

Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023  
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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



Weekday and The Epiphany of the Lord Mass:

**VIGIL MASSES OF THE EPIPHANY ON FRIDAY EVENING 7.30PM AND 8PM.**

*St. Patrick's Church: Aughaclay:* Friday at 7.30pm  
*Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:* Monday at 10am, Friday at 8pm  
*St. Mary's Church Lagg:* Saturday at 9am  
*Connolly Foundation Oratory:* Friday at 10am

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

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

**Anniversary Mass:** John McLaughlin, Shantla, on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in St Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Francis Coffey, Carnmalin on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** David, John, Sister Mary Teresa McGilloway, Lougherbraghy, on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Months Mind Mass:** Neil Devlin, Templemoyle, Culdaff on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Philomena Mc Callion, Francistown on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 9am in St Mary's Church.

*May Lord bring happiness, health, success and prosperity to your life. May Almighty send his blessing and love to make the coming year the best time for you. Happy New Year.*

**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](mailto:editorthenet15@gmail.com).

**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.

**Glengad FC** are hold a Big Breakfast fundraiser in the Glengad Community Centre on today Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://www.pioneerassociation.org/calendar).

**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).

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

**Mass to launch Catholic Schools Week** 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**31 Dec 2023 – Sunday after Christmas. The Holy Family .Today we celebrate the domestic life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, an an inspiration for all families everywhere.**

**Gospel: Luke 2:22, 39-40 The child Jesus was presented to God, then lived at home in Nazareth**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### **Ideals for family living**

Even though we call them the Holy Family that does not mean they never had problems to face, as every family must. Just as each follower of Jesus has a cross to carry, so also the holy family had to experience the cross in their shared life. To mention just a few examples, we can imagine how misunderstood both Mary and Joseph must have been about the conception of Jesus before they came to live together. Joseph was even planning to divorce Mary privately before being assured that it was the work of God. Nine months later, the birthplace of Jesus was an animal shelter, since no better lodgings could be found.

Today's Gospel from St Matthew shows how the little family had to flee as refugees to Egypt because the child Jesus' life was in danger from king Herod, in much the same way as refugees from war-torn countries have to flee to save their lives. This prompts us to be more aware of, and show more empathy towards, those refugees in our own day who seek a safer life among us than they had in the countries from which they fled.

St Luke has another story to illustrate what trials were faced by Mary and Joseph, in trying to understand the development of Jesus as a young person. When he was twelve, they were shocked to lose him for three days and then had to deal with the unsatisfactory explanation that he "had to be about his Father's business." Still, he returned with them to Nazareth and was subject to them, in the quiet rhythm of family life in their village. We do not hear of Joseph any more after that so we presume that he had died before Jesus began his public ministry. Then too, the public life of Jesus must have taken its toll on Mary. In the Temple when he was an infant, old Simeon had predicted that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's soul. How she must have been pained to hear his enemies say that Jesus was a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners, and at the end, when Mary watched her son die in public disgrace, on the cross.

What sustained the family of Nazareth through all of these trials and crosses? What holds families together in times of difficulty is love and trust. Whenever families are happy, it is where love and respect are highly prized among them. We pray for an outpouring of those qualities in our families today. A major threat to family life nowadays is that we don't spend enough time together. We are so busy working, socialising, using our electronic gadgets or watching TV that we have no time to talk to each other.

A barrister, a busy career woman, was living just ten kilometers from her old, widowed father. But months often passed between her visits to him; and when her father texted to ask when she might bring his grandchildren to visit him, she detailed lots of reasons that kept her too busy to see him, court schedules, meetings, new clients, research, etc. Her father frowned and then asked, 'When I die, will you come to my funeral?' The daughter was indignant. "Dad, how can you ask me that? Of course, I'll be there!" He smiled and said, "Aah! Then please forget my funeral and come to visit me now. I need you now more than I will then." Message understood – and his daughter began to visit him regularly after that.

**Learn from the Magi: (Epiphany reflection by Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter Admirabile Signum, on the meaning and importance of the nativity scene)**

At the feast of Epiphany we place the statues of the Three Kings in the Christmas crèche. Observing the star, those wise men from the East set out for Bethlehem, in order to find Jesus and to offer him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These costly gifts have an allegorical meaning: gold honours Jesus' kingship, incense his divinity, myrrh his sacred humanity that was to experience death and burial.

As we contemplate this aspect of the nativity scene, we are called to reflect on the responsibility of every Christian to spread the Gospel. Each of us is called to bear glad tidings to all, testifying by our practical works of mercy to the joy of knowing Jesus and his love.

The Magi teach us that people can come to Christ by a very long route. Men of wealth, sages from afar, thirsting for the infinite, they set out on the long and perilous journey that would lead them to Bethlehem (cf. Mt 2:1-12). Great joy comes over them in the presence of the Infant King. They are not scandalized by the poor surroundings, but immediately fall to their knees to worship him. Kneeling before him, they understand that the God who with sovereign wisdom guides the course of the stars also guides the course of history, casting down the mighty and raising up the lowly. Upon their return home, they would certainly have told others of this amazing encounter with the Messiah, thus initiating the spread of the Gospel among the nations.