

9th December 2018

Advent 2



WELCOME To all visitors and newcomers.

WORSHIP We come to praise God.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Dear Lord, may you be at the centre of our Christmas and may your love fill us with joy. Help us as we prepare for your coming to praise your name with thanksgiving in our hearts. Amen.

MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

WITH GOD

REMEMBRANCE & THANKSGIVING SERVICE Tonight in St Patrick's Parish Church 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 come along.

'THE WAY' YOUTH FELLOWSHIP Tonight at 6.30 pm in the Revd Dennis' house.

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 SERVICE Mid-week Advent Service in Ballyclug Church on Wednesday at 7.30 pm. You are invited to come and prepare for Christmas. Everyone 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.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY Next Sunday at 11.30 am in St Patrick's Church. Children to be in Church at 11.10 am. Tea/coffee & mince pies will be served after the service.

NEW LIFE & SUNDAY SCHOOL Start again on Sunday, 6th January, 2019.

PRAYER SUPPORT Team Leader - Patricia McWhirter: Tel No. 2587 9071.

Email - kilconriola@btconnect.com Web address - www.ballymena.connor.anglican.org

Northern Ireland Charity number: NIC103115

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.
<u>WITH EACH OTHER</u>	
THANK YOU	A big thank you for all who came along on Tuesday night last to see me made Canon. Also a big thank you for all the cards, gifts and words of encouragement from all in Ballymena. Much appreciated. Mark
LADIES' CIRCLE	St Columba's tomorrow night at 8.00 pm. Christmas flower decorations with Jean Cunningham.
SELECT VESTRY	Tuesday at 7.30 pm in the Minor Hall.
MOTHERS' UNION	We will be attending the Advent Service in Ballyclug this Wednesday, 12 th at 7.30 pm.
DECORATING OF ST PATRICK'S CHURCH	Decorating of St Patrick's Church will take place on Tuesday, 11 th December from 10.00 am - 12 noon. Please come along and help. You don't have to be an expert. Flowers, greenery, etc. required.
STILL ACTIVE	Christmas Lunch and entertainment from 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm on Wednesday in St Patrick's Main Hall.
CHRISTMAS THEMED AFTERNOON TEA	Christmas themed Afternoon Tea on Saturday 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. Thank you.
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS	Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, 18 th December at 7.00 pm in Rococo, Ballymena.
<u>WITH THE WORLD</u>	
CHRISTMAS TREES OF MEMORIES	Memory trees will be located in the Tower Centre Mall from 14 th - 23 rd December. If you wish to remember a loved one you can write a message onto a yellow ribbon attached to a tree. Suggested donation £2 per ribbon which will go to Macmillan Cancer Support, Good Morning Ballymena and local charities supported by the Rotary Club.
MOVIE & DESSERT EVENING	Saturday, 5 th January, 2019, in St Patrick's Hall from 7.00 - 10.00 pm, showing the Christian Award Winning Film ' <i>I can only imagine</i> '. All welcome. Tickets £7.50. Proceeds in aid of youth funds. Tickets available from Lucy or Parish Office.

READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S AT 11.30 AM

Philippians 1:3-11 (Page 193) and St Luke 2:25-35 (Page 56)

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A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah Chapter 9 beginning at verse 1

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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 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.'

This is the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD