

## Second Sunday of Advent -December 10, 2017

**First Reading** **Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11**  
'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**Response:** Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

**Second Reading** **2 Peter 3:8-14**  
There is one thing, my friends that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all humankind shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel** **Mark 1:1-8**  
The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

## St. Muredach's Cathedral – Daily Masses

**Monday, 11 December**  
8am **Myra Murphy**, *Bohernasup*.  
10am **Lily Barrett**, *Lord Ed. St.* (First Anniversary)  
**Tuesday, 12 December**  
8a.m. **Donal Curran; Mae & Willie McCaffrey**, *Abbey Cottage, Ardnaree*.  
10am **\*Austin Melvin**, *Creggaun*.  
**\*Colm Kelly**, *48 The Spires*; **Deceased Kelly family**, *Rathlee*; **Deceased McLoughlin family**, *Ardnaree/Healy Tce*.  
**\*Kevin Maughan**, *Gurteens*.  
**Wednesday, 13 December**  
8am **Louise McAndrew**, *Hill St*.  
10am **\*Hannah Parish nee Gardiner**, *Claremorris/Ballycastle*.  
**\*Oliver Ryder**, *165 Greenhills*.  
**Thursday, 14 December**  
8am **Baby & Frank Lavin**, *Lord Ed. St.*  
10am **Sean Hernan**, *Limerick*.  
**\*Michael & Katie Walsh**, *Belderrig*;  
**Baby Lucas Frank Kenny**.  
**Friday, 15 December**  
8am **\*Tony & Peggy Melody**, *Church Rd*.  
10am **\*Marion Kenny**, *Rehins*; **Deceased Jordan & Kenny Families**.  
**\*Kitty Lyttle**, *Howley Tce*.  
**Saturday, 16 December**  
10am **Baby Tadhg McDonagh**, *Grange/Ballina* (Month's Mind)

## St. Patrick's Church – Daily Masses

**Monday, 11 December**  
7.30pm **\*Alice & Paddy Melia**, *4 Fenian Row*;  
**Stephen Melia**, *4 Fenian Row/London*.  
**\*Martin, Brian, Mary & George Sweeney**, *Bunree/ Mount Assumpta*;  
**Jim & Margaret Kilgannon**, *Skreen*.  
**\*Tommy Calvey**, *Killala Rd*.  
**Tuesday, 12 December**  
9.30am **\*Martha, Anthony & Tony Meenaghan**, *Gurteens*.  
**\*Joanie & James Hopkins**, *8 St. Patrick's Est.*;  
**Vincent Hopkins; Deceased Duffy & Hopkins family; Jack, Brian & Elizabeth Duffy**.  
**Wednesday, 13 December**  
9.30am **\*Joseph & Kathleen Williams; Eva Lenehan**, *Francis St*.  
**\*Ted, Kathleen, Michael Morrell**, *9 Ferran Tce*.  
**Thursday, 14 December**  
9.30am **Nuala Caffrey**, *Easkey*.  
**Friday, 15 December**  
9.30am Mass for the Sick of the Parish.  
**Saturday, 16 December**  
9.30am **\*Kevin & Nellie Timlin**, *Quignalecka*.  
**\*Shania Rose Conroy**, *50 St. Patrick's Est*.

## Weekend Mass & Confession Times

**St. Muredach's Cathedral**  
**Vigil Mass Sat 7.30 pm;**  
**Sun. 8.30am, 11am & 12.30 pm**  
**Confessions: Sat. 12noon -1pm & 6.30pm – 7.15pm**  
**St. Patrick's Church**  
**Vigil Mass: Saturday 8 pm;**  
**Sunday: 10 am Children's Mass & 12 Noon**  
**Confessions: Saturday 7.30 pm to 7.50pm**

**Baptisms:** **Jamie Luke Devers Morrell**, *Lord Ed.St.*  
**Ethan Charlie Bourke**, *Cloonishlaun*.

**Marriage:** **Keith Lynn**, *Convent Hill & Ann O'Rourke*, *Clones, Co. Monaghan*.

**Death:** **William Melvin**, *Quignashee*

**Cathedral week-end Readers roster** are now available in Sacristy. Please collect.

**Cathedral Restoration Collection** for week-end of December 3 was €2,451.50 + 38 €240.58 (38White envelopes)= €2,692.18. Thank you for your great generosity.

**Please use the White Envelope** stamped Cathedral Restoration Fund to make a contribution if you do not have a box of envelopes.

**Carols with Candlelight** with St. Muredach's Cathedral Choir, the Parish Children's Choir and the Parish Youth Group with procession of gifts to the crib in the Cathedral next Sunday December 17 at 5pm. *The Lion's Club will deliver the gifts to St. Vincent de Paul for distribution to those in need.*

**Spiritual Journey** in the Newman Institute on Wednesday at 10.30 a.m.

**Ballina Active Retirement** Table Quiz on Wednesday at 2.15pm in the Pastoral Centre.

**Monthly Mass for Peace** on Tuesday at 8pm in the Newman Institute.

**Gortnor Abbey Carol Service** on Monday December 18 at 7:30pm in the school chapel. - All Welcome.

**Patricians** Discussion on 'Advent' on Wednesday December 13 at 8pm in the Pastoral Centre.

**ADVENT REFLECTIONS** on Wednesday December 13 at 7pm in St. Patrick's. Please come along.

**Suicide Prevention course** is organised for January 16 at 7pm in the Newman. QPR, (Question, Persuade Refer) Training is well respected all over the world. Numbers are limited to 20. To reserve a place tel. 70555.

