

10th December 2017

Advent 2



WELCOME To all newcomers and visitors.

WORSHIP We come to worship our God.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Dear Lord, help us during this season of Advent to think of those who are less fortunate than ourselves, the refugees, the homeless and the unwanted. May we pray to you with sincerity and worship you with humble hearts. Amen.

MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

WITH GOD

CONFIRMATION This evening in St Patrick's at 6.30 pm. Please remember all of the candidates in your prayers.

HEALER PRAYER GROUP Tuesday 7.15 pm in Clergy Vestry.

MID WEEK Holy Communion on Wednesday at 10.30 am in St Patrick's.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS Ballymena Church Members Forum. All Saints Church on Thursday from 12.30 pm - 1.15 pm.

ADVENT Mid-week Advent Service in Ballyclug Church on Wednesday at 8.00 pm. All welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY Sunday, 17th December at 11.30 am. Children should meet in St Patrick's Church at 11.10 am. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be served in the hall after this service.

PRAYER SUPPORT Team Leader - Eleanor Burnett -
Tel No. 075 1736 5589.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER After morning and evening services in St Patrick's in the Prayer Space.

WITH EACH OTHER

- LADIES' CIRCLE** St Columba's tomorrow night at 8.00 pm. Christmas Flower arranging.
- SELECT VESTRY** Meeting on Tuesday night.
- STILL ACTIVE** Christmas Lunch and entertainment from 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm on Wednesday in St Patrick's Main Hall.
- MOTHERS' UNION** Will be attending the Advent Service on Wednesday at 8.00 pm in Ballyclug Church. Please ring 2587 9071 if you require a lift.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS** Christmas Dinner on Wednesday at 7.30 pm in Millside, Gracehill.
- LADIES' NIGHT** Belfast Christmas Market on Friday. Meet at Ballymena Train Station at 4.45 pm. We will return at 10.00 pm.
- ST COLUMBA'S** Help is needed to decorate the Church on Saturday, 16th December at 10.00 am.
- CHRISTIAN AID FAMILY APPEAL** St Patrick's Sunday School teachers and children will receive envelopes to enable them to give donations towards the Family Appeal instead of the giving and receiving of presents.
- MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Next meeting will take place on the evening of Thursday, 1st February 2018.
- VISITING THE SICK** Please inform the Clergy if you know of anyone who is sick and requires a pastoral visit either in hospital or at their home.

WITH THE WORLD

- ACTION CANCER BIG BUS** St Patrick's on Friday, 5th January 2018. Bookings can be made via www.actioncancer.org/appointments or by calling Action Cancer on 028 9080 3344.

READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S AT 11.30 AM

2 Peter 3:8-15a (Page 235) and St Matthew 13:31-32 (Page 14)

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Northern Ireland Charity number: NIC103115

Advent 2 - St Columba's

10th December 2017

A reading from the Book of Psalms, psalm 80 Chapter 1
beginning at verse 26

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation.

*Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.*

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your
people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them
abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our
enemies laugh us to scorn.

*Turn us again, O God of hosts; show the light of your
countenance, and we shall be saved.*

This is the word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the gospel 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, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.' 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 word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

Advent 2 - Ballyclug

10th December 2017

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 40 beginning at verse 1

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows
upon it;

surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians chapter 1 beginning at verse 9

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for 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. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He 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. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and 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