


DIOCESE OF SALFORD
NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS
4TH DECEMBER 2011
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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.

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 2 Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Philip Blackburn, Laura Shuttleworth, Bill Kay, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Baby Guy, Bernard Edmundson, Jonathan Rimmer, Maria de los Angeles, Paul Preston, Elizabeth Patterson, Eunice Brierley, Betty Boyle, Bernard Callaghan, Judith Oldham, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Paul Whittle, Caroline Vickers, Bill Sharples, George Cowley, Marie Donnelly, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Gerard Walker, Elzie Ball, Karen West, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Alf Isherwood, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael (six year old), Baby Rose, Calum Russell (baby), Margaret Edge, Frank Brazel, Cynthia Winstanley, Gordon Campbell, Graham Roberts, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O'Grady, Tommy Lenihan, Pauline Bowling, Paul Buckley, Margaret Walsh, Joan Plumbley, Graham Turner and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: John Kelly, Marie Worthington, Jean Green, Frank Feven</p> <p>Anniversary: Monica Dawson</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Recently deceased, Madge Scofield, Monica Dawson, Jean Green, Frank Feven</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6) We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Baptism or Marriage <i>By appointment and with preparation You must give six months notice for Marriage See Fr Cooke to arrange</i></p>
Sunday <i>Bible Sunday</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 12noon-2pm Christmas Fair (SJ School) 2pm Baptism (SB)	
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday <i>St Ambrose</i>	No Mass Today 2-4pm CAMEO Group (Harbour Room) 6.15pm Sacramental Programme Reconciliation (SJ) 7.30-8.30pm Youth Group (Patmos Room)	
Thursday <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.15am Mass (SB)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 10am Coffee Morning in aid of CAFOD (Patmos Room) 7.30pm Parish Christmas Dance (Dunscar)	
Saturday	5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) – with Toy Offertory	
Next Sunday <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Toy Offertory 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SJ)	
Collections, Donations, Gift Aid <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>		
Find out about our Parishes, Masses, Events, Groups and so much more: www.sbsj.org.uk		

Bible Sunday: On this particular Sunday of Advent we think about our openness to the Word of God.

CAMEO Group: "A Christmas Arrangement". The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 December (2-4pm) in the Harbour Room. It will be a Christmas decoration workshop. Come along and learn how to make your own decorations.

Coffee Morning for CAFOD: Our last coffee morning of the year is to raise money to buy two cycles for health workers. To achieve this we need to raise £100. Please support us if you are able. There will be a raffle and mince pies, toasted teacakes, etc.

Christmas Dance: On Friday 9 December at Dunscair Conservative Club, with entertainment from Jo Lester & The Stardusters. Tickets cost £6 (including supper) and are on sale at both churches.

Toy Offertory: This will take place at St John's on the weekend of 10/11 December. All contributions must be in by the end of the 9.15 Mass that Sunday so that they can be taken over to the church in Blackburn which organises this scheme.

Christmas Draw (SJ): Tickets are on sale at St John's.

Harbour Room Book Club: Many thanks to all those who attended our last lively meeting. We look forward to meeting again on Wednesday 14 December. Details to follow. *Madeleine*

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation session for parents wishing to have their child baptised in either of our churches will take place on Thursday 15 December (7-8.30pm) in the Patmos Room at St John's. Please let Fr Cooke know if you will be attending.

Churches in Harwood

Christmas Cards: The cards listing times of services in our various churches are now ready for distribution. We need 2 or 3 people to cover the Tottington Road area, 2 or 3 to cover Longsight and about 6 to cover the Bramhall Avenue/Hardy Mill area, as well as some individuals to cover smaller sections. Our Churches in Harwood reps will be at the back of church this Sunday with the cards. Please have a word with them if you can help with this distribution. Thanks.

Carol Singing: This will take place on Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 December. On one of the evenings we will start early and visit Longsight Lodge and then the Bramdean area. On the other evening we will start later and sing at The Old Grey Mare and then The White Horse. Full details will be available next week. All are welcome to join in.

Advance Notice

Carol Services

Thornleigh on Tuesday 20 December – 7pm
St John's on Wednesday 21 December – 7pm

Nativity Service

St Brendan's on Thursday 22 November – 1pm

Reconciliation Service

(for both parishes)
Thursday 22 November – 7pm at St Brendan's

Christmas Masses

Saturday 24 December – 6.30pm (SJ) & 8.30pm (SB)
Sunday 25 December – 9.15am (SJ) & 11.15am (SB)

Children's Liturgy

No special liturgy on 25 December or 1 January

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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Think Vocations

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.

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RIVER
ISAIAH
MESSENGER
WILDERNESS
BAPTISM
REPENTANCE
CAMELSKIN
LOCUSTS
HONEY
STRAP
SANDALS
SPIRIT