

ST PATRICK'S AND ST BRIGID'S GLENARIFFE



Second Sunday of Advent 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021



**“What marvels the Lord worked for us; Indeed we were glad”**

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.

**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, and My sister-in-law's mother Patricia Colquhoun who died during the week. As a token of his family's gratitude mass will be offered for your intentions

**WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday Vigil 7.00pm, Sunday 10.00am**  
**WEEKDAY MASSES Monday to Thursday 10am & Friday 7.30**

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Tuesday Vigil 7.30pm Wednesday 10.00am**

**DECEASED:** Francis McSparron, Carnlough, Patrick McBrearty, Belfast,  
Patricia Colquhoun, Aldergrove, Anita Moss, Carryduff

**MONTH'S MIND:** 4<sup>th</sup> December: Lily Black, Ossian Ave  
11<sup>th</sup> December Archie Murray, Gortaclea

**ANNIVERSARIES** Neil O'Boyle, Danny McQuillan, Maria Goretti Doherty, Patsy Hill,  
Patricia McAlister

**OFFERTORY PROMISE COLLECTION: £770.00**

**SOUDAN COLLECTION: £2,424.00**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to last Sunday's collections especially to the Trocaire Sudan Appeal.

WALK with ME prayer book available in the bookshelf in the porch of the church.

### **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**

### ***Donal Neary SJ*** ***Gospel Reflections***

#### ***All reminds us God is near***

A poet wrote: *'when I am an old woman I shall wear purple'*, to remind her that life can be different day by day or that she might be personally noticed and change her life. This time of the year the Church wears purple and we remind ourselves that Jesus is near, that life can be different and that we can change our lives.

The gospel from John the Baptist encourages a change in our lives. We could look on ourselves and regret what we should regret - our sins, our meanness, our minor faults and failings, our injustices and hurt of others. In his time the people would immerse themselves in the river and be forgiven. We can immerse ourselves in the healing and forgiving love of God in many ways, including the sacrament of reconciliation (penance, confession). We can immerse ourselves in the mood of waiting for Christmas, and take this on the spiritual level and well as the ordinary.



All of the weeks of Advent can be a preparation for the way of the Lord, which we will hear of during the readings of the coming year. This is a time of joyful waiting, knowing we cannot be let down. The purple of Advent is not the purple of mourning but of joyful anticipation - like when we dress in the football team's colours early in the morning to look forward to a match.

If we take time for the spiritual preparation with some prayer, sacraments (maybe go to Mass once or twice a week, or daily for Advent), and if we help our neighbour a bit more than usual, then nothing of

all the preparations can be just secular. Everything of this month can remind us of God... trees, lights, carols, parties, Santa hats, cards, gift-buying - big reminders that God is near.

*Give us this day our daily bread and daily truth, Lord God.*