



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

6 DECEMBER 2015 - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Again we hear about the coming “Day of Christ”, and meet the character of John the Baptist. Just as once before he “prepared the way” for the coming of Christ, so today he does the same for us. Our hearts should be open to his voice, as he calls us to repentance, and asks us to make the way straight for the coming of our Lord. The imagery of this Sunday is particularly rich: the dominant image is of a vast population moving together - the return from exile in the first reading, the going and coming of the sowers in the psalm, the community of the Church preparing together in Paul’s letter. We prepare for the coming of the Lord as His people - a community who cooperate to make the “processional way” of the Holy One - flattening the hills of opposition and ridicule, filling in the valleys of doubt and despair, so that “all mankind shall see the salvation of God.”

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 2</i>		<div style="text-align: center;"></div> <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, Agnes Brazel and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Bill Callaghan, John Fay, Joe Beirne, Maureen Rooney, Marian Moore, Kevan Dunleavy, Michael Taylor, André Bonneau, Chris Taylor,</p> <p>Anniversaries: Gerard Dobson, Monica Dawson, Len Wallwork, Robert & Hilda Healey, Agnes & George Beeching, Lucy Hesford</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Bill Callaghan, Joyce Knight, Gerard Dobson, Monica Dawson, John Fay, Joe Beirne, Maureen Rooney, Len Wallwork, Robert & Hilda Healey, Agnes & George Beeching, Lucy Hesford, For all deceased parishioners (from the SVP), Marian Moore, Kevan Dunleavy, Charles Bell</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> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: small;">This Newsletter is sponsored by</p> <p>HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Peel House 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton. BL1 7AL 01204 309609</p> <div style="float: right; text-align: center;">  <small>www.hfs.co.uk</small> </div> </div>
<i>Sunday Missal: page 99; Readings: page 106; Preface: page 34</i>		
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 (SC) <i>Children’s Toy Collection for Fortalice at each Mass today</i>	
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	8.15am Advent Mass in School (SC) 11am Celebration for the Launch of Holy Door for Schools (<i>Salford Cathedral</i>) 7pm Mass (SB) <i>Year of Mercy Begins</i> 7.30pm SVP (SB) 7.30pm Mass for Lourdes and Year of Mercy (<i>Salford Cathedral</i>)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	5pm Mass (SC) 5.30pm-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - Children’s Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – Children’s Liturgy 11am Opening of the Holy Door at Salford Cathedral 11.15am Mass (SB) – Children’s Liturgy 2pm Wedding Service for Vincent McGuinness & Tracy Winder (SC)	
<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>		
Christmas Mass Times		
Christmas Eve: 5pm (SC); 6.30pm (SJ); 8.30pm (SB)		
Christmas Day: 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB)		
That weekend we will have just three Masses: Sat 5pm (SC); Sun 9.15am (SJ) and 11.15am (SB)		

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG
Assistant Priests: Rev Seán O’Brien & Rev Francis Parkinson
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Year of Mercy: On Tuesday (8 December) the Year of Mercy, as proclaimed by Pope Francis, will begin. As it is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and the day when they open the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica, there will be special services in Salford Cathedral to launch this special year: 11am - launching the Holy Doors for Schools (which

will travel around the schools of the diocese during this year) and 7.30pm - a Mass for Lourdes and the Year of Mercy. Bishop John will open the Holy Door in Salford Cathedral on Sunday 13 December. There are four other nominated places of pilgrimage in the diocese which will each have a Holy Door:

- St Mary's Church (The Hidden Gem), Manchester.
- Wardley Hall
- Schoenstatt Shrine, Kearsley.
- St Mary & St John Southworth Church, Samlesbury.

There are more details about the Year of Mercy in the Diocesan Handbook. Please take one for this special year.

