

21st DECEMBER 2014



Advent 4

WELCOME

To all and especially visitors and those home on holidays.

WORSHIP

Both shepherds and wise men were drawn to the new born babe and responded with worship and witness.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Father God, as we look forward to the Christmas story we acknowledge that we can let it become dulled by familiarity. May we appreciate the stupendous fact that you have come among us and shown yourself in the baby Jesus. So help us now in this act of worship to recapture a sense of wonder. Amen.

MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

WITH GOD

TONIGHT

Lessons and Carols in St Patrick's at 6.30 pm and St Columba's at 7.00 pm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St Patrick's - Christmas Eve - Holy Communion Form 1 at 11.30 pm.

Christmas Day

St Patrick's	8.15 am	Holy Communion Form 1
	10.30 am	Family Communion Form 2
Ballyclug	10.00 am	Holy Communion Form 1
St Columba's	10.30 am	Family Communion Form 2

NEXT SUNDAY Services at usual times.

- WEDNESDAY** Holy Communion as usual in St Patrick's at 10.30 am.
- NEW YEAR'S EVE** Watchnight Service at 11.15 pm.
- NEW YEAR'S DAY** Holy Communion at 10.30 am in St Patrick's - No Holy Communion on previous day, Wednesday 31st December.
- BIBLE NOTES** Scripture Union Bible notes for first quarter of 2015 now available.
- PRAYER SUPPORT** Team Leader - Millicent McClelland,
Tel. No. 077 9173 6117.
- MINISTRY OF PRAYER** Takes place after the 11.30 am service and the 6.30 pm service in St Patrick's.

WITH EACH OTHER

- CAROL SINGING** Carol Singing with some of our elderly folk - please meet at St Patrick's tomorrow at 6.45 pm.
- MONIES** Any monies that need to be made up for the year - please by 31st when books close.
- FLOWER LIST - ST PATRICK'S** The Flower List for 2015 will be available from 28th December. St Patrick's is continuing to have the flowers supplied by Sally's of William Street, Ballymena. Donations can be made in the envelopes provided at the back of the church.
- CHURCH OFFICE** Closed until Monday, 5 January 2015.

WITH THE WORLD

- BISHOPS' APPEAL** Thanks to those who have contributed. Today is the last day for giving in envelopes.
- FOOD BANK** Thanks to those who give items regularly. The need clearly continues over the holiday period.

Advent 4 - St Columba's

21st December 2014

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans chapter 16 beginning at verse 25

An acclamation of praise to God who has revealed himself in Christ.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

Mary is given the amazing message that she is to be with child by the Holy Spirit and the child will be the Son of God.

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St Luke, chapter 1 beginning at verse 26

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵ The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸ Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.