

## The Baptism of the Lord



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  
 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 Mass:** No weekday Mass.

**First Anniversary Mass:** Margaret & Paddy Doherty, (Paddymor) on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**First Anniversary Mass:** Patrick Mc Daid (Ned), Templemoyle on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** John McLaughlin (R), Ballylannon and Greencastle on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Daniel Lafferty & Neil Mc Colgan, Bunn on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**First Anniversary Mass:** Majella Gibbons on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**First Anniversary Mass:** Joe Curley Magherard on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Owen Mc Cullagh, Malin Town on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Seamus Mc Closkey on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Kathleen Mc Laughlin, Dreenagh Road, Malin Head on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Please e-mail** your anniversaries to [malinparish@hotmail.com](mailto:malinparish@hotmail.com) or leave them in the sacristy after mass.

**Parish Collection Envelopes** for January to July 2025 are in all Churches. Parishioners are asked to use envelopes to help support the Parish.

**Parish Collections for Last Week: Thank You.**

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
<i>Parish</i>	460	180	220
<i>Restoration</i>	460	180	225

<b>Parish Fund</b>	<b>€860</b>
<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>€865</b>

**Visitation of the Sick:** Fr Devlin will visit the sick on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January in the afternoon.

**Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

**At his baptism Jesus' mission was revealed: to share the Spirit of God with us**

**Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented.**

**And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom am well pleased."**

**Embracing Baptism**

Baptism is such a happy occasion when a child's birth is publicly celebrated and cheered, and here they are received into a larger family, the family of the church. In being received into our church-family, these children become our brothers and sisters in the Lord, sons and daughters of God, and temples of the Spirit. The joy of faith and hope 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 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 uplifting in a way that is unique to that sacrament.

Of course, the majority of baptisms are of children, who are oblivious to what 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 they happily make this 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.

Though Jesus was baptised as an adult and we were baptised 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 were given an assurance of God's love and favour, and we too were empowered by the Holy Spirit for the journey ahead of 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 moment of grace 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.

Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong call. We spend the rest of our lives trying to carry out what it calls us to be. We were baptized as children but years later we personally confirmed the implications of our baptism. It is as adults that we say personal 'yes' to the Lord who has blessed us from the start. It may be as late as our twenties or even later that we adopt that 'yes' with all our heart and soul and mind. In those mature years we can more fully hear the call of today's Reading from Isaiah, '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.' From the moment of our baptism the Lord keeps guiding to us, and as the Scripture declares, that word "does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do." Like Jesus himself, today we turn to God again to embrace our personal baptism.

**Invitation to 33 Days of Family Prayer:** Bishop McKeown will lead the diocese in 33 days of Family Prayer towards Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary, as part of a diocesan programme for the Jubilee Year of 2025, Pilgrims of Hope. It will be delivered online on the Diocese of Derry Facebook, each evening at 7pm, starting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January and concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Bishop McKeown explains, "It is a journey I set out to make to entrust myself and my priesthood to Christ through the Mother of God. I extend an invitation to you and your families from the parishes of the diocese to join me". Details and times of the prayer programme with a video message from Bishop McKeown can be viewed at [derrydiocese.org/consecration](http://derrydiocese.org/consecration)

**Important Dates for 2025: Confirmation:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon. **First Communion:** Malin Town and Glengad on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon and Urblereagh and Malin Head, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon.

**Weddings in Malin in 2025/2026:** You must inform the Registrar of Marriages in Buncrana of your intent to get married at least 6 months before the date of your wedding. To make an appointment phone 074 9898644. To attend a pre-marriage course, you can book online at [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie) or phone Carndonagh Pastoral Centre on 074 9374103 or (Accord Derry on 048 71362475). For church papers contact the Parochial House, 074 93 70615 or email [malinparish@hotmail.com](mailto:malinparish@hotmail.com) at least 6 months before the date of your wedding.

**Teach us to Pray Booklet** –It can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/teach-us-to-pray>.

**Vocations:** As we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus which marked the beginning of His public life and ministry we pray that each of us will respond positively to the universal call to holiness, thinking especially of those the Lord is inviting to serve His people as priests of the diocese of Derry.

**Catholic Schools Week 2025** begins on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January and continues until Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January. The theme for this year is 'Catholic Schools: Alive in Christ'. During Catholic Schools Week families, parishes and schools are invited to participate in a week of celebration of Catholic schools, reflecting on their contribution to the common good of society. To launch Catholic Schools Week in our diocese, the Eucharist will be celebrated by Bishop McKeown in Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 10am and everyone is welcome to attend.

**Study Theology Online**, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before February 11<sup>th</sup>. Find out more on our website, [prioryinstitute.com](http://prioryinstitute.com) to see a 2 minute introductory film.

**You are cordially invited to a Book Launch** celebrating the

Life of Dr. Tom McGinley – Founder of the Foyle Hospice. Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm - Doors open from 6.45pm in St Columb's Hall, Orchard Street, Derry BT48 6EG. Free Entry: Book essential at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/stcolumbshall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stcolumbshall). £15 per book (cash only, please), Proceeds to Foyle Hospice.

**Application Forms:**– Application forms for enrolling your child for the 2025/2026 school year are now available from the schools and on the school's website, **Urblereagh National School** [urblereaghns.weebly.com](http://urblereaghns.weebly.com), **Scoil Cholmcille, Glengad** – [scoilcholmcilleglengad.weebly.com](http://scoilcholmcilleglengad.weebly.com) and **Scoil Naomh Mhuire, Malin Head:** [www.malinheadns.scoilnet.ie](http://www.malinheadns.scoilnet.ie). **Scoil Treasa Naofa, Malin:** [treasnaofamalin@gmail.com](mailto:treasnaofamalin@gmail.com) or phoning 074 91 0617. We will commence accepting applications from the 6<sup>th</sup> January. Completed forms must be submitted by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025.