

ST PATRICK'S AND ST BRIGID'S GLENARIFFE



First Sunday of Advent 28th November 2021



“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul”

The regulation for distancing is now reduced to one meter in the Church. However face coverings MUST be worn during mass. Hands must be sanitised on entry to the church. Take the sanitised cloth with you and wipe your seat. Please follow the one-way system.

HOLY SOULS MASSES

Thank you to everyone who very generously supported this spiritual exercise. Please join us for these last few masses for the Holy Souls during the month of November.

THANK YOU: Fr White would like to express his gratitude to everyone who sent mass cards or called to express their condolences on the recent death of his sister Colette Foster, Antrim, who died during the week. As a token of his family's gratitude mass will be offered for your intentions

Our carpark is now reopened. Please use it.

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday Vigil 7.00pm, Sunday 10.00am

WEEKDAY MASSES Monday to Thursday 10am & Friday 7.30

DECEASED: Colette Foster, Antrim, Francis McSparron, Carnlough, Leo Darragh, Cushendall
Patrick McBrearty, Belfast, Patricia Colquhoun, Aldergrove

ANNIVERSARIES Annie McKillop, Fr Michael Cosgrove, Mary Keogan, Katie Graham,
Mary Carr Jimmy Caulfield, Mary Caulfield, Jimmy Murray, Eileen Hamill,

OFFERTORY PROMISE COLLECTION: £1185.00.00

BISHOPS COMMISSIONS COLLECTION: £315.00

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to last Sunday's collection

TROCAIRE SOUDAN APPEAL envelopes are available in the Church. Please return them before 28th November. Thank you for your donations to date.

Prayer during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Lord we pray for all who are suffering and bereaved.

At this time of sorrow, incomprehension and tragedy, we stand together.

In this crisis, we pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen** *Sean Goan*

Sunday's Gospel

This gospel passage is taken from a chapter dealing with both the medium and long term future for believers in which Jesus recognises that although he has come to bring freedom and peace, that does not mean there will be an immediate end to violence and suffering. The language is that of apocalyptic which is a type of writing aimed at encouraging people to believe in God's ultimate victory, the triumph of good over evil. By the time that Luke's gospel was written, people were wondering when would Jesus return and how would they know. Here they are reminded that the key thing is not to be able to tell the future but to be faithful to the way of Jesus, especially a prayerful way of reflecting on the times we live in.

Reflection

You might be wondering how these readings are supposed to help us get ready for Christmas? Well, they do this by reminding us that Advent is a time of waiting - a getting ready for the return of Jesus - not just a recalling of the first Christmas but a preparation for the fact that he will come again. So the focus for us at the start of each Advent is the invitation to prayerful taking stock of how ready are we, as individuals and as a church, to receive him however, wherever and whenever he comes to us.

Sunday 28th November 2021 – First Sunday of Advent

The Synod on Synodality: Preparing our hearts and minds Pope Francis has invited every Diocese around the world to participate in the Universal Synod on Synodality. This Synod is a process of journeying together. As the Church, we will listen to each other, dialogue with each other, pray together, discern together, and make decisions together for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world! Listening and speaking within the Church always involves prayer. We are listening, dialoguing, and praying together so that we can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

The starting point of this journey begins with our own personal prayer and reflection. "Prayer opens hearts. It opens the ear to a listening that is more than hearing and makes us attentive to the action of the Spirit in our lives." (Cardinal Grech) In your prayer this week we ask that you pray for the success of our synodal journey and that you take time to reflect on the needs of the people in your community. This week we encourage you to pray with the prayer used at the Second Vatican Council.

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus. We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen