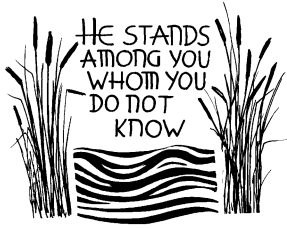


**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

14TH DECEMBER 2014 - 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 1; Divine Office Week 3</i> Sunday Missal: page 113 Preface: page 34 or 35		Prayers Please
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy and followed by Gaelic Coffee (raising funds for SVP) 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SC)	<p>Sick: 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>Lately Dead: Jean Jones, Mavis Coyne, Stephen McPhillips, Joan Salter, Nellie Morris, Norah Slater, Robina Lomax</p> <p>Anniversaries: Thomas Grimes, Jean (McGarry) Stones, James & Annie McGrath, Ann Davis, Thomas Currid, Herbert Holroyd</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Rosemary Davies (sick), Thomas Grimes (1st Anniversary), Jean (McGarry) Stones (1st Anniversary), Rosemary Davies (for successful treatment), William & Elizabeth Jenkinson, Bernadette Croft (Birthday Remembrance), Caroline Garside (recovering), James & Annie McGrath, Jean Jones, Joyce Knight, Ann Davies, Thomas Currid, Herbert Holroyd, Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance)</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) 2pm St John's School KS2 Carol Service (In Church) 2pm St Columba's School KS2 Nativity (In Church) 6pm St Columba's School KS1 Nativity (In Church) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	8.15am Advent Mass (SC) 2pm St Columba's School KS1 Nativity (In Church) 6pm St Columba's School KS2 Nativity (In Church) No Evening Mass 7pm Carol Service (Thornleigh) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am School Mass in Church (SJ) 1pm Funeral Service for Robina Lomax (Overdale) 1pm Thornleigh Choir at the Hidden Gem, Manchester 1pm-3pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB) 6.30pm St John's School KS2 Carol Service (In Church) 7pm Light up a Life Service (Bolton Hospice)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) 1.30pm St Brendan's School Nativity (In Church)	
Friday	9.15am School Christmas Mass In Church (SC) 9.30am Mass (SJ) 12noon Carol Service at the YMCA (Deansgate, Bolton) All welcome to attend. 8.30pm & 10pm Carol Singing in Harwood [see overleaf]	
Saturday	11am Baptism (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday <i>Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy and followed by Christmas Draw 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 3pm Reconciliation Service (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

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.salforddiocese.net



Bishop John Arnold

Monday 8 December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, saw another great moment in the history of the Diocese, as Bishop John Arnold was installed as the eleventh Bishop of Salford. In a packed Cathedral, filled with representatives from Parishes and Schools, hundreds of priests, many of the Bishops and two Cardinals, he was greeted at the door of the Cathedral by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon and the Provost of the Diocesan Chapter, Monsignor Michael Quinlan. They escorted him to the Altar, where the Apostolic Letter appointing Bishop Arnold was read, before he was solemnly seated in the "*Cathedra*", the Bishop's Chair, and invested with the Crozier and Mitre by Bishop Emeritus Terence Brain. Bishop Arnold presided over a prayerful celebration of Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. In his homily, Bishop Arnold reminded all present of the generous willingness of Mary to accept the will of the Lord - something which Pope Francis has called all of us, bishops, priests and people, to do in our own age; Bishop Arnold explained with clear examples for himself and all of us! He asked that the whole Diocese join in praying a simple prayer, several times a day: *"It takes about 1.5 seconds to say, but it's a prayer: **"Stay with us, Lord, on our journey."** I hope that that little phrase can become the prayer of this Diocese, said by thousands, every day, several times a day. 1.5 seconds, not too much time to spend there! But it will mean that the Lord will be with us. It will mean that we will understand well his will for us. And if the Lord is with us, that means the Spirit of God is with us too, working through us, and as Saint Paul says, where the Spirit is at work we can do more than we ask for or even imagine."* At the end of Mass, Bishop Arnold received greetings from His Excellency Archbishop Antonio Mennini, the Holy Father's representative in Great Britain. You can download a copy of the Order of Service of the ceremony and a transcript of Bishop Arnold's homily. It is hoped that a video of the Installation will be available soon. In the meantime, you can view a comprehensive gallery of photographs of the event by visiting the diocesan website www.salforddiocese.net.