Urgent: St Brendan's have been asked if we can collect 160 jars of cranberry sauce for the Urban Outreach Christmas Day meal in a box. Can you help? This will be a one day collection on Sunday 13 December. Thank you

Christmas Tree Festival: Congratulations to St John's Primary School who won the public vote for the most popular tree at the Bromley Cross Village Hall last Saturday. There were 31 entries. The decorations were hand made by the children in the art club.

St Brendan's School Choir: Well done to the children from St Brendan's who performed at the Bridgewater Hall last Monday evening in the CLIC Sargent Carol Service, raising money for children with cancer. They continued to perform without faltering when the technology broke down and the backing track stopped mid-song! Well done. The Mayor of Bolton was very proud of them - as was their parish priest.

Manchester Inter-Faith Vigil for Peace: At Holy Name Church, Oxford Road, Manchester on Monday 7 December (6-8pm) with prayers readings and reflective readings. All welcome.

Christmas Toy Collection: At our Sunday Masses this weekend we welcome the representatives from Fortalice who will collect in any toys that have been kindly donated.

The Destitution Project: Our December collection will be held in our three churches over the next few weeks. There is a list up in each Church of items greatly in need. Thank you, as always, for all your continued support.

Early notice for Theatre lovers: I have provisionally booked 30 seats for the Octagon's summer production of "*Singin' in the Rain*". The date will be Wednesday 8 June at 2pm matinee performance. The cost is £15.45 (apparently we pay more for singing!) I cannot stress how quickly these seats are booking. I will not be collecting any cash until after Christmas. If interested please contact Frank and Madeleine on 303505. Or you can see us after Mass on a Sunday at St. Brendan's.

Caritas: The Carol Service at the Cathedral will take place at 7.30 pm tonight (6 December), featuring the magnificent Cathedral and Notabilty choirs. Tickets available on arrival (£5). All proceeds will go to Caritas and Salford Loaves and Fishes.

Advent & Christmas

Advent Masses: St Columba's School, 8.15am Tuesday Mornings (8 & 15 December).

School Christmas Events:

St Columba's Nativity (In Church)

Monday 14 December - KS1 & Early Years (2pm); KS2 (6pm).

Tuesday 15 December - KS2 (2pm); KS1 & Early Years (6pm).

St Brendan's Nativity Service (In Church)

Thursday 17 December (1.30pm)

St John's KS1 Nativity (In School)

Monday 14 December (4pm)

Tuesday 15 December (10am)

Tuesday 15 December (2pm)

St John's Christmas Mass With Carols (In Church)

Friday 18 December (9.30am)

Retirement Mass for Mr Carroll: in St John's Church on Wednesday 16 December at 7pm.

Reconciliation Service - Sunday 20 December (3pm) at St Columba's

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

St John's Christmas Draw: Tickets are going well and we have thirty books of tickets left. It would be great if we could distribute them all! If you haven't got some already, please take some to sell to your family and friends. Any further offers of vouchers for prizes would be welcome.

Marriage Matters (twinoneflesh.org.uk)

Smoothing out rough ways...to welcome You: Paul speaks of our '*partnership in the Gospel*' and prays that our love continues growing. He wants us to '*come to true discernment*' about our choices. Luke's Gospel challenges us as married couples: are we enabling each other to '*prepare a way for the Lord*? Are there 'paths' that need '*straightening*' or 'rough' attitudes/behaviours that need to be made smooth?

Think Vocation

St John the Baptist was the voice that cries in the wilderness asking people to prepare a way for the Lord and to change their ways. Like John, the voice of the Church can seem to be a voice in the wilderness of our world. It might not be a message that the world wants to hear but it needs to hear it. May others be called to serve in the Church as a voice for the Lord for his people today.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	M Maybury	F & P McDowell
6.30 (SJ)	J Finlay	P McArdle, B Ramsden, F Filbin
9.15 (SJ)	P French	E Rothwell, F Smith, M Cropper, D Ramsden, J Carroll, A Gracie
10.15(SC)	N Villa	F Ginty, T Owen
11.15(SB)	C Bridge	K Wilkinson, P Carolan, J Murphy