

2nd April 2017

Lent 5



WELCOME To those who are newcomers or visitors.

WORSHIP May we respond to God's love in our worship.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Father God, help us to turn away from habits that may harm our bodies or trouble our minds. May we choose instead your gift of life as revealed to us through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

WITH GOD

MOTHERS' UNION Festival Service today at 3.30 pm in St Ann's Cathedral. Coach will leave at 2.15 pm sharp from the Church car park.

JUNIOR ALPHA COURSE This evening at 6.30 pm in the Minor Hall. All young people of secondary school age are welcome and anyone hoping to go forward to Confirmation this year is required to attend.

ALPHA COURSE Continues on Tuesday in the Minor Hall with tea at 6.00 pm.

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

HEALER PRAYER GROUP Wednesday 7.00 pm in Clergy Vestry.

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

ST COLUMBA'S COMMITTEE Meeting Monday at 7.45 pm.

- GFS DISPLAY** Monday, 3rd April at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall. All welcome.
- SELECT VESTRY** Meeting on Tuesday, 4th April in Ballyclug Church.
- BLOOD TRANSFUSION** St Patrick's Hall - Wednesday and Thursday from 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm and 5.15 pm - 8.00 pm.
- LADIES CINEMA TRIP** Thursday, 6th April to see "Beauty and the Beast". Please meet at the Cinema. Film starts at 7.30 pm.
- CLB DISPLAY** Friday, 7th April at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall. All welcome.
- SUMMER MADNESS** Saturday, 29th April, Coffee Morning in St Patrick's Church Hall from 10.00 -12.00 pm. This is a fundraiser for Summer Madness.
- GOSHEN HOUSE GROUP** Will meet again on Friday, 5th May at 2 Grange Road, Ballymena.

WITH THE WORLD

- BALLYMENA BAPTIST CHURCH** A celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on Tuesday, 4th April at 8.00 pm. Speaker Dr Matthew Barrett.
- 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.
- CMS** Boxes are now at the back of Church to support the CMS project 'Growing in God' Kenya.

READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S AT 11.30 AM

Romans 8:6-11 (Page 153)

St John 11:1-45 (Page 101)

PRAYERS - ST COLUMBA'S

- Versicle:** Lord Jesus we are often filled with fear and foreboding.
Response: Give us courage and deepen our trust in You.

Lent 5 - Ballyclug

2nd April 2017

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans chapter 8 beginning at verse 6

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the gospel of our Saviour Christ according to St John chapter 11 beginning at verse 1

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may

believe. But let us go to him.’ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

Lent 5 - St Columba's

2nd April 2017

A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel chapter 37 beginning at verse 1

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from our Saviour Christ according to St Matthew chapter 6 beginning at verse 25

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD