

11th December 2016

ADVENT 3



WELCOME Especially to newcomers and visitors.

WORSHIP We are here to worship our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Dear God, help us during this season of Advent to think of you. May we watch and wait expectantly for the signs that you are near and may your Holy Spirit inspire us with your grace. Amen.

MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

WITH GOD

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 fourth of a series of lunch-time services to mark Advent will take place in All Saints Church on Thursday from 12.30 pm - 1.15 pm. All welcome.

ALPHA PRAYER TIME In the church magazine, the Alpha Prayer time on Sunday, 11th December at 8.00 pm was scheduled to take place in the rectory. Unfortunately the rector will not be moving until the 13th so this meeting will now be held in the Minor Hall.

PRAYER SUPPORT Team Leader - Irene Rodgers, Tel No. 2588 1099.

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

WITH EACH OTHER

RECTOR'S THANKS Over the last couple of weeks we have been very busy in the Parish from the prayerful beauty of our Advent Vigil, to the enthusiastic hub-bub of Messy Church. The busyness of our Christmas Fair, the engagement of our mid-week Bible Studies and mid-week Advent Services, the list could go on! Can I say a huge 'Thank you' to all who helped and participated to make these events such a blessing.

SELECT VESTRY Minor Hall - Tuesday at 7.30 pm.

STILL ACTIVE 25th Anniversary Christmas Lunch and entertainment from 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm on Wednesday in the Main Hall, St Patrick's.

MOTHERS' UNION The Advent Service will be held in Ballyclug Church on Wednesday at 8.00 pm. There will be the customary supper afterwards. All members welcome.

CHRISTIAN AID FAMILY APPEAL Sunday School teachers and children will receive envelopes in which they can give a donation towards the Family Appeal instead of the giving and receiving of presents. You will receive your envelope today and these will be collected at the Carol Service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE Next Sunday. All children need to be in church by 11.15 am. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served in the church hall after this service.

WITH THE WORLD

STUDENT LUNCHES 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.

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

READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S AT 11.30 AM

Isaiah 9:2-7 (Page 648) and St Matthew 11:2-11 (Page 10)

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A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 9 beginning at verse 2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness

from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew Chapter 11 beginning at verse 2

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

This is the word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD