

# 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2013



## Advent 4

**WELCOME** To everyone especially those home on holiday.

**WORSHIP** May we truly acknowledge the Christ Child in all aspects of our worship today.

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Our heavenly Father help us now in our worship and in the coming days to reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. Amen.

### THIS WEEK

#### TODAY

**Carols by Candlelight** Service of Nine Lessons and Carols -  
6.30 pm in St Patrick's  
7.00 pm in St Columba's

**Bishops' Appeal** Last day for contributions to this Church of Ireland Fund for development and emergency aid.

**Bible Reading Notes** Scripture Union notes for first three months of 2014 at back of church.

**Junior Church Wardens** Two new Junior Churchwardens in St Patrick's - Sophie McLean and Luke Cunningham.

**MONDAY** Carol singing with housebound - meet St Patrick's at 6.45 pm.

**TUESDAY** Christmas Eve - Holy Communion at 11.30 pm in St Patrick's.

**CHRISTMAS DAY** St Patrick's 8.15 am Holy Communion - Form 1  
10.30 am Family Service (HC)  
Children please bring one of their presents.  
Ballyclug 10.00 am Holy Communion  
St Columba's 10.30 am Family Communion Form 2.

**FRIDAY** 'Auld Time and Sequence Dance' - 27<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00 - 11.30 pm in St Patrick's Church Hall in aid of Alzheimer's Society.

**NEXT SUNDAY** 8.15 am Holy Communion Form 1. Other morning and evening services take the form of Carols and Reflections.

**REMINDER** Next Sunday is the last Sunday for receiving 2013 envelopes. It is good to report that the increase in giving to the General Fund is continuing - and hopefully into the New Year!

**PARISH OFFICE** The Parish Office will be closed during the Christmas period and will reopen on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

### EACH WEEK

**MINISTRY OF PRAYER** This takes place after the 11.30 am service and the 6.30 pm service in St Patrick's.

**PRAYER SUPPORT** Team Leader - Millicent McClelland, Tel. No. 2564 6407.

**Reading in St Patrick's - Luke 2:1-7 (Page 55)**

### CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Thank you for God that you showed us your love by coming right down to us as the baby Jesus. **Amen.**



# ADVENT 4 - St Columba's

22 December 2013

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 7 beginning at verse 10

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

*This is the word of the Lord*  
**THANKS BE TO GOD**

## A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew chapter 1 beginning at verse 18

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

***This is the word of the Lord***  
**THANKS BE TO GOD**