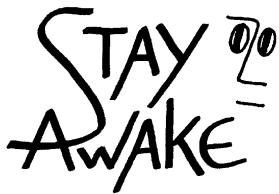


**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR  
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

**30TH NOVEMBER 2014 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming**



Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: “Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!” is the cry of a people who need God. “...The master is coming” is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with love and mercy.

Nevertheless we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord’s coming, we must remember that it might be today!

| <b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b><br><i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1</i><br><b>Sunday Missal: page 93 Preface: page 34</b> |  | <b>Prayers Please</b>  |
|---|--|--|
| Sunday<br><i>St Andrew,<br/>Patron of<br/>Scotland</i>  | 9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children’s Liturgy<br>10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children’s Liturgy<br>11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children’s Liturgy<br>2pm Baptism (SC) <i>A Special collection for CARITAS</i>   | <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 and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> Liz Alderson, Irene Allen, Joseph Bryan, John Ainscow, Nellie Morris</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Mary Coyne, Dr Mike Flynn, Kevin Canning, Ann Greene, Paul James Stronge, Monica Dawson</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Andrew Shaw (terminally ill), For a safe delivery, Kevin Canning, Ann Greene, Bernard Neyland (sick), Mary Coyne, Paul James Stronge, John Ainscow, Monica Dawson</p> <p><b>Bishop John Arnold:</b> Please keep our new bishop in your prayers as he prepares to take up this new role in his ministry of service to the diocese. He arrives in Salford this week, ahead of his installation on Monday 8 December.</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> |
| Monday  | 9.30am Mass (SJ)<br>7.30pm Churches in Harwood Advent Service (SB)<br>7.45pm SVP (SJ)  |  |
| Tuesday   | 8.15am Mass (SC)<br>10am Requiem Mass for John Ainscow (SB)<br>No Evening Mass<br>7.30pm SVP (SB)<br>7.45pm Christmas Evening (St James the Great)   |  |
| Wednesday<br><i>St Francis<br/>Xavier</i>   | 9.30am Mass (SJ)   |  |
| Thursday  | 9.15am Mass (SB)<br>9.15am School Mass in Church (SC) - Advent   |  |
| Friday  | 9.30am Mass (SJ)   |  |
| Saturday  | 11am-12noon Adoration & Reconciliation<br>5pm Mass (SC)<br>6.30pm Mass (SJ)  |  |
| Next<br>Sunday<br><i>Bible Sunday</i>   | 9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children’s Liturgy<br>10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children’s Liturgy<br>11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children’s Liturgy<br>11.30am Christmas Fayre (St Columba’s)<br>12.30-1.30pm Carol Singing in Bolton Town Centre<br>2pm Baptism (SB) |  |

**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**

**Tel: 01204 301927 E-mail: office@sbsj.org.uk Website: www.sbsj.org.uk**

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

**Congratulations:** To Jude Hunter McCann Brown who was baptised at St Brendan's last Saturday. We pray that he and his family may continue to grow in faith.

**CARITAS:** As we begin to make our preparations for Christmas, it is good to think about those in need, as we are doing locally through BRASS and Urban Outreach. This weekend we will have a special collection for CARITAS Diocese of Salford which combines a number of care services for children, families and vulnerable people in our community.

**Ebola:** CAFOD, as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee, is appealing for donations to help combat the effects of the Ebola crisis. Rather than having a further special collection, our parish CAFOD group would welcome any private donations. Please put these in an envelope and hand it in when you come to church. Thanks

**CAFOD World Gifts:** Have you ever thought of giving someone a chicken, a cow or a queen bee for Christmas? CAFOD World Gifts are alternative gifts that make a world of difference. They do something no pair of socks can, they change lives around the world. If you would like more information, please speak to a member of the CAFOD Group or visit [www.cafod.org](http://www.cafod.org) or pick up a catalogue.

