

27th November 2016

ADVENT 1



WELCOME

To newcomers and visitors.

WORSHIP

We worship God who is coming as a light to all who dwell in darkness.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Dear Lord, please direct our thoughts and actions as we begin this Advent season. May we think of you and the love that you have shown to us as we wait expectantly for the signs that you are coming. Amen.

MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

WITH GOD

LIVING FAITH

Tonight in St Patrick's Church Hall at 6.30 pm. Speaker is Canon David Brown who will talk on the theme of Transforming our Community by Prayer. Supper will be served after this service. Everyone welcome.

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

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

INTER CHURCH ADVENT SERVICES

The second of a series of lunch-time services to mark Advent will take place in St Patricks' Parish Church on Thursday, 1st December from 12.30 pm - 1.15 pm. Everyone welcome.

BHOP

The Salvation Army host Prayers of Blessing for Ballymena from 12.45 - 1.30 pm on Friday, 2nd December at the Salvation Army, Waring Street, Harryville. This year's focus is "Your Presence, Lord". All welcome.

PRAYER SUPPORT Team Leader - Heather Barr, Tel No. 2564 1047.

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. A talk will be given by Derek Bell on 'Gracehill - Then and Now'.

ENVELOPES Thanks to all who helped prepare the 2017 Freewill offering envelopes for distribution and to the teams currently delivering them. Some outlying ones are at the back of Churches. Books close on 31st December, so please try to make up any giving by then.

CHURCH OFFICE Please note that the office will be open on Monday, **Thursday** and Friday this week.

TEA After 11.30 am service in St Patrick's today.

WITH THE WORLD

STUDENT LUNCHESES Every Thursday in St Patrick's Church Hall - 12.00 - 2.00 pm. Parishioners are also welcome to come for tea/coffee and a chat. All donations go to church funds.

ST COLUMBA'S Unwrapped toys which will be donated to the Salvation Army should be handed in at St Columba's Christingle Service on 11th December.

CHRISTMAS CLASSICS Ballymena Chamber Orchestra present Christmas Classics by Candlelight on Saturday, 10th December at 7.30 pm in St Patrick's Church. Tickets available from the Faith Mission Bookshop or members of the Orchestra. Cost: Adults £12 and Children under 12 years £6.

FOOD BANK Thank you for all your donations which are very much appreciated.

READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S AT 11.30 AM
Isaiah 2:1-5 (Page 641)
St Matthew 24:36-44 (Page 26)

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A reading from the Book of Exodus chapter 14 beginning at verse 10

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.' Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.' The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

This is the word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew chapter 24 beginning at verse 36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

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