

Sunday 2nd December 2018 – Advent 1



Welcome to you today if your heart is singing and welcome if your heart is breaking. Welcome if you're anxious about tomorrow and welcome if you don't have a care in the world. Welcome if your conscience is troubling you and welcome if you're barely able to contain your experience of forgiveness. Welcome if you leapt out of bed this morning and welcome if you had to drag yourself out. Welcome if this is your first visit, and welcome if you have barely missed a single Sunday since the turn of the century. Whether you are here as a visitor or a pilgrim, a seeker or a doubter, a saint or a sinner, a friend or a stranger: **you are welcome!** Our service comes from the **Book of Common Prayer (Morning Prayer P101 and Holy Communion P201)**. Hymns come from the **Red Church Hymnal (CH)**. You will also find the relevant parts and supplementary songs on this sheet. If you need further assistance please feel free to ask one of our 'regulars' and they will be only too happy to help you. Toilets and Baby Changing Facilities are beside the church. We hope you enjoy worshipping here with us this morning.

Welcome/Introduction (Book of Common Prayer – P101)

Advent 1: Hope

The people walking in darkness: **have seen a great light.**

Today we remember those who waited in hope for the Messiah.

A hope that the brightness will grow as we travel through Advent to Christmas.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess: **for He who promised is faithful.**

Hymn

Confession/Absolution (Book of Common Prayer – P102)

Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word (Book of Common Prayer – P103)

O Lord, open our lips: **and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord: **The Lord's name be praised.**

Psalm 25:1-9 (Book of Common Prayer Page 617)

1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me. 2. Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. 3. Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. 4. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long. 5. Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. 6. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love. 7. Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall he teach sinners in the way. 8. He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly. 9. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

Reading(s)

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn

Thought

Hymn

The Apostles' Creed (Book of Common Prayer – P112)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again 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.**

The Prayers of the People (Book of Common Prayer – P112)

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer (Book of Common Prayer – P113)

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.

Show us your mercy, O Lord: **and grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers: **and grant our government wisdom.**

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness: **and let your servants shout for joy.**

O Lord, save your people: **and bless those whom you have chosen.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord: **and let your glory be over all the earth.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us: **and renew us by your Holy Spirit.**

Collect of the Day: Advent Sunday

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

At the end of each prayer: Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers: Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of you Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Grace (Book of Common Prayer – P116)

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Announcements

Closing and Offertory Hymn

Closing Diocesan 20:20 Prayer

Heavenly Father, we want to catch your vision for these dioceses and for our parish. But to catch your vision we first need to listen to you. Too often we leave you out. Forgive us. Help us to catch a sense of where your Spirit is leading. Give us courage to love and serve you. Give us boldness to proclaim Christ faithfully and to build your kingdom. Lord, come to us; our door is open. Amen.

Blessing And Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Virginia Group - Weekly Announcements

Hospital Visits

If you or someone you know is in hospital and you would like a visit please let the Rector know.

Announcements: Diocesan/Community

Hazel Rod Dance Therapy: Virginia Hall on Thursdays. Cost is €10 per week. Booking Essential to ballyhughart@gmail.com

December/Christmas Dates

Saturday 8th December 2018: Seniors Christmas Dinner 12.30pm-3pm in Lisgrey House
Thursday 20th December 2018: Blue Christmas Carol Service 7.30pm in Virginia Church
Sunday 23rd December 2018: 9 Lessons and Carols 7.30pm in Virginia Church (No Morning Services)
Monday 24th December 2018: Holy Communion Munterconnaught 3pm and Billis 7pm
Tuesday 25th December 2018: Holy Communion Killinkere 9.30am and Virginia 10.45am
Sunday 30th December 2018: All-4-1 Service 10.45am in Virginia
Sunday 6th January 2019: Normal Services - All Holy Communion

Announcements: Parish General

Prayer Shawl Ministry: If you know someone who might like a shawl (e.g. ill or bereaved) contact Ivy Stewart (049) 8545036 or Vida McCauley (049) 8548465.

Bowling Club: Monday's in Billis Hall at 8pm.

Gigglers & Wrigglers (Baby & Toddler Group): Tuesdays in Virginia Hall from 10am to 12pm.

Mothers' Union Christmas Party: 4th December 2018 at 8pm in Virginia Hall. Also collection for Women's Refuge.

Whist Drives: Tuesday 11th December 2018: Christmas Whist Drive from 8.30pm in Virginia Parish Hall.

Car Boot Sales: December 15th in Virginia Church Grounds. Gates open at 8am. Cars €10 and Vans €15.

JOY (Just Older Youth): Our next monthly Joy Club meeting takes place on Tuesday 9th January 2019 in Virginia Parish Hall from 2.30pm to 4pm. A time to catch up, chat, enjoy a cuppa...

Youth: Grazers (Secondary School 1st to 3rd Year): January 11th and 25th 2019 in Billis Hall from 8.30pm to 10pm.

Church Monies/dues/contributions: Just a reminder from the parish treasurers that any monies for the year 2018 should be with them by mid-December. Any monies given after the 31st December 2018 (financial year end) cannot be included in this year's accounts.

Weekly Collection - The weekly offering is an important part of our Christian life and enables ministry to happen across the Virginia Group of Parishes, we are grateful for the generosity of many and for the volunteer work of our treasurers, however as banks become more particular and fussy about lodgements can we ask (even if it means combining a number of weeks collection) that weekly envelopes contain notes only rather than coins (which the banks don't want to take!). If you need envelopes do let the Rector know and the treasurer will provide you with them. Alternatively you can sign up to direct debit, ask the Rector for details. Thank You.

December Prayer Focus

Worldwide Church: Kenya, Korea, Melanesia, Mexico. **Church of Ireland Diocese: Cork, Cloyne and Ross:** Bishop Paul Colton. **Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh Diocese:** Bishop Ferran Glenfield. **KEA Children's and Youth Co-Ordinators:** Hannah O'Neill and Damian Shorten. **Kildallan Group:** Revd Richard Waller (Ballyconnell, Corrawallen, Newtowngore), **Longford Group:** Canon David Catterall (Ballymacormack, Clongish, Clooncumber, Killashee, Templemichael). **Other Local Churches:** Mary Immaculate - Virginia, Maghera, Clanaphilip, Killinkere, Munterconnaught. Belassis. Redeemed Church of God, Word of Life. **Parish/Townlands:** Cloghbally, Croaghan, Crossafehin, Curracloghan, Curraghkeel, Curraghmore, Deerpark, Derryevin, Derryhum, Drumagolan.

This Weekly Sheet and the Sunday Sermon can be downloaded from the Parish Website.



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Parish Contact Details

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If you want anything included on this sheet please let Craig know by Thursday at the latest.