

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

**8TH DECEMBER 2013
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Everything gets more

specific today: what is being preached is not an event, but a person: Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him, Paul invites us to imitate him. We have here a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah – useful to refer to when we get to Christmas and he is revealed as a child in a manger!

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekdays of Advent; Divine Office Week 2</i> Sunday Missal: page 99; Preface page 34		Prayers Please
Sunday <i>Bible Sunday</i>	9.15am (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ) <i>St Columba’s Christmas Fayre</i>	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Elizabeth Patterson, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O’Grady, Pauline Bowling, Emma Turner, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, John Barrett, Bea Gilmore, Roy Smith, Isabelle Karzynski, Fiona Oldham (nec Clappison), Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Vera Evans, Julie Smith, Ernie Little, Mary Coyne, Anthony Axford, Mary Marshall, Joan Pearce, Joshua Almond, Jacqueline Kay, Wynn Elliot, Tom Wardle, Joan Peake (nec Hooton), Bob Taylor, Rita Margiotta, Noel Gannon, Sheila Derbyshire, David Walton, Dr Bernard Higgins, Winston Shanley, Vera Casey Shaw, Heather Goil, Anne Rule and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Latently Dead: Mary Coyne, Kathleen Goodman, Eduardo Lasco, Amelita Hoare, David Armistead, Elizabeth Patterson</p> <p>Anniversaries: Robert & Hilda Healy, Clare Norris, Anne Jerstice, Gerard Dobson, Charles Bell, Annie McGrath</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Mary Coyne, Heather Goil (very sick), Kathleen Goodman, Joyce Knight, Eduardo Lasco, Amelita Hoar, David Armistead, For deceased members of the Cummings & Ryan families (especially Bernard), David Walton, Robert & Hilda Healey, Clare Norris, Anne Jerstice, A Special Intention, Gerard Dobson, Charles Bell, SVP Mass for deceased parishioners, Intention for a speedy recovery, Annie McGrath</p>
Monday <i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i>	10am Requiem Mass for Elizabeth Patterson (SB) 11.30am Mass and Grace at St Thomas of Canterbury’s. 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	8.15am Mass in St Columba’s School followed by breakfast 10.30am Requiem Mass for Mary Coyne (SC) 7-9pm Becoming Catholic Meeting (Patmos Room SJ) 7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 10.30am Coffee Morning [<i>details overleaf</i>] 2pm-4pm Cameo Group, Christmas Workshop (SB) 7pm Light Up A Life service (Bolton Parish Church)	
Thursday	9.15am School Mass in Church (SB) - Advent 2pm SJ Yrs 3 & 4 Advent Wreath Service (SJ Church) 7.30 - 8.30pm Scripture Study Course (SB)	
Friday <i>St Lucy</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday <i>St John of the Cross</i>	10.30am-12noon Baptism Preparation (SJ Patmos Room) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Music for Christmas (Thornleigh Salesian College)	
Next Sunday <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	9.15am (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 10.15am (SC) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 3pm Signed Mass for Deaf People (SB) – <i>All welcome.</i>	

Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Michael Cooke

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Congratulations: To Charlie James Farnworth who was baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that he and his family will continue to grow in faith.

Christmas Spirit: Thanks to all who helped, donated and attended on 3 December. It was a great success and we all had a wonderful happy and entertaining time. The raffle raised £75 and donations reached a staggering £375. Total £450! We will certainly put smiles on children's faces.

It is estimated that 180 operations will be completed during the January expedition of the Northern Cleft Palate Association. Thanks to all for helping to make this possible. *Ursula and Phillippa*

Harbour Room Book Club: Thank you to all members who attended the last lively meeting. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday 18 December at 1pm to discuss *Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson. Please note the earlier date and start time due to the Christmas holiday and raffles! All welcome, *Madeleine*

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 14 December (10.30am-12noon) in the Patmos Room at St John's. This is for parents from any of our three parishes who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Please let one of the priests know if you will be attending or e-mail office@sbsj.org.uk

BRASS Collection: The joint food collection continues during December at each of our three churches. The items particularly needed are: cartons of orange juice, vegetable oil, tinned fruit, jam, biscuits, tinned tomatoes, kidney beans, chickpeas, coffee and sugar.. Thankyou for your continued support!

Coffee Morning: Wednesday 11 December (10.30am onwards) at 294 Turton Road, Bradshaw. All proceeds will go to CAFOD and the Good Life Orphanage, Kenya. Please join us for a raffle, gift stall, tea, coffee and plenty of talk. Entrance £1.50. Please ring 302584 for travel assistance.

St Brendan's 100 Club

	<i>August Winners</i>	<i>September Winners</i>
£25	P Smith (26)	J & A Pennington (103)
£15	D & G Cambridge (12)	S Currie (28)
£10	S Lamb (105)	N Skeith (6)

	<i>October Winners</i>	<i>November Winners</i>
£25	D O'Toole (62)	A Lindsay (78)
£15	J Wild (48)	A & C Vosper (11)
£10	T Rabbitt (17)	R Dutson (127)

St John's 200 Club

The December winners are:

£50 J Pearce (30)
 £30 A Holroyd (86)
 £20 P McArdle (23)



Coffee Morning (SJ): Thanks to all who supported the coffee morning at St John's on Friday. A total of £139 was raised for the SVP.

Advent & Christmas

Parish Christmas Dance: Friday 20 December, 7.30pm-11.30pm (for all three churches) at Dunscar Conservative Club. Tickets are now available and cost £8 each which includes a potato pie supper. Please ring Julie Burton 01204 304732 for more details.

Christmas Carol Concert: At St John's Cathedral, Salford, Sunday 8 December at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £5. The concert features two wonderful choirs - the Choir of St John's Cathedral and Notability who have been delighting audiences with their Christmas performance at the Cathedral for years. Join them on 8 December and support their nominated charities - Caritas Diocese of Salford and Loaves and Fishes. Tickets can be bought on the door or purchased in advance from Mary Scully on 0161 817 2250 or m.scully@caritassalford.org.uk.

Rosa Mystica: There will be a Mass on Monday 9 December at St Thomas of Canterbury's, Lonsdale Road, Bolton (11.30am) for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This will be followed by the Hour of Grace for the Whole World at 12 noon.

CAMEO Group: *Christmas Decoration Workshop* on Wednesday 11 December (2-4pm). If possible, please bring garden evergreens (different sizes, colours & textures), dried hydrangea heads, candles, baubles, ribbons (if required) and sharp scissors/secateurs. Oasis & dishes will be available for sale if required.

Bolton Hospice: The Light Up A Life service takes place at Bolton Parish Church at 7pm on Wednesday 11 December.

Making Music for Christmas: Bolton Music Service present an evening of Christmas music at Thornleigh Salesian College on Saturday 14 December (7.30pm). Entrance costs £4 (children free).

Gaelic Coffee Morning: Sunday 15 December following 9.15am Mass at St John's. Proceeds will go to the SVP.

St John's Christmas Draw: Tickets are still on sale. The draw will take place on Sunday 22 December after the 9.15am Mass at St John's.

Think Vocation

St John the Baptist was the voice that cries in the wilderness asking people to prepare a way for the Lord and to change their ways. Like John, the voice of the Church can seem to be a voice in the wilderness of our world. It might not be a message that the world wants to hear but it needs to hear it. May others be called to serve in the Church as a voice for the Lord for his people today.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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