

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD  
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**  
**9TH DECEMBER 2012**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Sunday Missal	
Opening Prayer.....	99
Readings.....	106
Preface .....	34
Eucharistic Prayer..(at priest's choice)	
Post Communion .....	109



Again we hear about the coming “Day of Christ”, and meet the character of John the Baptist. Just as once before he “prepared the way” for the coming of Christ, so today he does the same for us. Our hearts should be open to his voice, as he calls us to repentance, and asks us to make the way straight for the coming of our Lord. The imagery of this Sunday is particularly rich: the dominant image is of a vast population moving together - the return from exile in the first reading, the going and coming of the sowers in the psalm, the community of the Church preparing together in Paul’s letter. We prepare for the coming of the Lord as His people - a community who cooperate to make the “processional way” of the Holy One - flattening the hills of opposition and ridicule, filling in the valleys of doubt and despair, so that “all mankind shall see the salvation of God.”

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b> <i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2</i> <i>Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		<b>Prayers Please</b>
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy  <i>Bible Sunday – A Day of Special Prayer for Openness to the Word of God</i>	<p><b>Sick:</b> Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Edmundson, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Elizabeth Patterson, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Betty Boyle, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, George Cowley, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard &amp; Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Margaret Edge, Frank Brazel, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O’Grady, Pauline Bowling, Paul Buckley, Margaret Walsh, Joan Plumbley, Emma Turner, Vincent Wood, Margaret Wood, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, Catherine Crowley, John Barrett, Bea Gilmore, Tara Vinden, Roy Smith, Isabelle Karzynski, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Amanda Calcutt, Leila Parker, Emma Jiminez (baby), Bernard Cummings, Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Catherine Cooke, Canon Byrne and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> Winifred Bentham, Mgr John O’Connor, Gerard Dobson.</p> <p><b>Anniversary:</b> Peter Coles</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Joyce Knight, Peter Coles, To St Anthony for a Special Intention, Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6):</b>                      We pray especially for:                      openness to the Word of God;                      migrants and refugees;                      expectant mothers.</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Passion for Christmas (Reebok Stadium) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	No Mass today 7.30pm SVP (SB) 7.30pm St Brendan’s School Choir (Bridgewater Hall)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7pm Light Up A Life Service (Bolton Parish Church)	
Thursday	9.15am School Mass in Church (SB)  <i>St Lucy</i>	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)  <i>St John of the Cross</i>	
Saturday	11am, 2pm & 4pm Passion for Christmas ( Market Place Shopping Centre, Bolton) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Community Choirs at Christmas (Thornleigh)	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ)  <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	
<b>Collections, Donations, Gift Aid</b> <i>All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan’s or St John’s as appropriate. If you are a tax-payer, the parish can claim back the tax you have paid on any donations you make if you simply sign a Gift Aid form once. Please ask. Thanks.</i>		

**Congratulations:** To Grace Elizabeth Hoyte who was baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that she and her family may continue to grow in faith.

**Canon Byrne:** Please pray for Canon Byrne, parish priest at St Thomas of Canterbury, who has suffered a mild stroke. He is undergoing an operation on Monday and will need a period of recuperation into the New Year. As dean, I will need to ensure that services at St Thomas of Canterbury are covered during this period. *Fr Cooke*

**Christmas Draw:** The draw will take place next Sunday (16 December) after the 9.15 Mass.

**Almanacs:** The new Diocesan Yearbook for 2013 is now on sale at £3.

**Year of Faith – Catholicism:** The final two meetings at St James' Parish Montserrat are on:

- Monday 10 December – *Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast:* Mary, the Mother of God.
- Monday 17 December – *The Indispensable Men:* Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure.

Each session begins at 7.30pm and lasts about an hour. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

**St Joseph's Penny Volunteers:** Caritas is recruiting volunteer speakers to give presentations to Catholic schools who are fundraising for the 2013 St Joseph's Penny Lenten Collection. To find out more, and to be part of this historic Collection, contact Alison (before 7 January 2013) on [volunteering@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@caritassalford.org.uk) or 0161 817 2251.

**Sharing The Load:** Thank you to all parishioners who have offered their help so far. The main interest for readers and Eucharistic ministers has been for the 9.15 (SJ) and 11.15 (SB) Masses. If anyone would be interested in volunteering to read at the 6.30 Mass at St John's, please contact [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk) or Alison Howarth.

**Harbour Room Book Club:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19 December. PLEASE NOTE the earlier time of 1pm. It will finish at 3pm as normal. The designated read is a comic novella by Alan Bennett entitled *The Uncommon Reader*. Refreshments and raffle. All welcome. *Madeleine*

**Pilgrimage of the Relics of Don Bosco:** The Salesian Congregation is preparing to celebrate to 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of its founder St John Bosco in 2015. The worldwide tour of the relics of Don Bosco will continue at a number of venues throughout the UK in January 2013. Please see the notice boards for details.

**Church Cleaners (SJ):** J Burton & H Bradbury. The rota for church cleaning is being updated. If you feel you would be able to offer help, please contact [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk) or Frances Smith. Thank you.

**Gerard Dobson:** Please pray for Gerard who died on Saturday morning. For many years he was a governor at St John's School (including being Chair of Governors) and at Thornleigh. Until a couple of years ago, he produced the parish weekly newsletter. He was also a reader and, for about 30 years, a Eucharistic Minister (taking communion to some of our housebound parishioners each Sunday up to about a week ago). May he rest in peace.

### Advent & Christmas

**Passion for Christmas (1):** Carol Service with drama and massed choir. Monday 10 December at 7.30pm in the Premier Suite at the Reebok Stadium. Free parking. Tickets are free. Please call 0844 871 2932, collect in person from Bolton Central at the Reebok, or go online at [www.bwfc.co.uk](http://www.bwfc.co.uk). This service will be recorded for Tower FM's Christmas morning show.

**Bridgewater Hall:** St Brendan's School Choir will be performing there on Tuesday 11 December at 7.30pm as part of the CLIC Sargent Hospital Choirs concert. CLIC Sargent is a charity which supports children with cancer and gives help to their families.

**Bolton Hospice:** The *Light Up A Life* service takes place at Bolton Parish Church at 7pm on Wednesday 12 December. Fr Cooke is preaching at this service.

**Passion for Christmas (2):** Come and see an inspiring new interpretation, in drama and song, of the age old nativity story of love, adversity and faith. Saturday 15 December in the Market Place Shopping Centre, Bolton. Performances at 11am, 2pm & 4pm.

**Community Choirs At Christmas:** This event will take place at Thornleigh Salesian College on Saturday 15 December at 7.30pm. Adult admission is £4.00, a family ticket £12.00 and under 19yrs free. Contact Bolton Music Service (01204 333533) for more details.

**Carol Singing:** Churches in Harwood will again be singing carols in various community locations on the evening of Thursday 20 December. We start at 6pm at Longsight Lodge and move on to Bramdean before having refreshments (sherry & mince pies) at St Brendan's (about 7.30pm) and then going on to the White Horse (9pm) and the Grey Mare (10pm). Please come and join us.

**Carol Service:** Bolton FM are recording a carol service at Tottington Road Methodist Church on Sunday 23 December at 6pm. All are welcome.

### 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.

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