

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

OPENING PRAYER

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79

Response:

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,

the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R)

SECOND READING

Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Glorify to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not
made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life, who proceeds from the
Father and the Son, who with the Father
and the Son is adored and glorified, who
has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins and I look
forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

**When we eat this Bread and drink this
Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our
earth shall yield its increase.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

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Seapatrik Parish

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PARISH OFFICE: PARISH CENTRE, EDENDERRY ROAD, BANBRIDGE BT32 3AF

Please contact the Parish Office for the arranging of Anniversary & Month's Mind Masses, applications for Baptism & Marriage, bookings of the Parish Centre & other Parish-related enquiries

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am - 1pm

TEL: 028 406 62136 - Voice Messages can be left at this number outside Office Hours

Email: seapatrikparish@dromorediocese.org

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Andrew McMahon 028 406 29551

PARISH DEACON: Rev. Michael Rooney 028 406 71401

MASS TIMES (Winter Schedule)

St Thérèse's Church, Scarva Road	
Saturday Vigil	5.30pm
St Patrick's Church, Dromore Street	
Sunday	9am, 10.30am & 12 noon
Tues - Fri	10am
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Drumnavaddy	
9.30am – today, Sunday 3rd December 2023	

THE ROSARY St Patrick's Church

9.30am, Tuesday-Friday

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard each Saturday between 4.15pm and 5.15pm in the Church of St Thérèse

St Therese's Church – Weekday Opening

St Therese's Church will be open for individual visits and personal prayer on **Tuesday & Wednesday mornings, 10.45am - 12.45pm.**

Access by the Church door closest to the Parish Centre

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION TIMES

St Patrick's Church

each Wednesday morning **10.30am – 1pm**

each Saturday morning **9 – 11am**

The Oratory - St Patrick's Meeting Rooms

Tues – Fri 5 – 8pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

P3 Children upwards are warmly invited to register for the Children's Liturgy – **12 noon Mass, today, Sunday 3rd December.** Parental Permission required in advance - complete using this QR code or a link from:

seapatrikyouthministry@dromorediocese.org



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Diocesan Designated Person:

Mrs Patricia Carville [t] 07789917741

Local Safeguarding Contact:

Mrs Cathy Devine [t] 07714214702

PRAYER for VOCATIONS

O Jesus, send labourers into your fields,
which are awaiting holy apostles,
saintly priests, heroic missionaries and dedicated
sisters and brothers.

Enkindle in the hearts of men and women
the spark of a vocation.

Grant that Christian families may desire
to give your Church helpers
in the work of tomorrow.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord
Amen

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass Times for 8th December

Church of St Thérèse **Thurs 7th Dec at 7.30pm**

St Patrick's Church **Fri 8th Dec at 8am & 10am**



Annual Appeal

St Vincent de Paul Society will be having their Annual Pre-Christmas Appeal at all Masses, **next weekend, Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December.** A representative of the Banbridge Conference will speak at all Masses next weekend providing details of the Conference's work and expenditure.

There has been a big increase, this year, in the number of appeals for help by families in dire need. Once again, we thank parishioners for their continued and generous support.

LETTER from ARCHBISHOP MARTIN

Archbishop Eamon Martin's recent letter has been published on the diocesan and parish websites and hard copies are still available at the back of St Patrick's and St Therese's Churches this weekend.

Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat

8th – 10th Dec: www.youth2000.ie

**Parish Office open from 12 noon – 1pm
on Monday 4th December**

The Season of Advent

EXPLORING THE ADVENT SUNDAY READINGS



Taking time to prepare for the season of Christmas, there will be an opportunity to explore and discuss the Sunday readings for Advent on the following dates:

Parochial House Scarva Road 7.30 – 8.30pm	Meeting Rooms Dromore Street 10.30 – 11.30am
Thursday 7 th , 14 th & 21 st December	Thursday 7 th , 14 th & 21 st December

Please come along to read and discuss the Advent Scripture readings. All are welcome.

Advent is a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to lead us to its fullness, which is the Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ. God is present in the history of humanity, He is the "God-with-us", God is not distant, He is always with us, to the extent that very often He knocks on the door of our heart. God walks beside us to support us. The Lord does not abandon us; He accompanies us through the events of our lives to help us discover the meaning of the journey the meaning of everyday life, to give us courage when we are under duress or when we suffer. In the midst of life's storms, God always extends His hand to us and frees us from threats. In the book of Deuteronomy there is a very beautiful passage, in which the Prophet says to the people: "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God close to us?" No-one, only we have this grace of having God close to us. We await God, we hope that He manifests Himself, but He too hopes that we manifest ourselves to Him!

