

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

11TH DECEMBER 2011

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY



So who is coming? This Sunday's readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as "a witness to speak for the light", by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd unknown to them who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the "anointed one" ('Messiah' in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring. It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat - Mary's song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of

the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: "God has called you, and he will not fail you." This is why, on this 'Gaudete' Sunday, we as God's people rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 3</i> <i>Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		Prayers Please	
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SJ)	<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, Jim Birch, Peter Broughton, Jane Dent and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Thomas Pilling, Leo Murphy</p> <p>Anniversary: Joseph Farrell, Andrew Moore, Elizabeth Wright, James & Annie McGrath, Terry O'Neill, Peter Coles, Patrick Rock</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Thomas Pilling, Joseph Mather, Joseph Farrell, Andrew Moore, Elizabeth & Frank Wright, James & Annie McGrath, Terry O'Neill, Special Intention, Leo Murphy, Peter Broughton, Peter Coles [<i>"Christmas Masses" will appear on a later newsletter</i>]</p> <p>Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6): We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers</p>	
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)		
Tuesday <i>St Lucy</i>	No Mass today 7.30pm SVP (SB)		
Wednesday <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 1.30-3pm Harbour Room Book Group (Harbour Room) 7.30-8.30pm Youth Group (Patmos Room)		
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) 7-8.30pm Baptism Preparation (Patmos Room) <i>In the Picture [see overleaf]</i>		
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ) <i>In the Picture [see overleaf]</i>		
Saturday <i>Advent II begins</i>	5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) <i>CAFOD Box Collection</i> <i>In the Picture [see overleaf]</i>		
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) – followed by Christmas Draw 11.15am Mass (SB) <i>CAFOD Box Collection</i> <i>In the Picture [see overleaf]</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>		
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>			Baptism or Marriage <i>By appointment and with preparation</i> <i>You must give six months notice for Marriage</i> <i>See Fr Cooke to arrange</i>
Find out about our Parishes, Masses, Events, Groups and so much more: www.sbsj.org.uk			

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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.

Congratulations: To Joseph John Leatherbarrow who was baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that he and his family may continue to grow in faith.

Congratulations: To Stuart and Mary Long who have recently celebrated their Golden Wedding.

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 December in the Harbour Room, 1.30-3pm. The designated read is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by M A Shaffer. (Do not be deceived by the title! It's about the German Occupation of Guernsey 1940-1945!). As this is the Christmas meeting, there will be a raffle and also, tea, sherry, coffee, sherry, mince pies, sherry..... All welcome. *Madeleine*

CAMEO Group: On behalf of all those who came on Wednesday we send a big 'Thank you' to Margaret Fazackerley for a fun filled and instructive afternoon. Thanks to your generosity we are able to give £100 to Father Cooke towards expenses. Look out for the date of the next meeting.

Coffee Morning for CAFOD: A huge thank you to all who helped and contributed in any way to our coffee morning on 9 December. We raised £238.50 and will be able to buy two bicycles, one cow and a number of ducks!

Christmas Dance: Thank you to all who organised and supported the dance on Friday evening.

Oliver: Congratulations to Thornleigh on another wonderful musical production this week and to those parishioners – younger or older – who were involved.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
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Think Vocations

Gaudete Sunday is an opportunity to rejoice in the midst of our Advent season. Our lives as Christians should be marked by rejoicing – and we will naturally be more joyful if we have discovered and are living out the calling God has given to us.

In the Picture – Passion for Christmas

Next weekend – from 5.15pm on Thursday through to 4pm on Sunday – there will be an opportunity in Crompton Place Shopping Centre to get involved in an experience of the first Christmas. The story will be told briefly and you can dress in the costumes and have your picture taken. The pictures can then be downloaded free from the website www.getinthepicture.org.uk

This initiative is being run by Christian Cohesion after the very successful *Passion for Bolton* at Easter.

Advance Notice

[Apologies for some incorrect dates last week]

Carol Services

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

Churches in Harwood Carol Singing

Wednesday 21 December
8.30pm The White Horse; 9.30pm The Old Grey Mare
Thursday 22 December
6.30pm Longsight Lodge; 7.30pm Bramdean
[Apologies that this clashes with our Reconciliation Service]

Carols at Hidden Gem, Manchester

Thornleigh Choir – Wednesday 21 December – 1pm

Nativity Service

St Brendan's on Thursday 22 December – 1pm

Reconciliation Service

(for both parishes)
Thursday 22 December – 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

St John's 200 Club

The December winners are:

£50 Joan Bowes (184)
£30 Pauline Dobson (210)
£20 Cath Madden (45)



WinterWatch Quiz

Our Youth Group have recently visited this Bolton initiative for the homeless and would like to offer you this opportunity to test your knowledge on this subject.

1. How many people sleep rough on the streets in Bolton?
A. 3 B. 30 C. 300
2. How many "homeless" people live in Bolton?
A. 20 B. 200 C. 2000
3. What is the average age of the people who go to WinterWatch?
A. 15-25 B. 26-35 C. 36 +
4. What is the life expectancy of the drug-users who seek help and guidance through WinterWatch?
A. 18 B. 28 C. 38
5. What is the average number of people who use WinterWatch daily?
A. 17 B. 47 C. 77

Answers - see display in church next week