

4th December 2016

ADVENT 2



WELCOME

It is good to see everyone including newcomers and visitors.

WORSHIP

‘Come let us worship and bow down before the Lord our Maker’.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Dear Lord, during this Advent season may we think of you sincerely and prayerfully. Help us to acknowledge our faults and our need of your healing love and may we try to do your will by helping each another. 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 third of a series of lunch-time services to mark Advent will take place in Ballymena Methodist Church on Thursday, 8th December from 12.30 pm - 1.15 pm. Everyone welcome.

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

ST COLUMBA’S COMMITTEE

Meeting Monday at 7.45 pm.

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

Meeting scheduled for Thursday has now been postponed until January 2017. Youth Leaders will be notified in due course.

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.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES For all youth in the parish: primary school age 7 - 8 years on Saturday in the Church Hall from 7.00 - 8.00 pm. Engage Christmas Party for Secondary school age in Antrim from 7.00 - 10.00 pm. on Saturday. Bus leaving St Patrick's at 6.30 pm.

LADIES' NIGHT Ladies night pizza and DVD in St Patrick's Minor Hall from 7.00 - 9.00 pm on Tuesday. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS FAIR Sincere thanks to everyone who donated items organised the stalls, attended the Fair, made donations or supported the event in any way. Total raised to date £5,000.04. In addition, proceeds from supporting events including Irene's Soup and Coffee (£1,010.00), Parish Auction (£2,891.60), Harvest Supper (£565.00), Fit of Life (£80.00) and the Shoe Box Appeal (£105.00) are also going towards the Christmas Fair/Church Funds, making a grand total to date of £9,651.64.

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.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CLASSICS Ballymena Chamber Orchestra present Christmas Classics by Candlelight on Saturday 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.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS APPEAL Please bring unwrapped Christmas gifts to be placed under the Christmas tree in St Patrick's Church and handed in at St Columba's Christingle Service on 11th December. These will then be distributed to the Salvation Army Christmas appeal.

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

READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S AT 11.30 AM
Romans 15:4-13 (Page 159) and St Luke 2:25-35 (Page 56)

Advent 2 - St Columba's

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A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 11 beginning at verse 1

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew Chapter 3 beginning at verse 1

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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