

24th NOVEMBER 2013



Sunday before Advent

WELCOME To everyone especially newcomers.

WORSHIP We offer our worship on this 'Christ the King' Sunday.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God our Father your son welcomed the man next to him on the cross. As we now draw near to you may we know that you welcome our worship and may we know your acceptance as we come to you in faith. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

THIS WEEK

TODAY Immediately after 11.30 am service in St Patrick's an opportunity to chat over tea/coffee.
Living Faith 'Christmas needed or not?' at 6.30 pm in St Patrick's.
White Ribbon Sunday. Wearing a white ribbon signifies a readiness 'never to commit, condone or stay silent about violence against women'. Last year Ballymena Women's Aid Group supported 1,510 women experiencing abuse. Victims come from all walks of life and can include those sitting in church pews.
Retiring collection at all services for Philippines.

MONDAY Young Persons' Steering Group at 7.30 pm in Jubilee Room.
Ladies' Circle meet in St Columba's at 8.00 pm, speaker Marie Semple - my T.A. experiences.

- TUESDAY** Healer Prayer Group - 7.30 - 8 pm.
With the Bible fellowship - the rector gives an illustrated account of the recent visit to India. All welcome. Minor Hall at 8.00 pm.
- THURSDAY** First of four Thursday lunchtime Advent reflections sponsored by Ballymena Church Members' Forum - All Saints 12.30 - 1.15 pm.
- FRIDAY** House Group Cheryl Sinclair's house.
- SATURDAY** Preparation service for confirmation candidates at 6.00 pm in St Patrick's.

EACH WEEK

- MINISTRY OF PRAYER** This is taking place after the 11.30 am service as well as the 6.30 pm service in St Patrick's.
- PRAYER SUPPORT** Team Leader - Alex McKay, Tel. No. 2564 4698.
- FOODBANK** Collection trolley in both St Patrick's and St Columba's.

FOR THE FUTURE

- NEXT SUNDAY** The Rt Rev. Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor, will be with us for confirmation at 6.30 pm.
- CHRISTMAS GOSPEL CONCERT** Presented by Dunclug Partnership, Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul - 5th December at 7.30 pm in All Saints. Proceeds to Christmas Family Appeal.
- PLEASE NOTE** Those who distribute church envelopes should collect their bundles. Those who live in outlying districts may find their own envelopes at the back of the churches.

READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S

Colossians 1:11-20 (Page 197) and St Luke 23:33-43 (Page 85)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Dear God, help us to know that you are in charge of everything and you are looking after everything.
Amen.



SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT - St Columba's

24 November 2013

A reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah chapter 23
beginning at verse 1

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness

in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

**A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke chapter 23
beginning at verse 33**

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴²Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT - Ballyclug

24 November 2013

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians
chapter 1 beginning at verse 11

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, ¹²while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke chapter 23 beginning at verse 33

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!'

³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴²Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD