

# 8th December 2019

## Second Sunday of Advent



**WELCOME** To our parishioners and any visitors.

**WORSHIP** Our loving God.

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Dear Lord, during this Advent season may your goodness to us help us to see the good in others. Bless us as we worship you and prepare us for the coming of your Son. Guide us by your Holy Spirit and help us to follow you. Amen.

### *MAKING FRIENDSHIPS*

#### WITH GOD

**HEALER PRAYER GROUP** Tuesday at 7.15 pm in the Clergy Vestry.

**MID WEEK** Holy Communion on Wednesday at 10.30 am in St Patrick's.

**ADVENT SERVICE** Mid-week Advent Service in Ballyclug Church on Wednesday at 7.30 pm. Please come and prepare for the coming of our Saviour. Everyone most welcome.

**ADVENT REFLECTIONS** Ballymena Church Members Forum. St Patrick's Church on Thursday, from 12.30 pm.

**GOOD BOOK CLUB** Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm in the Choir Vestry. Everyone welcome.

**NATIVITY SERVICE** St Patrick's Church next Sunday at 11.30 am. All children need to be in Church by 11.10 am. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be served after this service.

**NEW LIFE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL** Start again on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**PRAYER SUPPORT** Team Leader: Millicent McClelland - Tel No.077 9173 6117

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

**VISITING THE SICK** If you know of anyone who is sick and requires a visit in hospital or a pastoral visit at their home, please inform the Clergy.

## **WITH EACH OTHER**

- LADIES' CIRCLE** St Columba's Church tomorrow night at 8.00 pm. Flower decorations with Jean Cunningham.
- SELECT VESTRY** Tuesday at 7.30 pm in the Minor Hall.
- STILL ACTIVE** Christmas Lunch and entertainment from 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm on Wednesday in St Patrick's Main Hall.
- MOTHERS' UNION** Members will be attending the Advent Service on Wednesday at 7.30 pm in Ballyclug Church.
- CHRISTMAS PARTY** For all the youth of the Parish on Saturday. Primary School age from 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm and 8.00 pm - 10.00 pm for secondary school age.
- EVENING WITH ADY COMACHO** Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm. An evening with Ady Comacho in St Patrick's Minor Hall. All welcome.
- MOVIE & DESSERT** Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> January from 7.00 pm - 10.00 pm in St Patrick's Main Hall. Tickets £7.50 available from Lucy. This event is in aid of youth funds.
- CONFIRMATION PREPARATION** Course on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 in the Rectory from 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm.
- NAME THE ELF** The youth from the Parish are raising money for the Christmas Fair by a 'Name the Elf' quiz - cost £1. Entry sheets are at the back of St Patrick's.
- FIRESIDE QUIZ** In aid of youth funds. Sheets at back of Church. Cost £1.

## **WITH THE WORLD**

- FOODBANK** Thank you to everyone who has donated food so generously for the Foodbank throughout the year. Your kindness is much appreciated.
- CHRISTIAN AID FAMILY APPEAL** Sunday School Teachers and children will receive envelopes for donations towards the Family Appeal instead of the giving and receiving of presents.

**READINGS IN ST PATRICK'S AT 11.30 AM**  
**Isaiah 11:1-10 (Page 650)**  
**St Matthew 3:1-12 (Page 2)**

# Advent 2 - Ballyclug

8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah chapter 7  
beginning at verse 10**

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.'

***This is the word of the Lord***

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

## **A reading from the gospel according to St Matthew chapter 1 beginning at verse 18**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',  
which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

***This is the word of the Lord***

**THANKS BE TO GOD**