He comes every day to visit His people, to visit every man and woman who receives Him in the Word, in the Sacraments, in their brothers and sisters. Jesus, the Bible tells us, is at the door and knocks. Every day. He is at the door of our heart. He knocks. *Do you know how to listen to the Lord who knocks, who has come today to visit you, who knocks at your heart restlessly, with an idea, with inspiration?*

Pope Francis, 2020

Courses during Advent

Booking in advance essential

Expecting the Light

2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd Dec at 7pm via Zoom

[Expecting the Light - Advent Study Course - Carmelite](#)

[Friars](#)

Welcoming the Word

3rd, 10th & 17th Dec at 7pm via Zoom

[Welcoming the Word – Advent Retreat - FULL SESSIONS \(ALL 4 TALKS\) - Carmelite Friars](#)

Advent Reflection Day

Saturday 9th December 9.30am – 5.00pm

SMA DROMANTINE, NEWRY, BT34 1RH

Tel: 02830821964

email: admin@dromantineconference.com

Remembering the Faithful Departed

'It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead.'

2 Maccabees 12:46

ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday 3rd November

Mary Gorman, Lisburn

Daniel Rea, Primrose Gardens

Rosaleen & Brian Lynch, Primrose Gardens

Bridget Doyle, Hillview Terrace

Deirdre & George Beattie, Dromore Street

Gerard Porter, Primrose Gardens

Geraldine Page, Nottingham

Billy Vaughan, Ashley Gardens

Orla Maginn, Oakdale

Jim McDonald, Beechwood

Kathleen McAllister, Millar Park, Laurencetown

Sam, Jo, Des & Frank Downey

Gavin McGonigle

Vincent Moore, Primrose Gardens

Peggy McAlinden, Foxleigh Fields

Deceased Members of the Rice Family

Tuesday 5th December

James McAteer, Whyte Acres

Molly Davies, Victoria Park

Rose Byrne, Bannview Road

Wednesday 6th December

Aileen Lennon, Willow Avenue

Friday 8th December

Kathleen Doran, Annaclone

RECENTLY DECEASED

Gerry O'Neill, Ballyvally Heights

ST JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY

A meeting of the Society will take place on **Monday 4th December** in the Meeting Rooms Dromore Street at **7.30pm**. New members welcome.

Glenvale Crib

The Sisters of St Clare invite EVERYONE to join them on **Sunday December 17th at 3.30pm** in the Convent Chapel. There will be a short CAROL SERVICE during which the Children from St Colman's School will lead us in the singing and help us to assemble the Christmas Crib.

PARISH DRAW REMINDER ~ DECEMBER

All **monthly cash** payments for **December** must be received in the Parish Office **no later** than **Tuesday 5th December**.

DRAW WINNERS – 30th November 2023

£100 Winning No: 3294

Winner: Eddie Kelly, Laurel Heights

£500 Winning No: 3391

Winner: Mario Scappaticci, Ballygowan Road

For many people two of the hardest tasks each day are to get up and to go to bed. They are not separate of course; they are really two sides of the same task. It is because we don't go to bed on time that we can't get up, and it is because we didn't get up early that we don't want to go to bed.

Would that we experienced this problem only at the beginning and the end of a day! But it repeats itself throughout the day, in our 'waking' hours. We find it hard to finish things, and so we are seldom completely ready for the next thing when it begins.

Like the great spiritual teachers of all times, Jesus kept saying, "Wake up!" (*Matthew 25:13; Mark 13:33; 14:38; Luke 21:36*). He did not mean (as some have meant) that this life was a nightmare from which we would do well to awaken; Jesus had no hatred of this life, and would never have called it "a bad dream between two awakenings." Rather he meant that by being asleep we were missing the wonder of what God was doing. He meant something like that great line in Genesis, "Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it!'" (*28:16*).

Advent is the season when we hear that wake-up call repeatedly, as in today's gospel reading. The master of the house, Jesus said, could come at any moment. Later, the first Christians expected the Second Coming of Jesus in their own lifetime, but as the years

passed they had to get used to a longer perspective. This was difficult for them, and they had to struggle to make sense of it. Peter did so by quoting *Psalms 89*, "To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night." (*2 Peter 3:8*).



Paul had to tell the Thessalonians to get back to work: "We hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any

work. Such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living" (*2 Thessalonians 3:11-12*).

"Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!" cried Isaiah (today's first reading). Julian of Norwich (14th century) prayed to God for a deeper longing for God. She longed to long more for God. She called it a wound, "the wound of longing." Our world no longer struggles with this. On the contrary we look for complete fulfilment through our own work; and we expect nothing to happen (unless it be of a scientific nature). Many now expect nothing really from their religion, and some even see it as an obstacle to life. In *The White Peacock* D.H. Lawrence described a new friend of his. "He was very good stuff. He had hardly a single dogma, save that of pleasing himself. Religion was nothing to him. So he heard all I had to say with an open mind." The mistake is to think that pleasing only oneself doesn't close the mind. Nothing closes it more effectively. By God's grace we may feel some opening of the "wound of longing" in this Advent season. We are never finished with our work, and so we are never ready for the completely new. We need to be reminded again to look up from our frenzied labour, to wake up from our dream, to awaken our spirit to the master who can come at any moment.

Fr Donagh O'Shea, O.P.,
www.goodnews.ie

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