



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

29 NOVEMBER 2015 - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 2; Divine Office Week 1</i> Sunday Missal: page 90; Readings: page 96 Preface: page 34		 <p>Sick: Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Cecilia Guest, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Linda Southern, Mary Joan Tornai, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Lucy Hesford, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Winifred Coyle, Josephine Knowles, Rita Bell, Mary Cassidy and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Bill Callaghan, Michael Taylor, André Bonneau, Chris Taylor, Jim Snaith, Patrick McGarrigle, Wilfred Feeney, Kevan Dunleavy, Fr Denis Sheahan</p> <p>Anniversaries: Kevin Canning, Ann Greene, Mary Coyne</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Bill Callaghan, Deceased members of the Cambridge & Carter families, Kevin Canning, Ann Greene, Mary Coyne, André Bonneau, Jim Snaith, Michael Taylor, Joyce Knight, Deceased members of the Knowles family, Fr Denis Sheahan</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>
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> This Newsletter is sponsored by HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE Peel House 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton. BL1 7AL 01204 309609 </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;">  www.hfs.co.uk </div>
Monday <i>St Andrew, Patron of Scotland</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Churches in Harwood Advent Service (Harwood Methodist, Tottington Road) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	8.15am Advent Mass in School (SC) 7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.15am Whole School Advent Mass in Church (SC) 9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.15am School Mass in Church (SB) – Yr 5 Advent 7.30pm Peter Lupton, book signing at the Cathedral Centre	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	11am-12noon Adoration and Reconciliation (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 5pm-9pm Christie Friends - <i>Musical Evening</i> 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SC) <i>Children's Toy Collection for Fortalice at each Mass today</i>	
<p>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.</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Cheques should be made payable to St John's</p> <p>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</p>		

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

Assistant Priests: Rev Seán O'Brien & Rev Francis Parkinson

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Bill Callaghan: We are very sad to hear the news about Bill who died on Tuesday. As many of you know, Bill and Margaret had recently left St John's parish to move to Ulverston to be near their daughter and her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret, Angela and the family at this sad time. May he rest in peace.

Year of Mercy: As we prepare for the Year of Mercy (which begins on the 8 December) we have the Diocesan Handbook and Prayer Cards available for you to take away this weekend.

Book Signing: Peter Lupton will be signing copies of his book *Rowland Broomhead, 1751-1820 – Apostle of the North* on Thursday 3 December at 6.30pm (with the formal launch of the book at 7pm) in the Cathedral Centre. Refreshments are available and the Bookshop will be open.

Harbour Room Book Club: Thank you to all members who attended our last lively meeting. The next Christmas meeting will be on Wednesday 16 December (1pm-2.45pm) to discuss any Georgette Heyer Regency Romance. Refreshments and a raffle will be on offer and could all members enter into the festivities by wearing something green, red or gold (a scarf will do!) All welcome.

Christie Friends: Are having a *Musical Evening* on Saturday 5 December at the Ukrainian Club, Castle Street, Bolton (5-9pm). Tickets are £7.50 which includes a pastie & peas supper! Please come along and support the patients and their families.

Christmas Toy Collection: We have been asked if we would hold a collection of newly purchased toys in aid of Fortalice. Please bring along any unwrapped toys to our Sunday Masses on the 6 December and a representative from Fort Alice will give a short talk.

Lourdes 2016: For those interested in joining next year's Pilgrimage, there will be a Mass to celebrate the Feast of The Immaculate Conception in the Cathedral on Tuesday 8 December (7.30pm). Also, if anyone is interested in becoming a Young Adult Volunteer, they will have to attend a training session at the Cathedral Centre if their application is to be approved. The next one will be held on Sunday **17 January 2015 (not December) at 2.30pm.** Terry Smith 01204 531197. Email: terencesmith4@virginmedia.com.

Churches in Harwood: There will be a joint Advent service on Monday 30 November at Harwood Methodist Church, Tottington Road. (7.30pm).

Urban Outreach

Urban Outreach is planning to provide Christmas Dinner on Jesus to 1,200 nominated individuals and families around Bolton who find this time of year difficult. This is a complete Christmas Day meal in a box. This brings the love of Jesus into so many homes in a practical way!

If you would like to help by either donating items or money or volunteering to help pack & give out the hampers (16-23 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

Christians Together in Bolton Town Centre Shoppers' Carol Singing

Carol Singers Needed!

Sunday 6th December, in the Market Place

12.30-1.30pm

(Meet at 12-20pm at the base of the central escalators)

Tuesday 8th December, in Bolton Market & Beales

11am-12noon in Market, & 12.30-1pm in Beales

(Meet at 10.50am in the seating area in the centre of the indoor market)

Tuesday 15th December, in Crompton Place

11am-12noon

(Meet at 10.50am in front of Subway in Crompton Place)

Everyone welcome, just turn up on the day to one, two or all of the events, no practice required, song sheets will be provided.. For more info contact 01204 546118 or E-mail Keith: tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk

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.

St Columba's Christmas Draw: tickets are now on sale.

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.

Marriage Matters (twainoneflesh.org.uk)

Keeping the star of our love burning brightly: Jeremiah's joy reminds us of the weeks before our wedding, a time when we were deeply aware of our love for one another. Since then, many cares have threatened to divert us from that love and it has sometimes been necessary to make a special effort to share, listen and forgive to keep the star of our love burning brightly.

Think Vocation

As we enter into the season of Advent, especially in this Year of Mercy, 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.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	L Seals	M Hilton, J Cranshaw
6.30 (SJ)	A Howarth	J Cowen, E Clarke, M Fau-Goodwin
9.15 (SJ)	J Carter	E Rothwell, J Summerton, A Gracie, D Ramsden, J Carroll, F Smith
10.15(SC)	Caroline	M Hilton, J O'Connor
11.15(SB)	T Regan	J Murphy, K Wilkinson, P Carolan