

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

**7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Make his paths straight**



Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the Second Coming of the Lord - not so much on the run up to Christmas (until the last week). If we view Advent as a preparation for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it's about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, is a confusing figure: but his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Today we have a very graphic reference to the end of time and the Second Coming in the reading from Saint Peter; it is a frightening picture, and so the first reading offers tender words of comfort to help us understand who is coming, and why we should be ready to meet him.

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b> <i>Sunday Cycle B Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2</i> <b>Sunday Missal: page 103 Preface: page 34</b>		<b>Prayers Please</b>
Sunday <i>Bible Sunday</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 11.30am Christmas Fayre (St Columba's) 12.30-1.30pm Carol Singing in Bolton Town Centre 2pm Baptism (SB)	<p><b>Sick:</b> Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Eunice Brierley, Cecilia Guest, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Kathleen Hopwood, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Dylan Crosby, Pat Hall, Linda Southern, Mary Joan Tornai, Bernard Neyland, Rosemary Davies and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> Mavis Coyne, Stephen McPhillips, Joan Salter, Joseph Bryan, John Ainscow, Nellie Morris, Norah Slater</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Robert James Healey, Hilda Healey, Josephine Wattie, The McTague family, Gerard Dobson, James &amp; Annie McGrath</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Ivy Hamer, Stephen McPhillips, Joan Salter, A Special Birthday Intention, Robert James Healey, Josephine Wattie, The McTague family, Gerard Dobson, John Ainscow, Mavis Coyne, James &amp; Annie McGrath</p> <p><b>Bishop John Arnold:</b> Please pray for our new bishop. Our parishes will each be represented at his Installation on Monday</p> <p><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> <p><b>Collections &amp; Donations:</b> <i>All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan's, St Columba's or St John's as appropriate.</i></p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> <i>Cheques should be made payable to St John's.</i></p>
Monday <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	No Mass Today 11am Installation of Bishop Arnold (Salford Cathedral) 2.15pm St John's School KS1 Nativity (In School) 7pm Silent Night Carol Service (Macron Stadium) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	8.15am Advent Mass (SC) 11am-12noon Carol Singing in Bolton Market 2.15pm St John's School KS1 Nativity (In School) No Mass Today 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 2-4pm Cameo Group (Harbour Room, SB) 6pm St John's School KS1 Nativity (In School)	
Thursday	9.15am School Mass in Church (SB) – Advent & Commissioning of Chaplains 7.30pm CAFOD Meeting (Harbour Room, SB) 7.30pm Advent Service (St Augustine's, Tonge Moor)	
Friday	9.30am Mass followed by Coffee Morning (SJ) 7.30pm Community Makes Music (Victoria Hall)	
Saturday <i>St Lucy</i>	5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) <span style="float: right;"><i>Fair Trade Goods on Sale</i></span>	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy <span style="float: right;"><i>at St John's</i></span> 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SC)	

**Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Canon Michael Cooke**

**Assistant Priests: Rev Joseph Gee & Rev Francis Parkinson**

**Parish Office: St John's Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP**

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*Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity – 250037 Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk*

**Congratulations:** To Florence Emmeline Nisbett who was baptised at St John's last Saturday. And to Joshua David & Elliot Joseph Lavin who were baptised at St Columba's last Sunday We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

**Carol Singers Needed:** Join us as we sing in Bolton Town Centre this Sunday (7 December, 12.30-1.30pm) in the Market Place and Tuesday 9 December in Bolton Market (11am-12noon). For more information please contact Keith on 01204 546081 or email: [tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk](mailto:tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk).  
*Christians Together*

**Thankyou:** To CAMEO for a donation of £200 towards the refurbishment of the Harbour Room.

**Church Cleaning (SJ):** J Findlay

### Advance Notice

#### Reconciliation Service

(For all Three Parishes)