*"Stay with us,
Lord, on our
journey."*

*Please pray for
Bishop John Arnold*



Advent & Christmas

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:

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

Hidden Gem (Manchester): Thornleigh Choir will be singing at 1pm on Wednesday 17 December

Light Up a Life: This service will be held at Bolton Hospice at 7pm on Wednesday 17 December

Carol Singing: Churches in Harwood will again be Carol Singing in the run up to Christmas. On Friday evening (19 December) we will be singing at the Grey Mare, Tottington Road at 8.30pm and then moving on to the White Horse, Stitch-mi-Lane, at 10pm. The following Monday (22 December) we will be singing at Longsight Lodge at 6.30pm and then going around the Bramdean Estate. All are welcome to join in.

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



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.



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.

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

Congratulations: To Charlotte Margaret and Pippa Joan Booth who were baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that both they and their family may continue to grow in faith.



Singers required: Traditionally there have been carols before the Christmas Eve Mass at St John's. This year a small group are planning to sing four additional carols and would welcome some additional voices. If you are interested please join either of the two remaining practices after the 9 15am Mass at St John's.

The Harbour Room Book Club: will be having its Christmas get-together on Wednesday 17 December (1pm -3pm). The book under discussion is Bill Bryson's *Notes from a Small Island*. Please note earlier start time. Raffle and refreshments. All are welcome.

Poppy Appeal: Thank you to all who bought a poppy at St John's Church. A total of £80.56 was raised. A receipt for this collection is on the notice board in the Patmos Room.

Fairtrade Stall: Fairtrade goods will be available for sale at St John's after both Masses this 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

St Columba's Christmas Fayre: Thank you to everyone who organised or came along to the Fayre last Sunday. A total of £860 was raised.

Christmas Cleaning (SJ): The general clean for St John's Church will take place on Monday 22 December after the Morning Mass.

Parish Christmas Dance

Unfortunately due to the low number of tickets sold, the dance that was to be held on Friday 19 December at Dunscair Conservative Club has now had to be cancelled.

Think Vocation

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 of God

Marriage Matters

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

A TV programme poses the question: 'Who do you think you are?' When John, baptising in the desert, was asked this question, to paraphrase he replied: "I am a voice, drawing attention to something greater than you can see or hear." Our marriages are like this! We are a 'sign' radiating God's love for all His people.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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JOHN	WITNESS	LIGHT
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WATER	BETHANY	JORDAN



VACANCY

GREATER MANCHESTER CHURCHES TOGETHER (GMCT) ECUMENICAL FACILITATOR

Salary: £18K. *A half-time post (20 hours a week) for a fixed term of 18 months with a strong possibility of a renewed contract.*

The Facilitator is employed to enhance the ecumenical life and mission of the Church in Greater Manchester. They will encourage and support the work of GMCT between and across the local churches. The role is office based, but flexible with some travel and home-working. We are looking for a self-motivated person with a real commitment to ecumenism, as well as administrative, communication, negotiation and IT skills. The Facilitator will work closely with the Chair of the Trustees and with other key stakeholders in the charity.

Closing date for applications: 16th January 2015

Interview date: 30th January 2015 (in Manchester)

For further information and an application pack, please contact The Accounting Administrator on 0161 205 0838 or Email: bishopdoye@outlook.com or see our church notice boards.

ST BRENDAN'S R C PRIMARY SCHOOL

Brookfold Lane, Harwood, Bolton, BL2 4DZ

Vacancies

"We believe our children deserve the very best."

Deputy Headteacher

NOR 210 Group 2

Salary Grade: Leadership Scale L6 – L10

Actual salary: £43,232 - £47,750 1.0 FTE and Permanent

Required from April 2015 or as soon as possible.

Due to the promotion of the current post holder the Governors are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and inspirational Deputy Headteacher to work in partnership with the Headteacher in this successful and highly regarded school.

Closing date 22 January 2015 at 3.30 pm

Shortlisting 29 January 2015

Interviews 9 February 2015

Class Teacher

Salary Grade: Qualified Teachers Payscale – Advanced Pay Scale, plus TLR2

Salary: T1 – T9 £22,023 - £37,496

Actual Salary: T4 – T9 £27,650 - £37,496, plus TLR2 £2,587 1.0 FTE and Permanent

Required From: April 2015 or as soon as possible

Due to the promotion of the current post holder the Governors are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, inspirational and consistently good to outstanding teacher to lead Special Needs throughout our school.

Closing Date: 15 January 2015.

Shortlisting: 19 January 2015

Interviews: 2 February 2015

Informal visits to the school are welcomed and can be arranged by contacting the school office on 01204 333133.

The school is committed to safer recruitment practice and pre-employment checks will be undertaken before any appointment is confirmed. These posts are subject to an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Job Descriptions, Person Specifications and Application Forms can be downloaded from the "Education Vacancies" section of the diocesan website www.salforddiocese.net.

Please note that the diocese has a new website – www.salforddiocese.net.