

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Mon to Friday 10am

Confirmation Clonmellon Thur March 7th First Communion Sun May 19th

KILLALLON SUN 10am Ann – Deceased membs of Mulligan & Henry families

CLONMELLON Sun 11.30am Ann – Enda Carolan Killua

Tues – St Finian Wed – St Lucy Thur – St John of the Cross

KILLALLON SUN 10am Ann-Paddy & Maisie Carolan Ann – Niamh Casserly & d.f.m

CLONMELLON Sun 11.30am M.M. – Pat Carrigy Cloran

Adoration Monday 2.30 to 8pm Baptisms 1st & 3rd Saturdays 11.00am .

Bible Study/Reflection continues on Wednesday evenings in the prayer room and for Advent

At 8pm with Songs of Worship from 7-8pm, you are welcome to either or both.

R.I.P.

The story of the coming of Jesus Christ is incomplete without the story of John the Baptist his precursor and forerunner. The graciousness of God conferred on him the title of the greatest among all born of women (Mt 11:11; Lk 7:28). The graciousness of God in the Baptist brought about the following rare and significant qualities which we ought to emulate:

Material detachment: John left home and comfort and consigned himself to the severe environment of the wilderness. In doing this he became spiritually enriched. In our world today that is driven by so much materialism, there is need for us to practice material detachment in order to gain divine attachment.

Humility: John the Baptist was no doubt gifted but in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ he was humble and demonstrated his humility. He acknowledged the coming of the Messiah and his incompetence before him: 'There is one that is coming after me whose sandals I am unfit to untie' (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:7). It was also with humility that he declared the presence of the Lord before his disciples: 'Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world' (John 1:29).

Truthfulness: John the Baptist was not ready to compromise the truth even before threat of the authorities. This was why he was arrested and executed thereafter (Matt. 14:1-12).

Service to God and Humanity: A critical look into the life of John the Baptist indicates that he did not live for himself. He was rather dedicated to working for God and others. He was always found at his duty post preaching (Mt 3:1-3; Mk 1:14-15) and baptising (Lk 3:21; Jn 3:23).

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1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free, from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

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When God comes, he comes with power but also with **compassion** restoring all things. We can prepare the way of his coming with lives of holiness.

O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel,
To free your captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,
To you shall come Emmanuel.

O royal branch of Jesse's tree
Redeem us all from tyranny
From pain of hell your people free,
And over death win victory.

Come to us O Emmanuel.
Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Come O wisdom breathe in us;
Come to us, O Emmanuel.

Come O mighty tender teacher;
Come to us O Emmanuel.

Come and show us how to live;
Come to us O Emmanuel.
Come to us O Emmanuel

Response Come, Lord Jesus.

Reader(s): Come into our hearts. **Response**

Come into our homes. **Response**

Come to those who are lonely. **Response**

Come to those who are fearful. **Response**

Come to those who are sick. **Response**

Come to those who are poor. **Response**

Come to those who are grieving. **Response**

Come to those who have no faith. **Response**

Come to those who have no hope. **Response**

Come to those who have no love. **Response**

Come to the victims of violence. **Response**

Come to those in the grip of addiction. **Response**

Come to those in prison. **Response**

Come to us in our needs at Christmas.

1. Mark opens his gospel by describing it as 'the good news about Jesus Christ'. Think of the different ways in which the gospel stories have been good news for you.
2. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?
3. John calls the people to repentance (= a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change revitalised you?
4. John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?

Thought for the Day

The difference between the secular and Catholic understandings of Advent can be profound. For the world, it is a time to seemingly celebrate Christmas in advance, run to the finish line of December 25th, and move on. For the Catholic person, we wait in joyful anticipation and inch closer and closer to this great celebration of Christ's Nativity. Once we're there, we take time to be enveloped by the mystery of God's own

Son coming to us in the fullness of time. Then we set off anew into the rest of our year: traveling through Judea, walking after the Cross, and eventually celebrating Jesus' universal kingship again before the cycle repeats.