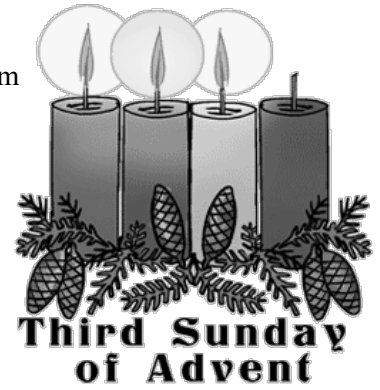


Parish of Malin (Clonca) Sunday 15th December 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent

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
E-Mail: malinparish@hotmail.com		St. Mary's Church - Sunday 9am
Web Site: www.malinparish.ie	Facebook: Malin Parish	



Weekday Mass:

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

Anniversary Mass: Philip Lafferty on Saturday 14th December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Charlie Monagle on Sunday 15th December in St. Mary's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: John David Mc Laughlin on Saturday 21st December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Margaret Lockwood, Port Ronan on Saturday 21st December at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
Anniversary Mass: Michael Mc Laughlin, Fildara on Sunday 22nd December at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.
Anniversary Mass: MaryEllen Gallagher on Wednesday 25th December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Rose Kelly, Glentoskert on Wednesday 25th December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Cormac Doherty, Westown on Wednesday 25th December at 11am in Star of the Sea Church.
First Anniversary Mass: James (Sean) Doherty, Ballysallagh on Saturday 28th December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Sadie Mc Cullagh, Brookfield Tce. on Sunday 29th December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.
Anniversary Mass: Jim Mullin, Bree on Saturday 4th January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Margaret & Paddy Doherty, (Paddyamor) on Saturday 11th January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.
First Anniversary Mass: Patrick Mc Daid (Ned), Templemoyle on Sunday 12th January at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

Please e-mail your anniversaries to malinparish@hotmail.com or leave them in the sacristy after mass.

Parish Collections for Last Week: Thank You.

	<i>Aughaclay</i>	<i>Malin Head</i>	<i>Lagg</i>
Parish	465	145	235
Restoration	460	145	230

Parish Fund	€845
Restoration Fund	€835

Advent: Communicating Joy

The lead-up to Christmas has a sense of happy anticipation, an excitement matched in today's readings. We are invited to a truly joyful proclamation of the Good News. About *The Joy of the Gospel*, pope Francis wrote:

One cannot but admire the resources that the Lord used to dialogue with his people, to reveal his mystery to all and to attract ordinary people by his lofty teachings and demands. I believe that the secret lies in the way Jesus looked at people, seeing beyond their weaknesses and failings: "Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Lk 12:32); Jesus preaches with that spirit. Full of joy in the Spirit, he blesses the Father who draws the little ones to him: "I thank you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes" (Lk 10:21). The Lord enjoys talking with his people; preachers should try to communicate that same joy to his listeners.

An Advent examen (from *The Pilgrim's Almanac*, by Edward Hays):

"Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place. Daily we can make an Advent examination. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.

This Third Sunday in Advent is full of comfort and joy. In our Latin past it was called "*Gaudete* Sunday," (*gaudete* meaning rejoice.) The liturgy bids us be happy, not to worry, for the Lord is near. And if we want the peace of God in our hearts, that peace will be ours, if we ask God for it. St Paul says, "There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving." He tells us not to wait until after God has granted our requests before saying thanks. Even as we ask, we should be giving thanks. One of the things to thank God for at the end of this year is all the good done by so many good people in our time.

Wherever there is evil, God will see that brave, resolute souls rise up to combat it. Such was the work done by St John the Baptist, as described by St Luke. People were prepared to walk all the way from Jerusalem down to near Jericho in the deep Jordan valley, on the edge of the desert — all of fifteen miles each way — in order to see John, this charismatic figure living as

an ascetic in the desert around the Dead Sea. Having heard him, many stayed to be baptised by him. But they were full of the uncertainty that can surface in all of us if we take time to cast a critical eye on the kind of life we are leading.

“What must we do?” they asked him; and John spelled out his answer in no uncertain terms. While their request showed their willingness to change, it also showed that they were lacking in clear insight about what is right human behaviour. “Love and do what you will,” was to be the motto of St Augustine, meaning that if people have total inner commitment to God, then they will be incapable of doing wrong, they will know instinctively what is right from the promptings of the Spirit within them.

John the Baptist tried to change his listeners’ hearts by telling them not to be grasping, not to take from others more than a just return for services rendered, but rather to help those in need. “If anyone has two cloaks, he must share with the man who has none.” “Give your blood,” the ancient monks in the desert used to say, “and you will possess the Spirit.” The society to which John was addressing himself — as indeed Jesus did later — was to collapse because of its lack of spiritual depth, its over concern with externals, as evidenced by the Pharisees, its pursuit of a narrow-minded nationalism, as seen in the Zealots who resorted to violence and assassination in their hatred of the Romans.

The greatest danger to the continuation of any society becomes a reality when most of its members become motivated by selfish concerns, greed and covetousness. The message that our own society invariably highlights is not, alas, that of sharing cloaks, but of wearing outfits that are better, more comfortable, more in keeping with the size of one’s pay differential. The sad thing is that all this unbridled seeking for earthly comforts, this concern with the cares of life, pulls us further and further away from the yearning for himself, that God has placed within all of us. It turns us away from the things of the Spirit, and from the pursuit of religious idealism. Prayerfully then, and in the presence of God, let us give thanks to the Father in this Mass, for the gift of his divine Son, who in its celebration makes us one with himself. Let us ask for the peace of God, as Sacred scripture urges us, for that abiding peace which is so much greater than we can ever understand, so much greater than anything this world can ever offer us. And we can be assured that for all who faithfully do this the reward will be everlasting

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

Fr. Logue will visit the sick on Monday 16th December. **Fr. Devlin** will attend the sick on Tuesday 17th December in the afternoon. Any new housebound/sick parishioners should contact Fr Devlin before Tuesday.

On Friday 20th Our Parish Pray’s for the 24 hours for Marriage & Family Life. This is part of a Movement of Continuous Prayer for Marriage & Family Life as other parishes and groups take on the prayer for the other days of the month. The theme of this month is: A Child is born for us. This is about remembering what has happened at Bethlehem. But it is also about knowing what is happening in every heart, in every home, in every love relationship, in every community and covering the entire world with the presence of God in Christ who is given to us and lives for us. Please see parish website for more information.

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 9th January and concluding on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Tuesday 11th 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

Altar Servers for Malin Parish. Parents are invited to support their children in becoming altar servers for our churches. It helps children develop skills of teamwork and promotes responsibility and self-confidence. Enrolment forms will be distributed in the schools. Parents can also contact Fr. Devlin directly about their children who want to become servers.

Practice for new servers in Aghaclay Chapel, Saturday 21st December at 12 noon, In Star of the Sea for Lagg and Malin Head servers at 1.30pm.

Important Dates For 2025: Confirmation: Saturday 29th March at 12 noon. **First Communion:** Malin Town and Glengad on Saturday 10th May at 12 noon and Urblereagh and Malin Head, on Saturday 17th 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 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 at least 6 months before the date of your wedding.

Christenings: Sunday 29th December in St. Mary’s Church at 2pm. Please ring 074 93 70134, 086 168 3842 in advance to book a Christening.

Vocations: For the future priests of the diocese of Derry that, like St John the Baptist, they will work to "... prepare the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight.... so that all mankind can see the salvation of God."

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

Online Advent Retreat. The Priory Institute is delighted to offer a free of charge online retreat. Keeping Vigil for the Vulnerable God. Visit our website prioryinstitute.com.