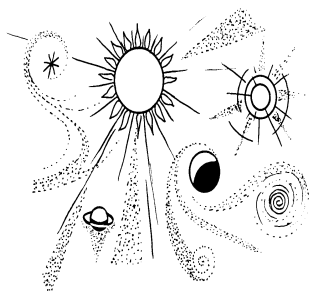


**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**
2ND DECEMBER 2012
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Missal	
Opening Prayer.....	90
Readings.....	96
Preface	34
Eucharistic Prayer..(at priest's choice)	
Post Communion	98



As usual, the great Season of Advent begins, not by talking about Christmas, but about the Second Coming. We've had this theme already for the past two weeks, but there is a slight change of emphasis in the Scripture readings offered for this Sunday: here the tone is positive: it is the "promise" of what is to come that we contemplate. Even in the Gospel, though it talks of the dreadful signs that mark the end times, we hear of a promise - "liberation". For this we should stand erect and hold our heads high. The central theme is that we welcome the coming of a person - Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, and this is what links this Sunday to the coming feast of his birth: we are now preparing to celebrate how he once came: may these preparations also help us to prepare for him when he comes again.

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 1</i> <i>Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ)	<p>Sick: 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 & 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 and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Betty Benson, Alice Banks, John Donoghue, Winifred Bentham, Bridget Goodman, Mgr John O'Connor</p> <p>Anniversary: Monica Dawson, Paul James Stronge, Dr Maura Cowley</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Betty Benson, Joyce Knight, Cynthia Winstanley, William Quinn (Birthday Remembrance), Alice Banks, Monica Dawson, John Donoghue, Winifred Bentham, Special Intention, Paul James Stronge, Dr Maura Cowley</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	No Mass today 7.30pm Advent Service (Tottington Rd Methodist Church) 8pm SVP (SJ) <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	
Tuesday	No Mass today 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	No Mass today 2-4pm Cameo Group (Harbour Room)	
Thursday	No Mass today	
Friday	No Mass today 10am Coffee Morning (SJ) <i>St Ambrose</i>	
Saturday	5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Bible Sunday – A Day of Special Prayer for Openness to the Word of God	
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>		

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

Mgr John O'Connor: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mgr John O'Connor who was parish priest at Holy Infants from May 1976 to September 2000. He died in Nazareth House, Prestwich on Tuesday morning. His funeral will take place at Salford Cathedral – 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 December and 12noon on Wednesday 5 December. May he rest in peace.

Coffee Morning (SJ): This will be held on Friday 7 December for Radcliffe Road Mother & Baby Unit.

Toy Offertory (SJ): This will take place on the weekend of 8/9 December (i.e. next weekend). Any toys you wish to give must be at St John's in time for the 9.15 Mass, since they will then be taken to the parish in Blackburn immediately after that Mass. Thanks.

Christmas Draw: Please have all tickets, money and prizes in by next weekend, as the draw will take place the following weekend after the 9.15 Mass.

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

Christie Friends: The recent fashion show raised £500. This will be used for the benefit of the patients and their families. Thank you for all your support. *Kath.*

Year of Faith – Catholicism: St James' Parish Montserrat continue their series of meetings using the *Word on Fire* material by Fr Robert Barron:

- Monday 3 December – *The Ineffable Mystery of God: That Than Which Nothing Greater can be Thought.*
- 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.

Harbour Room Book Club: Thank you to all the brave members who attended the last meeting to discuss a particularly challenging book! It resulted in a great discussion. 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*

Diocesan Pilgrimages: May 2013 (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Krakow & Czestochowa) and October 2013 (The Early Church of St Paul & St John). Details of these pilgrimages can be found on the notice board in the church porch.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
BL1 7AL
01204 309609



Think Vocation

As we enter into the season of Advent, especially in this Year of Faith, let us use the New Year in the life of the Church to consider what God is calling each one of us to do with our lives.

Advent & Christmas

Walk With Me: The booklets and calendars for Advent are now available – free of charge. Do please take one for your household and use it to help your prayer during this season of preparation for Christmas.

Advent Service: The Churches in Harwood Advent Service will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 3 December at Tottington Road Methodist Church. All welcome.

Cameo Group: Christmas Decoration Workshop. The next event will be on Wednesday 5 December (2 to 4pm) in the Harbour Room. Bring along your own dish, pot or tray and greenery if possible. This will be a fun afternoon and all are welcome.

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 and are now available. Please call 0844 871 2932, collect in person from Bolton Central at the Reebok, or go online at 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.

Christmas Draw (SJ): Tickets are on sale in both churches.

CAFOD World Gifts: Catalogues for these are now available at the back of each of our churches. You may wish to make use of these gifts as an alternative to traditional Christmas presents.