



**SAINT JOHN'S MALONE**



## **The Third Sunday of Advent.**

Welcome to Saint John's especially all who are visiting today.

An audio *loop system* is in operation for those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

**Today: Sunday 15th December 2024**  
**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**  
**10.30 a.m. Family Eucharist with Nativity**

**The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004**

**The Gathering** *page 201/125*

Presiding The Rector

Opening Hymn 281

***Lighting of candle of Advent Wreath***

Collect of the Day

**Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading

Psalm --

Second Reading

Gradual Hymn 303

Gospel (stand)

**St John's Sunday School Nativity play**

**The Peace** (stand) *page 207 / 131*

Offertory Hymn 712

**Liturgy of the Sacrament** Great Thanksgiving (1) *page 209*

The Lord's Prayer

Communion

Motet How beautiful upon the mountains - Stainer

Great Silence

Post Communion Hymn --

**Going Out** *page 220 ff /145*

Post Communion Prayers *page 220*

Blessing

Dismissal

Recessional Hymn 135 (omit vs 2,7,& 8)

Organ Voluntary Toccata on Veni Emmanuel – Carter

Office Setting Davison/Stainer



**Collect** O Lord Jesus Christ,

who at your first coming sent your messenger

to prepare your way before you: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way

by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,

that at your second coming to judge the world

we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;

for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Almighty God,  
Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light  
now in the time of this mortal life  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### Second Reading **Philippians 4: 4-7**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading *Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Luke chapter three beginning at verse seven. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

#### **Luke 3: 7-18**

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' <sup>12</sup>Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup>He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with\* the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Father,  
we give you thanks for these heavenly gifts.  
Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit  
that when Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Services this week**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Zoom Compline 7:30pm.**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> St Thomas (tr) 10.30am** with prayer for those in need will take place in the Side Chapel. The prayer list is in the Side Chapel.

*A cup of tea/coffee is now available after this service.*

**Next Sunday: Advent Sunday 22.12.24**

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**

**A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AT 10:30AM**  
**FOLLOWED BY SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS**



**Notices:** | Sign up for the regular email Update at [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

**Contactless Payments** The Select Vestry has made a new contactless payment device available in the parish from today and may be used for any donations you'd like to make at social time after the service in the hall.

**Giving and Stewardship** in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office or [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com). Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.

**Organising your wedding in St John's**

Weddings are special occasions in the life of any family and of the Church. We'd be delighted to talk to anyone contemplating their wedding in St John's. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector before confirming any other arrangements. It is expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the Church in preparation for marriage.

**Hospital Visiting**

The Rector would appreciate knowing if parishioners are going into or are in hospital or discharged and is pleased to offer pastoral support.

**Safeguarding**

The Rector, select vestry and parish leaders are committed to uphold the good practice to the parish's ministry with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Should you have any concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish please contact a member of the

**Parish panel.**

Rev Canon Stephen Fielding 9066 6644

Mrs Patricia Armstrong 07854005699

Dr Anthony Stevens 07710647080

*The third week of Advent continues the journey with John the Baptist, focussing on his preaching and the call to justice that he proclaimed. It is ironic that this season has become one in which the inequalities and injustices of our world are so starkly revealed. But, this reality also gives us an opportunity to hear John's call more strongly, and to see more clearly how we are to respond.*

May our worship this week challenge us to face the great injustices in our world, and the small injustices in our hearts.

#### **READINGS:**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**: A call for God's people to rejoice because God has restored and forgiven God's people, and now lives in the midst of them, bringing them joy and healing, and including all the marginalised and oppressed ones.

**Isaiah 12:2-6**: A song of praise for the God who is the salvation of God's people, their strength and shield, who does glorious things for God's people, and is great among them.

**Philippians 4:4-7**: Rejoice, pray and give thanks, and God's peace will fill you, for God is near.

**Luke 3:7-18**: John confronts the people about their corruption and injustice, and challenges them to change their lives. When they ask what they must do, he calls them to generosity, justice and compassion. Then, when the people wonder whether he might be the Messiah, John tells them that he is not, but that one is coming after him who will baptise them with the Holy Spirit.

#### **REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

John's message, which challenges us to live with justice and compassion, is the central focus of this week. The same basic message resonates through all of the passages. In Zephaniah, the song of restoration speaks of God's restoration and forgiveness, but makes a point of embracing those who are vulnerable and marginalised specifically in the vision of God's grace. Similarly, Isaiah's message speaks of God's salvation and the rejoicing that comes to those whom God has restored. In Philippians, the believers are called to a life of rejoicing, prayer and thanksgiving because of God's nearness, and the assurance is offered that this life brings unspeakable peace. Finally, in the Gospel, John makes it clear that God's coming is not just a joyous event in which we are accepted and forgiven with no cost on our part. Rather, God's people are called to change their lives in accordance with God's saving purpose, essentially becoming agents of God's salvation to one another. This is the message we need to hear this week. Yes, God is always coming to us, bringing salvation and life. But, this coming calls for a response from us in which we commit to lives that share grace and salvation, that empower and restore one another through acts of justice and compassion. If we really believe that God's Reign has come in Christ, we cannot help but recognise the need for this to change and direct our lives.



# South Belfast **Foodbank**

Together with Trussell

Urgently needed food items - in order of priority.

Long Life Juice UHT Milk Oats Jams/Honey/Spreads Tinned potato/Instant Mash Pulses (chickpeas/kidney beans/lentils) Coffee/Tea Tinned Fruit Custard/Rice Pudding Shampoo/Shower Gel | Household cleaning items - Fairy liquid / anti-bac spray/ washing powder etc

Donations to the Foodbank can either be placed directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the Foodbank. Or please place items in the baskets in the church entrance vestibule/porch.

Open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm. Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on [info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk)

[www.malone.connor.anglican.org](http://www.malone.connor.anglican.org)



@malonestjohns

**Thank you for your generosity** | We depend on your gifts of time treasure and talent to keep ministry in St John's running. To make an offering in support of the parish please give at the welcome table near the church door or by scanning this QR code. Please use Gift Aid if you can. To set up regular giving, which helps our ministry planning, please contact Joanne Macartney at [treasurer.stjohns@hotmail.com](mailto:treasurer.stjohns@hotmail.com)  
<https://givealittle.co/c/stjohnsdonate>



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CCLI licence No. 1996325 Streaming License No. 524611 St John's Malone Charities Registration Number NIC101984 The Parish Office for administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail: [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)  
e-mail : [malone@connor.anglican.org](mailto:malone@connor.anglican.org)

**Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.**

*Advent & Christmas*  
*in St John's Malone*

*15 Dec 9.00 Eucharist, 10.30*

*Eucharist & Nativity Play*

*22 Dec 9am Eucharist, 10.30 Nine  
Lessons & Carols*

*24 Dec Christmas Eve 11.00pm  
Midnight Eucharist*

*25 Dec Christmas Day 9.00  
Eucharist, 10:30 A Christmas  
Morning Service*

*26 Dec St Stephen 10.30 Eucharist*

*27 Dec St John 10.30 Eucharist*

*29 Dec 9.00 Eucharist for The  
Holy Innocents Day, 10.30  
Eucharist with carols for  
Christmas I*

*5 Jan 2025 9.00 Eucharist, 10.30  
Sunday First for Epiphany*

