

ST PATRICK'S AND ST BRIGID'S GLENARIFFE

First Sunday of Advent 27th November 2022

“ I rejoiced when I heard them say; Let us go to God's house”.



Although the civil regulations may have relaxed the church regulations remain unchanged due to the return of Covid in the community. To help limit the spread of the virus face coverings should be worn during mass. Hands should be sanitized on entry to the church. Please follow the one-way system.

WEEKDAY MASSES No Mass Monday and Tuesday.

Wednesday & Thursday 10am Friday 7.30pm

DECEASED:Fr Gerry Cassidy, Clonard

MONTH'S MIND MASSES; for our priests who have died over the past number of weeks are as follows:

Canon Brendan Murray: Road, Belfast:	Wednesday 30 November at 7.00pm in St Therese's Church, Somerton
Fr Martin Peyton	Friday 9 December at 7.00pm in St Peter's the Rock, Stoneyford:
Mgr Joseph Glover	Saturday 10 December at 11.00am in St Colmcille's Church, Holywood:
Fr Gerry Patton Kilkeel:	Sunday 18 December at 11.30am at St Colman's Church, Massforth,

ANNIVERSARIES Peter Wilson, Fr Michael Cosgrove, Masie Robinson, Bernie McGurk, Pat Hamilton, Gerald Cosgrove

Light for the journey

In faith and in hope we begin Advent this week with its first candle. With Mary and Joseph we wait for Christ. The candles are lighting the way for them - and for us! The coming light of Jesus lights both our waiting and our journey in life. May it shine the light of Christ into the darkneses of the year since last Christmas - bereavement, illness, depression, disappointments?

We prepare best for Christmas by spreading this light. The way to celebrate Christmas is rooted in our following of the gospel. Among our ways are care for the poor, some daily prayer, and the wish to forgive and be forgiven.

All the different images of Christmas prepare us for this birth

- the carols we hear and sing,

- the lights in the streets,

- the star over the church and the ways we pray with anticipation and remember other Christmas days with joy.

Everything of this month can remind us of God. The Christmas trees, lights, cards, carols, parties, Santa hats, the houses lit up with reindeer and all the things we see about Christmas, all remind us that God is near.

We welcome this light in the spirit of Pope Francis:

'Those who have opened their hearts to God's love, heard his voice and received his light, cannot keep this gift to themselves.

Since faith is hearing and seeing, it is also handed on as word and light'

Spend a little time this Advent to remember some people or family memories that make you grateful for Christmas. Thank God for these in your own world.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come into our world of gold and grey,
which needs you badly.

Fr Donal Neary SJ