

## St Canice's News

3 Dec 2023



### Advent Sunday

#### WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

As we approach the darkest time of the year, the season of Advent, which begins today, is a welcome reminder of the coming of the light of Christ to his world. Today's reading reminds us of the need to be spiritually alert and waiting for his return.

#### NEXT SUNDAY

10:00am: JAM rehearsal

11:00am: Nativity and Children's Gift Service  
As well as enjoying the children's message about the meaning of Christmas, there will be an opportunity for those who wish to bring a gift for children who won't otherwise get any presents at Christmas. They will be distributed via the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal. Cash donations will also be very welcome.

**YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH MINISTRY**  
The FUEL resource, to encourage young people to get to know more about God as they read his words in the Bible, has been relaunched. FUEL leads each young person through 25 days of readings, running through Advent and up to Christmas. Copies are available from the Diocesan Youth Officer, Claire Hinchliff, or email [barbara@ciyd.org](mailto:barbara@ciyd.org)

**YOUTH**  
FUEL for those of secondary school age meets tonight between 6:30 - 8pm in the Presbyterian Hall. If anyone can sit in as a helper, please speak to Canon Paul.

#### FREEDOM IS BACK!

This event for young people is held in Richill Park Baptist, on the second Saturday of every month, starting on Sat 9th Dec at 7:30pm.

#### CHOIR PRACTICE

Thurs 7th Dec at 7.30pm in the mobile. Please join us to practice for our Carol Service on 17th December.

#### MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

The next midweek service is Wednesday 13th December at 11.00am in the mobile.

#### PRAYER CHAIN

For confidential prayer for anyone (including yourself), please call/text Ann 07547202649.

#### BISHOPS' APPEAL

For Advent and Christmas is to support those in great need in the Middle East. Donations will be channelled through the Diocese of Jerusalem and Tearfund. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

#### FESTIVE FUN & REINDEER DRIVE

We really need you to join us for our church family pre-Christmas party! There's guaranteed fun for all ages in the Orange Hall at 7:30pm on Friday 8th December. In addition to a round of Reindeer (Beetle!) Drive, there will be games, festive music, and of course tasty Christmas fare— plus the chance to win some prizes. Please come with your friends.



#### N:VISION/MAGAZINES

Copies of the Diocesan n:Vision and the parish's Christmas magazine are available for collection today by those who deliver them. As ever, we are very grateful to you.

#### CHRISTMAS CHOIRS' EVENT

On Tues 5th December between 1:30pm to 2:30pm in the church, your chance to hear Faughanvale Community and Eglinton Primary School choirs. They will sing some Christmas favourites and well-known songs and there'll be other items in the programme. Please come to support them, and get your Christmas off to a joyful start.



#### THE HALL

Thank you to the fantastic team of volunteers who turned up last Monday to clear the hall prior to its demolition. You worked very hard, and we are very grateful.

#### ETHICAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Stuck for ideas for Christmas gifts? Ethical gifts are among the most appreciated by all age groups. Look online at [www.ethicalsuperstore.com](http://www.ethicalsuperstore.com) for a wide range. Also, Christian Aid gifts can be seen at [charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk](http://charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk). Examples include a Cookstove (£15), a Nanny Goat (£35), Emergency Food Kit (£75). Or the Church Mission Society is inviting us to set an extra place at our Christmas table and donate the price to support their projects - <https://churchmissionsociety.org>. Canon Stewart is happy to assist with the purchase of these and other ethical gifts.

#### TEAR FUND

Is a Christian charity providing practical support to the neediest people in the world's trouble spots. Donations made to their Christmas Appeal will be doubled. [www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christmas-spar-appeal](http://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christmas-spar-appeal)

#### OCCASIONS

A very happy birthday to Lucas who will be 6 on Tuesday, and to Karen Driver, Roberta Lyle and William Hepburn. Please let the Rector know of any special occasions.

#### RECTOR

Canon Paul's day off this week is Thursday.

#### The Collect and Readings

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### Ephesians 1: 15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

#### Mark 13: 24-3

In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

#### RECTOR'S CONTACT DETAILS:

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