

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 24th December 2023
4th 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 *St. Mary's Church* - Sunday 9am
Web Site: www.malinparish.ie **Facebook:** Malin Parish



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

Anniversary: Michael McLaughlin on Saturday 23rd December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary: Paddy Doherty (Paddy Mor), Middletown on Saturday 23rd December at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary: Rose Kelly, Glentoskert on Monday 25th December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary: Mary Ellen Gallagher, Malin Head on Monday 25th December at 11am in Star of the Sea Church.
Month's Mind: Patrick John Mc Laughlin, Manny on Friday 5th January at 7:30pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary: Jim Mullen, Bree on Friday 5th January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary: Francis Coffey, Carnmalin on Saturday 3rd February at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary: David, John, Sister Mary Teresa McGilloway, Lougherbraghy, on Sunday 4th February at 9am in St Mary's Lagg.
Anniversary: Philomena McCallion, Francistown on Sunday 14th April at 9am in St Mary's Lagg.



Parish Collections for the last week: Thank You.

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	625	210	210
<i>Restoration</i>	625	210	215

Parish Fund	€1045
Restoration Fund	€1050

We Wish you a Peaceful and Joy-filled Christmas.

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: That Mary's "Yes" to the Lord will be an inspiration to all those called to serve the Church as priests of the diocese of Derry.

The Net: Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese, the December edition of 'The Net' is available in print in parishes as well as on the Diocesan website. For coverage of faith related stories just email editorthenet15@gmail.com.

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

Glengad FC are hold a Big Breakfast fundraiser in the Glengad Community Centre on New Years Eve from 9:30am to 1pm. Everyone Welcome.

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.

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.

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 8th January until the 6th 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.

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

Pioneers around the world are invited to attend Mass next Wednesday 27 December and to prayerfully mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898. Mass and prayers will be live-streamed on that day at 10am (Irish time) around the world via www.pioneerassociation.org.

Mass to launch Catholic Schools Week 16th January at 10am in Saint Eugene's Cathedral. You are invited to join with Bishop McKeown in concelebrating this Mass.

Prayer by Telephone; The Sisters of Mercy "Bethany" 34 Point Road, Dundalk. Welcome any person who may wish to request prayer, especially during these difficult times. All requests are confidential. 9am - 9pm. Telephone: 042 9331602 ROI or 00353 42 931602 NI. One of the Sisters will be happy to LISTEN and PRAY WITH YOU.

24 Dec 2023 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 The annunciation to our Lady, and her total Yes to God

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel as sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Choosing that special person

If you were to ask a married couple how they came to fall in love, or asked two good friends how they came to be friends, they may have difficulty answering and might say something like, "It just happened." In one sense that may be true. In another sense it didn't just happen. If two people are in a significant relationship with each other, be it marriage or friendship, it is because they have chosen each other. Why does someone choose one person rather than another as a spouse or friend? Why does someone choose to share his or her life with someone else? This is the mystery of human freedom, human preference. The more significant relationships cannot be forced. Love is freely bestowed by one person on another; the other freely receives what is bestowed and freely reciprocates, and a new relationship is born. There is a depth about all that.

If there is mystery in the relationship of one human being with another, even more so in the relationship between God and us. Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of his Son? Why this particular woman in this small village at this particular time of human history? It was the mysterious freedom and preference of God. Yet, there is a difference between God's choice of Mary and the choice any one of us might make of another. When any one of us chooses another to love or to befriend, there is always, of necessity, an exclusive element to that choice. We choose this person rather than any number of others. Although we choose several people in the course of our lives in each case our choice of one excludes others.

God's choice of Mary was not exclusive in that sense. In choosing Mary, he was choosing all of us. He chose Mary for all our sakes. God chose her to carry God's Son on behalf of us all, because her future child was God's gift to us all. That is why how Mary responded to God's choice of her was not just a matter that concerned herself. It concerned us all. We all had a vested interest in how she responded. Her response would also be our response. In a sense we looked to her to make an appropriate response on behalf of us all to God's choice of us.

The good news is that Mary did not let us down. Although initially disturbed and perplexed by the message, she eventually surrendered fully to that mysterious choice of God. Having been graced in this mysterious way, she responded wholeheartedly, "Let it be to me according to your word." God freely chose her, and she in turn chose to place her freedom at God's service. God's choice of Mary, and her choice of God in response had the most wonderful consequences for all of us. She went on to sing, "the Almighty has done great things for me." And because of her response to God's choice, we can all sing, "the Almighty has done great things for us." We have all been graced through Mary's response to God's choice of her.