

2nd December 2018

Advent Sunday



WELCOME To all newcomers and visitors.
WORSHIP We worship our God with joy.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Dear Lord, you are the giver of faith and the hope of our salvation. Strengthen us with your love and give us peace of mind to believe and trust in you our loving Lord. Amen.

MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

WITH GOD

BISHOP ALAN ABERNETHY Our Bishop is still undergoing treatment for his illness but he is remaining very positive. We would ask that you include him, his wife and family in your prayers. Thank you.

HEALER PRAYER GROUP Tuesday 7.15 pm in Clergy Vestry.

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

ADVENT SERVICES Mid-week Advent Service in Ballyclug Church on Wednesday at 7.30 pm. You are invited to come and prepare for Christmas. All welcome.

DAILY BREAD The Daily Bread Bible Reading Notes will be available from mid-December. An envelope for your subscription payment of £18 will be included. This is required for audit purposes and needs to be returned, with your payment, by the end of January 2019. Thank you.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS Ballymena Church Members Forum. 1st Ballymena Presbyterian Church on Thursday at 12.30 pm.

GOOD BOOK CLUB Friday at 7.00 pm in the Choir Vestry. All welcome.

'THE WAY' YOUTH FELLOWSHIP Sunday, 9th December at 6.30 pm in the Revd Dennis' house.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE Retiring collection for St Columba's Hospital, Hazaribagh, at St Columba's Christingle Service on 9th December.

PRAYER SUPPORT Team Leader - Eleanor Burnett:
Tel No. 075 1736 5589.

INSTALLATION OF REVD M McCONNELL AS A CANON Our Rector will be installed as a Canon of Lisburn Cathedral on Tuesday at 8.00 pm in Lisburn Cathedral. All welcome to attend.

REMEMBRANCE & THANKSGIVING A service will be held in St Patrick's Church next Sunday at 6.30 pm. Central to this service will be the theme of giving thanks to God for loved ones lost. As we near the end of the year this service will provide an opportunity for quiet remembrance and thanksgiving. If this is suitable for you, or someone you know, please do pass the word around and come along.

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

VISITING THE SICK Please inform the Clergy if you know of anyone who is sick and requires a pastoral visit either in hospital or in their home.

WITH EACH OTHER

CHRISTMAS PARTY For all Church organisations, Sunday School & Youth Club on Saturday in St Patrick's Church Hall from 7 - 8 pm for Primary School age and 8 - 10 pm for Secondary School age.

DECORATING OF ST PATRICK'S CHURCH Decorating of St Patrick's Church will take place on Tuesday, 11th December from 10.00 am - 12 noon. Please come along and help. You don't have to be an expert. Flowers, greenery, etc. required. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS THEMED AFTERNOON TEA Christmas themed Afternoon Tea on Saturday, 15th December from 12 - 3.00 pm with seasonal Fayre. If any parishioners would like to donate cakes or pastries for the Church cake stall, these would be most appreciated and can be left in the Church Hall on Friday, 14th December. Thank you.

WITH THE WORLD

MOVIE & DESSERT EVENING Saturday, 5th January, 2019, in St Patrick's Hall from 7.00 - 10.00 pm, showing the Christian Award Winning Film '*I can only imagine*'. All welcome. Tickets £7.50. Proceeds in aid of youth funds. Tickets available from Lucy or Parish Office.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS APPEAL Next Sunday, please bring unwrapped presents for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Thank you.

READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S AT 11.30 AM
Isaiah 9:1-7 (Page 647) and St Luke 21:25-36 (Page 82)

Advent Sunday - Ballyclug

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A reading from the First Book of Samuel chapter 16
beginning at verse 4

Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from gospel according to St Luke chapter 21 beginning at verse 25

Jesus said to his disciples, 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

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Northern Ireland Charity number: NIC103115

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