

St Canice's News

15 December 2024



Advent 3

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP



Today's service offers us a chance, amidst the busyness of the season, to reflect on the significance and meaning of Christ's coming to us. We greatly appreciate the part played by readers, choir and musicians, and also those who provided and arranged our tree, flowers, candles and decorations. Today we will also dedicate a beautiful new nativity set in memory of Mrs. Lillian Maconachie, the gift of her family to whom we offer thanks.

NEXT SUNDAY: 22 DECEMBER

11am: Morning Prayer

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve: Midnight Communion service at 11:30pm

Christmas Day: 10:30am Short family service followed by Communion for those who wish to stay on.

SPARK

Meets tonight between 6:30 and 8.00pm in the Presbyterian Church Hall. All of secondary school age are welcome.

CHRISTMAS CHOIRS' CONCERT

This Tuesday 17th December 1:30 - 2:20pm in St. Canice's church, Eglinton, the choir of Eglinton Primary School and the Faughanvale Community Choir will present a programme of favourite festive songs. The event is free, with an opportunity for those who wish to donate to local charities, - the school Breakfast Club Fund, and the Faughanvale Day Centre. All welcome.

THANKS

To Mark Canning, Robert Jamison and Charlie Donnell for their help in cutting back trees in the Rectory grounds, and to Parke Hire for assisting with equipment. Thanks also to Willie Driver for clearing the path.

NOTELETS

We have packs of notelets, featuring photographs of the church illuminated by the Northern Lights for sale at £5 for a pack of 10 - blank inside for your own message. They would make good Christmas presents. Buy 3 and get 1 free Ballykelly Tree pack.

QUIZ SHEET

Don't forget to return your quiz sheet by Wednesday of this week. Still time to get one with 25 fun questions about Christmas Carols and songs is available at the back of the church. Suggested donation of £2.

THRIFT SHOP

Will be closed from Tuesday 24th December, and reopens on Thursday 2nd January 2025.

"COUNT ME IN!" PACKS

We encourage parishioners to return their responses by next Sunday, 22nd December. Responses can be brought to church, left at the Thrift Shop, or delivered to the Rectory. We can also arrange collection - just let the Rector know.

THE CANICE CENTRE

As you can see, the building is progressing well, and we are on target to complete the first phase by end Feb. Canon Paul met the Bishop on Friday to keep him apprised of progress. We are grateful for the Bishop's support.

FOYLE WOMEN'S AID

Thank you to everyone who donated presents at the gifts' service last Sunday. Canon Paul was pleased to be able to deliver them to the charity during the week. They will bring joy to many over Christmas.

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

The Rector is currently visiting the homes of those who are housebound to administer Holy Communion. If you know of anyone who is unwell, and who would like to receive Communion at home, please tell the Rector.

MIDDLE EAST APPEAL

Funds raised for the Bishops' Appeal will be shared between the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and Tearfund. Donations close next Sunday.

FOOD BANK

Please consider bringing some food and toiletries to the yellow bin at the back of the church. We'll ensure they are taken to the food bank in time for Christmas distribution.

CHRISTMAS IN EGLINTON

The annual village carol singing takes place on Sunday 22nd December at 7pm around the Christmas Tree at the Credit Union.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

It's not too late to visit the Cathedral's Christmas Tree Festival, which runs until 21st December. Well worth a visit.

JENN'S GYM

Parishioner Jennifer Smyth is opening her gym at Maydown, to offer those with a neurological condition or disability a safe place to work out and exercise. As well as the usual gym equipment, it has specialised and adapted equipment, and a technology room featuring the latest advancements in rehabilitation. Jenn's Gym is fully wheelchair accessible. Members may be accompanied by up to 2 people to assist them in the gym. If you are interested in Jenn's Gym, please complete the survey at www.jennsgym.co.uk

PRAYER CHAIN

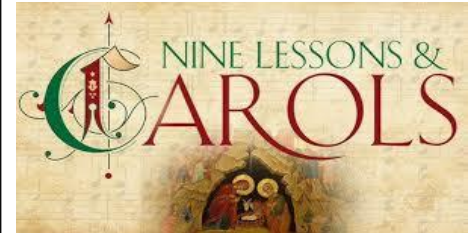
For confidential prayer for anyone (including yourself), please call/text Ann 07547202649.

OCCASIONS

Congratulations to Lexie and Avril Tate who will be 63 years married this week. Please let the Rector know of your special occasions.

RECTOR

Canon Paul plans to be off on Thursday this week.



The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols that we follow today is a service widely used around the world to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

The format was first drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve in 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10:00pm service in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral, and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve! The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve.

This service is a wonderful way to help us to do what Mary did long ago when it says, "she kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19). As you share in this act of worship, hear afresh the story of God's salvation, wonder at how his promises were fulfilled in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, and worship Christ as Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Lessons:

1. Genesis 3
2. Genesis 22
3. Isaiah 11: 1-11
4. Isaiah 9: 2-7
5. Luke 1: 26-38
6. Luke 2: 1-7
7. Luke 2: 8-20
8. Matthew 2:1-11
9. John 1: 1-14

The Collect

O God, you make us glad by the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

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