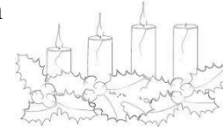


**Parish of Malin (Clonca)      Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**



**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:*                              Tuesday at 7.30pm  
*Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:*                              Monday at 7:30pm, Tuesday at 10am and Friday at 7:30pm  
*St. Mary's Church Lagg:*                              Wednesday 9:30am  
*Connolly Foundation Oratory:*                              Friday at 10am

**Confessions:**

*St. Patrick's Church: Aughaclay:*                              Tuesday 6.45-7.30, Saturday 5.15-6pm  
*Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:*                              Mon & Fri from 6:30 - 7:25pm and Sat from 7:15 - 7:45pm

**Christmas Masses:**

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

**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.

**Month's Mind:** James Coffey, Cahirsiveen on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30 Star of the Sea 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.

**Month's Mind:** Patrick John Mc Laughlin, Manny on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30 in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary:** Jim Mullen, Bree on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**Anniversary:** Francis Coffey, Carnmalin on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 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>	475	240	235
<i>Restoration</i>	475	240	230

<b>Parish Fund</b>	<b>€950</b>
<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>€945</b>

**Parish Draw December**

	<b>€200</b>	<b>€100</b>	<b>€50</b>
<b>3/12</b>	<b>187 Orla Mc Clean</b>	<b>358 Ross &amp; Stephen Kelly</b>	<b>430 Julie &amp; Mary Mc Laughlin</b>
<b>10/12</b>	<b>388 Bridgeen Mc Laughlin</b>	<b>230 Michael Farren</b>	<b>367 Joy &amp; Vivan Mc Laughlin</b>
<b>17/12</b>	<b>256 Monica Doherty</b>	<b>247 John &amp; Bridget Doherty</b>	<b>219 Martin Farren</b>
<b>24/12</b>	<b>134 Willie Joe Houton</b>	<b>207 Anne Mc Daid</b>	<b>405 David Mc Laughlin</b>
<b>31/9</b>	<b>174 Eugene Mc Laughlin</b>	<b>169 Evelyn Matty</b>	<b>331 Ross, Ollie &amp; Maya Mc Laughlin</b>

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

**Visitation of the Sick:** Fr Devlin will visit the sick on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon.

**Malin Parish Prayer Day for Marriage and Family Life:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 focus this month is very much on family life because of Christmas coming. Remember Christmas is not just for children, it is the time when children can teach us – about life; about family; about faith; about community; about Christ; about God. This is a time for us as people to affirm our bishop and priests through prayer for them and contacting them with gratitude for their generous service to the family of the parish.

**Parish Envelopes:** will be available in all Churches for January to June 2024 from this 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** Thank You to all who helped with the Car Boot Sale in any way.

**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).

**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 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.

### **Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28 John the Baptist's testimony to Jesus**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

### **In a spirit of joyful service**

Today's readings are brimful of joy and hope. Israel radiates as a joyful bride coming to her bridegroom adorned for a lavish, oriental wedding. Paul's words to the Thessalonians continue the theme of hope and joy in a community that lives by the life of Christ. And St John, in the gospel, pictures the work of John the Baptist, who came to witness to God's light upon this earth. This is not a joyousness without responsibility. It's a joy that is found when people find and carry out their true mission in life. Isaiah speaks of one anointed and sent to bring good news to the oppressed – words that were adopted by Jesus to describe his own life's purpose – just as they should also be made real in the life of every Christian. Those privileged to share in Jesus' spiritual life must also share in his concerns and desires.

Two key ideas in today's readings go well together:

1. The spiritual joy that marks the Christian faith, that we are waiting for the coming of the Lord, and our entry into a life of eternal communion with God. The other is the willingness to bear our share of the Christian work-load, to do our bit, in our time, to realise the goals of Jesus in our world. I'd like to hear a homily focussed on one of these, without totally forgetting the other. In these times of economic austerity and budget cuts that are endlessly debated, is no harm to be reminded of the blessings in our lives, our reasons to be joyful. Mention, for example, the love we enjoy with our family and friends, the pleasure of meeting new people, of awakening some dormant talent by taking a course of adult education; the solidarity we feel in our local community when people willingly help their neighbours in their needs; the consolation to be found in prayer. Many examples can be named, to illustrate God's blessing in our lives: reasons to be joyful. Like the northern Irish writer C.S. Lewis, we too can be "surprised by joy," and re-discover gladness and meaning in life.

2. Our advent-mission to help the needy, if we are to carry on "the project of Jesus" – the commitment he always showed to people on the margins. Practical examples of his "good news for the poor" can be pointed out, according to the life-situation of the worshippers. Our homilist must try to persuade those whose lives are peaceful and prosperous not to be afraid to let the pain of the needy come through to them and touch them. The sort of carefree joy that lets us shut our eyes to the seamier side of life, and "pass by on the other side," is not the authentic joy announced in today's reading. Care for our neglected neighbours may stand in a certain tension with our personal sense of joy, but the two can and should be blended into the lifestyle of anybody who wants to build their life on Jesus.