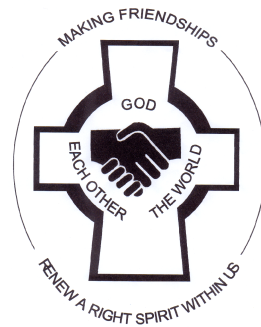


# 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015



## Advent 3

**WELCOME** Good to see everyone, including newcomers and visitors.

**WORSHIP** 'Come let us worship and bow down before the Lord our Maker'.

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Bless us now as we praise you Lord. Fill us with your spirit, inspire us with your grace, renew us in your love. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### *MAKING FRIENDSHIPS*

#### WITH GOD

**NEXT SUNDAY** Sunday School Nativity Service in St Patrick's at 11.30 am. Refreshments afterwards.  
Lessons and Carols in all three Churches  
Ballyclug at 10.00 am  
St Patrick's at 6.30 pm  
St Columba's at 7.00 pm.

**HEALER PRAYER GROUP** Tuesday 7.15 pm in Clergy Vestry.

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP** Tuesday at 8.00 pm in the Choir Vestry.

**MID WEEK** Holy Communion on Wednesday at 10.30 am in St Patrick's with refreshments afterwards.

**INTER CHURCH - ADVENT REFLECTIONS** The third in the series of lunch-time services in Ballymena Methodist Church on Wednesday from 12.30 pm - 1.15 pm. All welcome.

**ADVENT** Mid week Advent Service, Compline with a short reflection, in Ballyclug on Wednesday at 8.00 pm.

**PRAYER SUPPORT** Team Leader - Millicent McClelland,  
Tel No. 077 9173 6117.

Email - [kilconriola@btconnect.com](mailto:kilconriola@btconnect.com) Web address - [www.ballymena.connor.anglican.org](http://www.ballymena.connor.anglican.org)  
Northern Ireland Charity number: NIC103115

**MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

After morning and evening services in St Patrick's - in the prayer space.

**WITH EACH OTHER**

**CAROL SINGING**

This will take place in the Tower Centre on Friday 18 December at 7.00 pm. A rehearsal will take place in All Saints Church this afternoon at 3.00 pm. All welcome.

**WITH THE WORLD**

**BISHOPS' APPEAL**

For world development and disaster relief. Envelopes available in all churches.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

Billy Parish Church, Bushmills. Today from 11.30 am - 6.00 pm. 'Carols in the Forest' at 6.00 pm.

**BALLYMENA ACADEMY CAROL SERVICE**

An additional Carol Service will take place in St Patrick's on Wednesday at 2.30 pm to which all parishioners are invited.

**CHRISTMAS GOSPEL CONCERT**

Ballyloughan Church on Thursday at 7.30 pm. Admission £5 by ticket only. Proceeds for Castle Tower School and local MS Group.

**FOOD BANK**

Ongoing contributions are much appreciated.

**CHRISTIAN AID FAMILY APPEAL**

Envelopes should be returned to the Sunday School nativity service at 11.30 am next Sunday. There will be refreshments in the hall after this service.

**CHILDREN'S PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, Help us to remember that by giving to other children who are in need we are helping You. Amen.



**READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S AT 11.30 AM**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20 page 891**

God will always preserve a remnant of the faithful through the worst of times.

**St Luke 3:7-18 page 57**

John the last great prophet, he baptised, and gave strong condemnations, preparing for Jesus.

# The Third Sunday of Advent - Ballyclug

13<sup>th</sup> December 2015

A reading from the prophecy of Zephaniah chapter 3 beginning at verse 14

*God will always preserve a remnant of the faithful through the worst of times.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

Email - [kilconriola@btconnect.com](mailto:kilconriola@btconnect.com) Web address - [www.ballymena.connor.anglican.org](http://www.ballymena.connor.anglican.org)

Northern Ireland Charity number: NIC103115

## A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke chapter 3 beginning at verse 7

John the last great prophet, he baptised and gave strong condemnations preparing for Jesus.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. 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.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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