**Santa Dash - A Word of Thanks.** Thanks to all who made Santa Dash such a success. The total raised for homelessness and Galway Simon was €2,375. Special thanks to our parish youth group and their leaders, to the confirmation candidates of our parish, their parents, teachers and leaders, to the members of Foroige and their leaders, to Ballina Town FC for the use of their clubrooms, to Coillte, to Pat Boyle who freely gave of his time to add some Christmas cheer, to David Clarke who kindly lent his support and launched the event and to all

**Ballina Farmers' Market;** Buy Local, Buy Natural Products, Honest and Clean Farm Eggs, Vegetables, Baking, Flowers, Seaweed Products, Herbal Products, Honeys, Jams, all available at Ballina Farmers Market, each Saturday at the Market Square from 8:30am- 2:30pm

**Radio Maria Ireland** is an Irish run Catholic Talk-Radio station. Their mission is to help spread the Gospel message of Joy, Hope, and Charity with a mixture of Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting sacred music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies- all commercial free. The station is on air 24/7. RADIO MARIA IRELAND IS AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD free by App RADIO MARIA WORLD FAMILY to your phone or tablet. Free STREAMING just click LISTEN LIVE on [www.RadioMaria.ie](http://www.RadioMaria.ie).

**Counselling for Couples/Individuals** experiencing difficulties in their marriage/relationships. Tel. Accord 21478.

**Ballina Parish Shop** in the Pastoral Centre is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm. Great selection Christmas items in stock including Christmas Cribs, Cards & Mass Bouquets

**Tommy Fleming Charity Christmas Concert in St. Muredach's Cathedral** on Wednesday December 20. Limited tickets now available from Ballina Parish Office or online at [www.tommyfleming.com](http://www.tommyfleming.com) An ideal Christmas present!!

**Ballina Women's Heritage Shed** meet on Wednesdays from 7-9pm in the Over 55 Club, Cathedral Road. All welcome.

**Ev'ry Voice Big House Party Concert** with Castlebar Gospel Choir, special guest Paul Taylor in the Great National Hotel, Ballina on Sunday December 10 @ 8pm. Tickets €15 from Ballina Tourist Office/087 2590885.

**Social Dancing** to Billy Corcoran on Tuesday December 12 in the Great National Hotel Ballina from 9.15pm-11.15 pm with dancing classes for beginners from 8-9pm.

**Found** sum of money in St. Patrick's Church: tel. 70555.

**The Ballina Lions Club** will host a dinner at 12 noon on Christmas day in the Ballina Rugby club. If interested, please contact Vinny at 0877987564.

**St Mary's Secondary School** presents a Christmas Concert on Monday December 18 at 8pm in the School Assembly Hall, with special guests Billow Wood (Flat Out). Tickets €5 available at school office (096 70333).

**Monster 25 Card Drive** with prize money of €1,000 in the Brown Hall, Foxford on Tuesday December 12 at 8:30 pm. Massive Christmas Raffle on the night also. This is a fundraiser for the Mayo Fleadh which will take place in Foxford in May 2018. Admission €10. Your support would be greatly appreciated

**Computer/Internet classes for older learners by Age Action** in Ballina commencing in January 2018 on Tuesdays at 10.30 for 5 consecutive weeks. To book a place on the **waiting list**, tel. Age Action 091 527831.

**Over 55's Club Christmas Tea Dance** in the Kennedy Glasgow Centre The Quay on Thursday December 14 from 2-4pm. Adm €7.50. Music by Pdraic Moran. Refreshments served tel. 087 2785365.

**Bingo** Monday December 11 at 8.30pm in Knockmore Community Hall.

**Ballina Dramatic Society** present 'The Lonesome West' in conjunction with Men's Shed Ballina on December 14,15, 16 at 8 pm in Ballina Arts Centre. 096 73593. Tickets €10/12

**Social Dancing** night in aid of the Gráinne Úaile Sub-Aqua Club on Friday 15 December at The Station House, Ballina. Live band and spot prizes. €8 on the door.

**Stephenites Bingo** on Thursday & Sunday nights at 8.30pm in the Club Rooms.

**Ballina Women's Heritage Shed** meet on Wednesdays from 7-9pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

**Keeping Children Safe:** The diocese of Killala is fully committed to keeping children safe. If you have any concerns around their safety in any circumstance, please telephone the Diocesan Liaison Person, **Mr. John Cummins, Diocesan Liaison Person, Child Safeguarding Office, The Newman Institute, Ballina 096-72066 or the Diocesan Helpline: 087-1003554**

**Priest on Duty: 087-2586015**