



**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

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Masses:**

**St. Patrick's Church:** Christmas Eve at 6pm and Christmas Day at 10:30am  
**Star of the Sea Church:** Christmas Eve at 7pm and Christmas Day at 11am  
**St. Mary's Church:** Christmas Day 9am

*Fr. Devlin and Fr. Logue would like to wish everyone in the Parish a very Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

**Weekday Mass:**

**St. Patrick's Church, Aughaclay:**                              Monday at 7.30pm Confessions at 8pm  
**Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:**      Monday at 7:30pm, Confessions at 6:30pm



**Weekday Mass 29 December to 5<sup>th</sup> January.:**

**St. Mary's Church:**      New Year's Day (Wednesday) at 9:30am  
**Star of the Sea Church, Malin Head:**      Friday at 7:30pm  
 Connolly Foundation, Malin                              Friday at 10am.

**Feast of the Epiphany, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**St Patrick's Aughaclay 6pm, Star of the Sea, Malin Head, 8pm.**

**First Anniversary Mass:** John David Mc Laughlin on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.

**First Anniversary Mass:** Margaret Lockwood, Port Ronan on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Michael Mc Laughlin, Fildara on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10:30am in St. Patrick's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** MaryEllen Gallagher on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Rose Kelly, Glentoskert on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Cormac Doherty, Westown on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 11am in Star of the Sea Church.

**First Anniversary Mass:** James (Sean) Doherty, Ballysallagh on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in St. Patrick's Church.

**First Anniversary Mass:** Sadie Mc Cullagh, Brookfield Tce. on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in St. Mary's Church.

**Anniversary Mass:** Jim Mullin, Bree on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in Star of the Sea Church.

**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.

**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>
<b>Parish</b>	575	150	235
<b>Restoration</b>	575	150	240

<b>Parish Fund</b>	<b>€960</b>
<b>Restoration Fund</b>	<b>€965</b>

**Advent:**

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

*Elizabeth recognises the unique child that Mary carries within her*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

**Holding our breath**

The readings invite a final pause, one further holding of the breath, before the birth of Jesus. The Visitation, in particular, with its explicit and implied encounter(s), may help us reflect on all the encounters of this season, not forgetting "the" encounter to which we are all invited.

## Honouring the Madonna

When a mother is expecting, all the focus is on her health. She gets loads of advice — ‘be careful,’ ‘don’t lift that’ and ‘don’t forget your afternoon nap.’ Once the baby is born the main attention moves to the baby — ‘who does she look like?’ ‘what name will you give him?’ ...and so on. So on this last Sunday before Christmas the Gospel is focussed on Mary, the expectant mother, and in particular, on her visit to her cousin, Elizabeth.

One could say that Mary is even more honoured in the Eastern Church than she is in the West. In the West, after the 16th century reformation, many Protestants stopped honouring Mary. Many shrines were levelled, stained glass windows were broken, statues of Mary shattered, pictures of the Madonna burnt. Still, not all Protestants disowned Mary. A frequently quoted line about her is where William Wordsworth refers to her as ‘our tainted nature’s solitary boast.’ Martin Luther had a lifelong devotion to Mary and even kept a picture of her on his desk, though many Lutherans seem unaware of this.

All Christians, whether Catholic or Protestant, like to meditate on the Magnificat, that prayerful song brimming over with anger at the way the world is tilted against the poor. It is Mary’s cry for justice: He has filled the hungry with good things/ And sent the rich away empty. This is Mary who inspires all followers of her son to challenge injustice also in our own time and place.

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## Two great women

The two pregnant women in our Gospel today are different in age, yet both full of joy and concern for each other. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth because of the dangers attendant on so late a pregnancy. That she went with haste, halfway across the country, to make the visit is a clear sign of Mary’s generosity and goodness. Through the light of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognised Mary’s privilege as the mother of the longed-for Messiah. She greets Mary in the words we are so familiar with in our Hail Mary. And Mary responds in the equally familiar words of the Magnificat. These two great women understand the miracle of conception and birth. But in each case there was divine intervention in a truly exceptional way. The Gospel says that both were informed of this fact by the words of an angel; they each had a message from God telling them so.

The fact that these two women had this divine intervention is a reminder that our own lives too are a gift of God; what we might call ordinary grace. It is from this understanding that the Church takes its position on all life issues.

At some moments we may recognise the hand of God in our lives. Maybe at the point when we felt we had a priestly or religious vocation or when we finally decided on our partner in marriage. Maybe it was at the birth of a child, a change in job circumstances, or the death of a parent. Maybe it was a moment in prayer, the grace of a sacrament, advice in the confessional, wise words from a friend or relative at a critical moment.

God continues to work with us and for us. God takes the long view and there are periods of seeming barrenness, seeming aloneness. But these are all part of that gestation which is life on earth. We were born into this world and we will be reborn into eternal life.

Every now and then like John the Baptist we leap in this womb which is our life on earth. Every now and then we recognise God’s presence, as John recognised Jesus’ presence, and we leap with joy. But life is always moving on and God is always with us. It was God caused us to come into being, who sustains and feeds us, and who will welcome us into life eternal. As well as the birth of Jesus, we celebrate our own birth too at Christmas — a birth, a life that flows towards death and final resurrection.

**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](https://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.

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

**Vocations:** We pray for our seminarians and for those considering a vocation to serve as priests in this diocese that, like Mary and Elizabeth, they will be attentive to the power and movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

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

**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.