



NOTICES



- **Return to In-Church Worship**

We're back in Church after the two-week lockdown! We are so encouraged that you have continued to enjoy church during these last two weeks online.

We will continue to worship together in-person over the Advent and Christmas seasons. Our online and telephone services will also continue. We look forward to celebrating this time together.

Please remember: you must continue to book in for services via the church office.

We will close our Advent Series in Ballyclug 'in-person' on Wednesday 16th December. On Wednesday 2nd 9th December. *Please note: due to limited seating, you must book in for the Advent service.*

- **Envelope Drop Off**

Thank you to everyone who dropped off their freewill offering envelopes on Saturday. It was lovely to see you. A big thank you to all our volunteers who organised and helped out.

- **Shoebox Appeal**

This year 52 filled boxes were returned to St Patrick's Church and transferred to the collection point by the Rector. Whilst this is a drop in numbers compared to other years we are aware that some parishioners made online donations instead of filling a box. So a massive thank you to all who donated in any way to such a worthy cause in this very 'strange' year, Stay safe, stay well. Liz & Jean.

- **Please pray ...**

- Continue to pray for our church community during the Advent and Christmas seasons.
- Pray for all those working in frontline services and for those involved in administering the Covid-19 vaccine.
- Pray for those with Covid-19 and for those who are recovering.
- Pray for the Executive, our Health Minister and for all those in authority.
- Ask God to make us instruments for peace and pray that our community would know peace and safety this Christmas.
- Take a moment to turn to Christ in gratitude for all He has done for us, in us and through us.



- **Prayer Teams for December**

December – 6th Millicent McClelland – 07791736117 & 13th Adelaide Nimick – 25460865

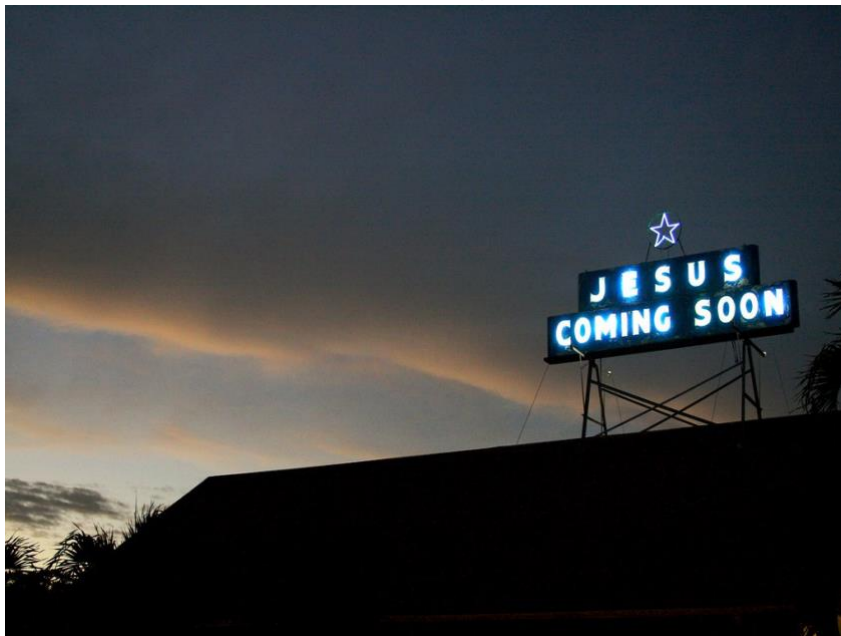
- **Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal**

Ballymena Salvation Army are now accepting vouchers and toys for the Christmas Toy Appeal. Toys can be donated, however, due to COVID restrictions vouchers would be preferable. Donations can be made on Wednesdays 10am-1pm at the Salvation Army shop on Broughshane Street. Please get involved and help out families in need this Christmas!

Sunday Morning Worship

13th December 2020

The Third Sunday of Advent



*"Our Lord says, Surely I come quickly. Even so: come, Lord Jesus!"
Revelation 22:30*

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.

As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now. **Amen.**

Confession

*A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So
let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.* John 1.23.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief:

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father God -

We ask for Your forgiveness.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father God -

We ask for Your forgiveness.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father God -

We ask for Your forgiveness.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father God -

We ask for Your forgiveness.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;
Father God -

We ask for Your forgiveness.

Amen.

Absolution BCP p. 102

Hymn 182 v1&3: Silent Night

v1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

v3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Collect of the Day BCP p.243

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

Almighty God,
Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Family Talk

The Apostle's Creed BCP p. 112

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Bible Reading –

Father God, Open the eyes of our understanding and prepare our hearts by the power of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your Word with much joy and rejoicing and may we leave here having a deeper understanding of Who You are. *Amen.*

Sermon

Prayers and Intercessions

In our prayers and intercessions this morning the response to 'Lord, in Your mercy' is 'hear our prayer.'

Come, Holy Spirit, come upon us now,
that you might send us out in Your power.
Fill us with Your grace and goodness,
that we may be able to bring the Good News to the oppressed,
to comfort the broken-hearted,
and to bring liberty and freedom to Your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, forever and ever. *Amen.*

Holy Lord, You come to us, You inspire us, You enable us;
grant that we may proclaim Your loving presence and show Your saving power.
Let Your Church be known to be working for justice and righteousness, for freedom and peace; Lord, make us instruments of Your peace within our communities and within our homes.
Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for all those who need Your compassion and Your strength at this time:
for those suffering from Covid-19 and its consequences;
for families who have lost their incomes and their homes;
for nations dealing with extreme poverty and famine;
for those who are denied justice;
for those who suffer violence and oppression.
We pray for our Brothers and Sisters in Christ around the world.
We especially pray for those suffering persecution because of their faith.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, teach us to appreciate what we have
and to be aware of all that is done for us.

We pray for those who, during this Christmas season, do not know the comfort of
home, family and friends.

We pray that all who have been bereaved at this time may be strengthened.

We pray for our friends and loved ones ...

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father God,

we thank You that You have created us to be people of faith and not of fear.

Lord, You have done great things for us already,
and yet, greater things are to come.

We thank You that we can rejoice in You always:

so we ask for Your strength to help us pray without ceasing
and give thanks in all circumstances ...

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 112

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

May we journey through Advent

in joyful anticipation

of the coming of our Messiah,

in his manifold glory...

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. *Amen.*

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