

**Parish of Malin (Clonca)      Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
**The Baptism of the Lord**

<b>Fr. Peter Devlin P.P.</b> Malin 074 93 70615 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:malinparish@hotmail.com">malinparish@hotmail.com</a> Web Site: <a href="http://www.malinparish.ie">www.malinparish.ie</a>	<b>Fr. Charley Logue C.C.</b> Malin Head 074 93 70134 Facebook: Malin Parish	<b>Mass Times</b> <i>St. Patrick's</i> - Saturday 6pm Sunday 10:30am <i>Star of the Sea Church</i> - Saturday 8pm Sunday 12 noon <i>St. Mary's Church</i> - Sunday 9am
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**Weekday Mass:**

<i>St. Patrick's Church: Aughaclay:</i>	Monday at 7.30pm
<i>Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:</i>	Monday at 10am, Friday at 7:30pm
<i>St. Mary's Church Lagg:</i>	Wednesday at 9am
<i>Connolly Foundation Oratory:</i>	Friday at 10am

**Anniversary Mass:** John McLaughlin, Shantla, on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in St Patrick's Church.  
**Months Mind Mass:** Neil Devlin, Templemoyle, Culdaff on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Months Mind Mass:** John David Mc Laughlin, Portaleen, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Months Mind Mass:** Margaret Lockwood, Portronan on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.  
**Month's Mind Mass:** Sadie McCullagh, Malin Town, on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 9am in St Mary'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.  
**Anniversary Mass:** John Mc Laughlin, Greencastle and Ballylannon on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 10: 30am in St. Patrick's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Owen Mc Cullagh, Malin Town, on Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9am in St Mary's Church.  
**Anniversary Mass:** Philomena Mc Callion, Francistown on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 9am in St Mary's Church.

**Parish Collections for the Christmas Masses: Thank You.**

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	825	390	185
<i>Restoration</i>	825	390	185

<b>Parish Fund</b>	<b>€1400</b>
<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>€1400</b>

**Parish Collections for the New Year Masses: Thank You.**

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	825	205	145
<i>Restoration</i>	825	205	145

<b>Parish Fund</b>	<b>€1175</b>
<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>€1175</b>

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

**Vocation:** We pray for those called to serve as priests of the diocese of Derry. That, like John the Baptist, they will help prepare God's people, through Baptism and the other sacraments, to welcome Jesus into their lives. We pray for our seminarians, especially for Oran Gartland of Holy Family parish, Derry, who has just begun his propaedeutic year of studies in Salamanca. Anyone interested in diocesan priesthood is invited to contact their local priest or to speak with Fr Pat O'Hagan, the Diocesan Vocations Director, at (028) 7938 6259.

**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.

**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 celebrating this Mass. Online on the Cathedral webcam. <http://www.steugenesacathedral.com/webcam.html>

**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.

**Carnondagh Community Library Opening Hours:**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:30am - 5:30pm, Thursday: 12:30pm - 8:00pm, Saturday: 10am - 2:30pm

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**Gospel: Mark 1:7-11**

As Jesus receives baptism a voice says, "You are my Son" and the Spirit rests on him

John the Baptist 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."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Thoughts on Baptism**

The sacrament I like celebrating the most is the sacrament of baptism. It is always a happy occasion. A young child has recently been received into their family with great joy and celebration, and now they are being received again into another family, the family of the church. In being received into this family, the children become our brothers and sisters in the Lord, sons and daughters of God, and temples of the Spirit. The joy of the occasion is palpable, especially when the parents and godparents come up to the baptismal font and the water is poured over the head of the child by the celebrant. Each child is anointed before and after baptism with special oil, the oil of catechumens and the oil of chrism; the baptismal shawl is placed around the child and the baptismal candle is lit. The whole occasion is somehow uplifting in a way that is unique to that sacrament.

The vast majority of our baptisms are of children. They are oblivious to all that is happening around them. A big decision is being made on their behalf without their knowing anything about it. Yet, just as parents make all kinds of other big decisions for their children without consulting them, so parents are happy to make this particular significant decision on their behalf. There is a story in the gospels of parents bringing little children to Jesus. When the disciples tried to stop parents doing this, Jesus rebuked his disciples and said to them, 'let the children come to me and do not stop them, for to such as these the kingdom of God belongs.' Parents continue to bring their children to Jesus today whenever they present them for baptism, because in baptism they are being baptized into the person of Christ; they become members of his body; Jesus begins to live within them through the Spirit. When parents bring their children for baptism they are making a decision for them that is very much in keeping with the Lord's desire. 'Let the children come to me and do not stop them.'

Today we celebrate the feast of the baptism of Jesus. It is a good day to reflect on our own baptism and its significance for us. The day of Jesus' baptism was a watershed in his life; it was a day of new beginning. On that day he began his public ministry during which he gave himself fully in the service of God and all of God's people. On that day Jesus launched forth as the one who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. As he set out on that momentous journey for all of us, he was assured of God his Father's favour, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you', and he was empowered by the Holy Spirit, who descended upon him like a dove. Even though Jesus received the baptism of John as an adult and we received Christian baptism as children, our baptism was also a day of new beginning for us. On that day we were launched on the great adventure of becoming disciples of Jesus in our own time. On that day, we too, like Jesus, were given an assurance of God's love and favour, and we too were empowered by the Holy Spirit for the journey that lay before us. On that day we were caught up into Jesus' own very special relationship with God and we became a member of Jesus' family of disciples, the church. It is a momentous occasion that has the potential to shape our lives in a very fundamental way, in a way that is in keeping with God's purpose for our lives.

In a sense we spend the rest of our lives trying to catch up with that day of new beginning. We are baptized as children but it is as adults that we confirm our baptism for ourselves. It is as adults that we say our own adult 'yes' to the Lord who said 'yes' to us as young children on the day of our baptism. It may be in our late twenties or our thirties or forties or even later that we come to say that 'yes' with all our heart and soul and mind. It is often in those mature years that we can hear the call of Isaiah in today's first reading, 'O come to the water all you who are thirsty, Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.' The Lord keeps calling out to us from the moment of our baptism, and as the Lord declares in that first reading, 'the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.' Our response to the Lord's call, the Lord's word, can be slow in coming, but his call, his word, remains powerfully creative and will in some way or other make of us what God wants for us.