Sunday 21 December – 3pm at St Columba's

#### Christmas Masses

##### Wednesday 24 December

5pm St Columba's; 6.30pm St John's; 8.30pm St Brendan's

##### Thursday 25 December

9.15am St John's; 10.15am St Columba's; 11.15am St Brendan's

### Urban Outreach

Churches in Harwood are collecting 1000 packets of savoury crackers (200-300grams). **St Brendan's need to collect 300 over this weekend and next.**

If you would like to help Urban Outreach then please contact Hannah Matthews. Tel: 01204 385848) [christmasdinner@urbanoutreach.co.uk](mailto:christmasdinner@urbanoutreach.co.uk)



**Christmas Coffee Morning:** Friday 12 December after 9.30am Mass at St John's Church. All proceeds will go to Urban Outreach. A warm welcome to all!

### Marriage Matters

A voice cries "*Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord*". Sometimes life can seem to be a wilderness as we look ahead. If we try to live today to the best of our abilities, removing those attitudes and behaviours, that prevent us from being better husbands and wives, then we can become a clearer 'signpost' for everyone.

[www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

### Think Vocation

On Bible Sunday we reflect on our openness to the Word of God. When we read the Scriptures - either in church or at home - God is speaking to us today. Our attentiveness to that Word will help us to understand what God is calling us to do in our life.

**Fairtrade Stall:** Fairtrade goods will be available for sale at St John's after both Masses next weekend (13/14 December). Thank you for your great support in November. The commission we received was approaching £6, which meant we made sales of almost £120. Fantastic!  
*Margaret*

### Advent & Christmas

**Silent Night Carol Service:** Monday 8 December (7pm) at the Macron Stadium. Tickets are available (free of charge) at the ticket office or by emailing: [www.boltoncentral.co.uk](http://www.boltoncentral.co.uk)

**St Brendan's School Nativity:** Thursday 18 December (1.30pm) followed by a PTA coffee afternoon in the school hall.

#### St Columba's School Nativity (In Church):

Monday 15 December-2pm for KS2 and 6pm for KS1.  
Tuesday 16 December-2pm for KS1 and 6pm for KS2.

#### St John's School:

KS1 Nativity (In School) - Monday, 8 December (2.15pm), Tuesday 9 December (2.15pm) Wednesday, 10 December (6.00pm).

KS2 Reflection/Carol Service (In Church) - Monday 15 December (2pm) and Wednesday 17 December (6.30pm).

**CAMEO Group:** Wednesday 10 December (2pm-4pm) (Harbour Room, SB). Christmas Flower decorations.

**Gaelic Coffee Morning:** Sunday 14 December following 9.15am Mass at St John's. Proceeds will go to the SVP.

**Community Makes Music:** There will be a Christmas Concert at the Victoria Hall on Friday 12 December at 7.30pm. A number of choirs and music groups from across Bolton will come together for a selection of seasonal music. Tickets, costing £5 or £15 for a family of four, are available from the Albert Halls (01204 334400).



**Parish Christmas Dance:** Friday 19 December at Dunscair Conservative Club. It's a great night for all and includes a Christmas Quiz, Bingo, pie & peas supper plus great entertainment. Come along and enjoy! Tickets are available through the Parish Office (301927) or Julie Burton (304732).

**Christmas At Turton Tower:** Join us at the Tower for a mince pie and mulled wine on Saturday 20 December or Sunday 21 December 11am-3pm. Entry is £6, concessions £5, & accompanied under 16's free. Free entry to Friends of Turton Tower.

**Christmas Folk Afternoon:** Sunday 28 December at 4pm at St Brendan's Church for all parishes. If anyone would like to be included in our programme of performers, or feel you could help in any way, please contact Theresa (07587 149242) before Sunday 21 December.

**St John's Christmas Draw:** Sunday 21 December after 9.15am Mass. **Tickets are still on sale!** Donations of gift vouchers for prizes are still most welcome

This Newsletter is sponsored by

**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

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