be available in all Churches for January to June 2024 from next weekend. Parish envelopes are the preferred way to support **YOUR** parish.

**Vocation:** We pray for our diocesan seminarians and for those currently discerning their vocation to the priesthood that, like John the Baptist, they will prepare God's people for the coming of Jesus at the end of time and as He comes to us every day.

**Accord Inishowen Face to Face Pre - Marriage Course for 2024:** January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> or March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Friday 7 - 10pm and Saturday 10am - 4pm. Book online, contact Accord on [accordinishowen@gmail.com](mailto:accordinishowen@gmail.com) or leave your name and number on 074 93 74103.

**Car Boot Sale** in Malin Parochial Hall on next Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 10am-2pm, Crafts, Jewellery, Home baking, Brick-a-brack etc. To book a table phone 0861683842 or 0868700861. Tables €10.

**The 2024 Pioneer Calendar** is available from Pioneer centres and from Central Office (01 805 4226). The calendar is designed to offer spiritual support to families which are being impacted by alcohol and addiction. The calendar is priced at €5. Further information from [www.pioneerassociation.org/calendar](http://www.pioneerassociation.org/calendar).

**St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection** on this weekend 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Online Advent Retreat.** The Priory Institute is delighted to offer a FREE OF CHARGE online retreat 'Reflecting on the Sunday Gospels of Advent'. Visit our website [prioryinstitute.com](http://prioryinstitute.com).

**The Four Parish Schools:** Admission Policy and the Pupil Enrolment Forms for the 2024/2025 school year are available online and from the school office. The schools will commence accepting applications for admission on 8<sup>th</sup> January until the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Trócaire School Volunteers:** Are you a retired teacher or someone who has experience presenting to groups of school-children? Do you have a passion for making this world a better place, especially for the most vulnerable? Trócaire is looking

for volunteers to support its School Talks Programme for Lent 2024 in parishes of the Derry Diocese. If you think you have the right skills and experience and will have a few free hours during Lent then we would love to hear from you! For more information call Casey Schell on 028 90 808 033 or email [casey.schell@trocaire.org](mailto:casey.schell@trocaire.org).

**Online Lough Derg Christmas Shop** is now open at [www.loughderg.live/shop](http://www.loughderg.live/shop) : Mass Bouquets, Christmas Cards, the limited edition Lough Derg Christmas Candle, a large range of Nativity Sets and other gifts are available. The Christmas shop provides much needed financial income to support the mission and ministry of Lough Derg outside of the Pilgrimage Season. Thank you for your support.

**Aughaclay Country & Gospel Concert:** Copies of the DVD are available by contacting Seamus O'Donnell on 086 227 6800. €15 each.

**10 Dec 2023 – 2nd Sunday in Advent, B *John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ by raising expectations. Once Jesus had arrived, there only remained for John to quietly disappear from the scene.***

**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 *John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of their Saviour***

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### **A preacher's vocation**

John the Baptist could be the central figure in today's homily. He prepared the minds of people in his circle to welcome the bringer of salvation. That is how God seems to work: sending the message of salvation and meaningful living to us through each other. St Paul once asked two vital questions, "How can people know about God if they have never heard? and how can they hear if nobody is sent to them?" So the vocation to proclaim or preach religious truth is vital, if God is to be known and loved. Jesus found his first disciples among those who heard John the Baptist preach. It was John who showed them the value of self-control and of prayer, who urged them to listen to the inner voice of God, with a contrite and faithful heart. The high point of John's short ministry was meeting with Jesus. Not only did he baptise Our Lord but he sent some of his own followers to join the Jesus movement. Through him, Andrew and his brother Peter, and Philip and Nathanael became apostles.

God still wants us to help help other people to know and love him. If we were more committed as Christians, maybe we could do more to influence others towards faith in God. Parents can introduce their children to God, with words about trust and prayer. But their words will only be effective if built on the example of their actual life. In all sorts of way, people are in position to influence others, for good or ill. This is clearly so for those who work in the communications media, press, radio and T.V. But ordinary people doing ordinary jobs can also influence the views and values of those they interact with. In light of today's portrayal of John the Baptist, does our way of speaking and behaving help others to share our values, or do we confirm their suspicion that this world is a selfish and cynical place?

And what about promoting vocations to the priesthood or other ministry, or any form of service to the church of Christ? The future of our church as an organised, priest-served community handing on the prayer-life and values of Jesus is under serious question today. But if enough people open their hearts to God's work, like John the Baptist and those first disciples, Andrew and Philip and Peter, then a way will be found to keep the world aware of the saving message of Christ.

### **John's challenge to us**

The call of John the Baptist is challenging but, ultimately, it is a consoling word, because the Lord to whom John calls on us to turn our hearts is not one who is here to judge us. Rather, he is one who has come to heal and renew us. The voice crying in the wilderness is, ultimately, a voice of consolation. In the opening words of Isaiah in today's first reading, 'Console my people, console them. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem.' At the end of that reading, Isaiah declares, 'Here is the Lord coming with power.' The word 'power' can have negative connotations for us. It can suggest some kind of overbearing presence or a determination to dominate. Yet the power of the Lord that Isaiah speaks about is of a different kind altogether. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast, and leading to their rest the mother ewes who are soon to give birth. This is a very tender power; it is the power of a faithful and enduring love, a love that gathers and nurtures and gives rest. This is the God whom John the Baptist invites us to rediscover this Advent. It is this God who comes to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In the gospel, the Baptist refers to Jesus as 'more powerful than I am.' He is the more powerful one, in the sense that the first reading defines power. It is Jesus who gives full expression to God's tender love that brings healing to the broken, strength to the weak and rest to the weary. It is this adult Jesus, now risen Lord, whose coming towards us and present to us we celebrate at Christmas. The Baptist calls us this Advent to prepare a way in our lives for the coming of this Lord, this Shepherd, in whom, as the Psalm says, mercy and faithfulness have met, justice and peace have embraced. This is the one we are called to meet this Advent, who can give meaning and depth to all our other encounters.