

# 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2013

## Advent 2



**WELCOME** To newcomers and visitors.

**WORSHIP** We worship as a community of faith, drawing encouragement from our commitment to walk together the Christian Way.

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving God, we come before you as your children, with our strengths and weaknesses, our hopes and fears. Take us as we are and through this act of worship challenge us, reshape us and lead us onwards to your kingdom life. Amen.

### THIS WEEK

**TODAY** Gifts for Christmas tree/Salvation Army appeal to be brought to the hall.

**TONIGHT** Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm in St Patrick's.

**MONDAY** Jubilee House Group at 7.30 pm in Jubilee Room.  
Finance Committee at 7.30 pm in office.  
*'Relay for Life'* an overnight event organised by Cancer Research UK. The only 'Relay for Life' event to take place in NI in 2014 will be held in Ballymena on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> June 2014. To get involved, you are invited to come to an information evening at Ballymena Rugby Club tonight at 8.00 pm. For further information contact Lisa Kirkwood on 077 0230 4044 or email: [lisakirkwood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lisakirkwood@hotmail.co.uk)

- TUESDAY** Select Vestry meeting at 7.30 pm in Minor Hall.  
Healer Prayer Group - 7.15 - 8.00 pm.  
Bible Study - informal - 8.00 pm. Everyone welcome.
- WEDNESDAY** Still Active Christmas Lunch and Entertainment.  
Advent service in Ballyclug at 8.00 pm. Mothers' Union members to attend. Supper will be served after this service.
- THURSDAY** Third of Inter-church Advent reflections in St Patrick's at 12.30 - 1.15 pm.
- NEXT SUNDAY** No family service in St Columba's because of Children's Nativity Service the next Sunday.  
Sunday School as usual in 11.30 am service.

### 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 - Eleanor Burnett,  
Tel. No. 075 1736 5589.

**PLEASE NOTE** Bishops' Appeal Envelopes towards Emergency and Development support in 3<sup>rd</sup> World for use over next three Sundays.  
The cut-off date for giving through our church envelopes will be 31<sup>st</sup> December. Any 2013 envelopes after that date will be credited to 2014.

### READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S

Isaiah 11:1-10 (Page 650) and St Matthew 3:1-12 (Page 2)

#### CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Thank you God that John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Help us to prepare for Jesus' birthday. Amen.



#### ANTHEM - Lead me Lord (Wesley)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;  
make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,  
That makest me dwell in safety.

## **ADVENT 2 - St Columba's**

**08 December 2013**

**A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 11  
beginning at verse 1**

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew  
chapter 3 beginning at verse 1**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.”’

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

<sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat

into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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## ADVENT 2 - Ballyclug

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