**Carol Singers Needed:** If you enjoy singing Christmas carols then come along and join us as we sing to the Christmas shoppers in Bolton Town Centre on Sunday 7 December 12.30-1.30pm in the Market Place (meet at 12.20pm at the base of the escalators) and Tuesday 9 December in Bolton Market 11am-12noon (meet at 10.50am at the seating area in the centre of the market). Everyone is welcome, just turn up on the day and song sheets will be provided. For more information please contact Keith on 01204 546081 or email: [tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk](mailto:tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk). *Christians Together*

**Harbour Room Book Club (SB):** Thank you to all who supported our last Book Club meeting which was lively and informative as usual! The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17 December. The book for discussion is *Notes from a Small Island* by Bill Bryson. This is our Christmas gathering so **please note the earlier start of 1pm**. Mince pies and a Raffle etc. All are most welcome. *Madeleine*

**"Be Attitudes":** This is a version of the Beatitudes devised for National Youth Sunday, reflecting on the question "How happy are you?". They are as follows:

- Be Humble – Let God work through you
- Be Sorrowful – Grieving is ok, it shows your love
- Be Gentle – It will get you further than you think
- Be Just – The truth sets people free
- Be Merciful – We all need forgiveness
- Be Pure – Open your heart and you will see God
- Be Peaceful – Everybody is a child of God
- Be Courageous – Dare to do good so God can work through you

Further information about them, including a prayer that goes with each one, is available at [www.catholic-ew.org.uk/home/featured](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/home/featured)

**Church Cleaning (SJ):** J Burton & H Bradbury

## Advent & Christmas

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

**Postage Stamps:** Royal Mail Madonna and Child stamps (both 1st and 2nd class) are available from Post Offices again this year. Just ask for religious stamps.

**Put the Christ Back into Christmas:** A special concert of Advent & Christmas music, poetry and prayers with a Catholic art exhibition will be held on Tuesday 2 December at St James The Great, Monserrat, BL1 5TX (7.45pm after Mass). Admission is free but there will be a collection to support Bolton's Revive & Young Parents Home Charities.

**St Columba's Christmas Fayre:** Sunday 7 December (11.30am). Christmas Draw tickets are now on sale.

**Silent Night Carol Service:** Monday 8 December at 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 John's Christmas Draw:** Tickets are on sale. Prizes will be gift vouchers only. Anyone wishing to donate a voucher of any value will be very welcome.

**CAMEO Group:** Wednesday 10 December (2pm-4pm) in the Harbour Room (SB). Christmas Flower decorations by Margaret Fazackerley Please bring Ivy or Holly and if you have one, a bowl for the decoration.

**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!

**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 (Knowsley Street, Bolton) on Friday 12 December at 7.30pm. Bolton Music Service works with a number of choirs and music groups from across Bolton and this is their opportunity to 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. **Tickets Now on Sale!**

**Christmas Folk Afternoon:** This will be held on 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.

**Cameo Group:** *Event for 2015:* Wednesday 14 January. Post Christmas Fun and Games. Details to follow.

## Urban Outreach

Urban Outreach is planning to provide Christmas Dinner on Jesus to 1000 nominated individuals and families around Bolton who find this time of year difficult. This is a complete Christmas Day meal in a box including the chicken, vegetables, crackers and chocolates and much more. This brings the love of Jesus into so many homes in a practical way!

### How we are helping:

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

Our SVP are nominating some households in our area to receive the hampers and our three schools are also planning to contribute to this initiative.

If you would like to help by either donating items or money or volunteering to help pack & give out the hampers (17-23 December) then please contact Hannah Matthews, Local Welfare Provision Coordinator, Urban Outreach (Bolton), Environ House, Salop Street, Bolton BL2 1DZ. Tel: 01204 385848) [christmasdinner@urbanoutreach.co.uk](mailto:christmasdinner@urbanoutreach.co.uk)

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### HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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



## Marriage Matters

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

### Reflections for Advent and Christmas

**First Sunday in Advent** Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

### Thanking God for each other

*"Stay awake for you never know when the time will come..."*  
Today's Gospel reminds us to remember that our lives together will not go on forever. It is therefore so important to thank God every day for the wonderful gift that we are to each other, indeed one of the greatest gifts that the Father has given us.

### Think Vocation

It might seem a little daunting to know that we all have a special vocation. But it is simply to say that God has a plan for each one of us. That is what a vocation is – a call from God, to become the saint he wants us to be. As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, we can resolve to discover that vocation or, if we know it already, to live it to the full.

**Collections & Donations:** *All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan's, St Columba's or St John's as appropriate.*

**Mass Intentions:** *Cheques should be made payable to St John's*  
**Gift Aid:** *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*

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