



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

13 DECEMBER 2015 – GAUDETE SUNDAY

This Sunday is called “Gaudete” Sunday — “Rejoice Sunday”. This comes from the readings we hear today, and it underlines an important point. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what to do - they must repent, and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing - something which is hard and unrewarding. The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful. When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm - nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly. Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing! The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord - even though it may involve hard work - is something utterly joyful, because of our love for Him, and His love for us



Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 3</i> Sunday Missal: page 110; Readings: page 116; Preface: page 34		
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children’s Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children’s Liturgy 11am Opening of the Holy Door at Salford Cathedral 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Wedding Service for Vincent McGuinness & Tracy Winder (SC)	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.
Monday <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 2pm St Columba’s KS1 & Early Years Nativity (in Church) 4pm St John’s KS1 Nativity (in School) 6pm St Columba’s KS2 Nativity (in Church) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	Lately Dead: Bill Callaghan, Agnes Brazel, William Ganley, Fr Willoughby, Gerald Kennedy
Tuesday	8.15am Advent Mass in Church (SC) 10am St John’s KS1 Nativity (in School) 2pm St John’s KS1 Nativity (in School) 2pm St Columba’s KS2 Nativity (in Church) 6pm St Columba’s KS1 & Early Years Nativity (in Church) 7pm No Mass Today 7.30pm SVP (SB)	Anniversaries: Jean (McGarry) Stones, James & Annie McGrath
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 1pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB) 7pm Retirement Mass for Mr Carroll (SJ)	Mass Intentions: Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), Hannah Kilroy, Joseph Cassidy, John Murray, Patrick Murray, William Ganley, Jean (McGarry) Stones, Thanksgiving to St Anthony, St Jude & the Sacred Heart (exam success), Thanksgiving to Our Lady & the Holy Spirit (exam success), Margaret Callaghan & family, James & Annie McGrath, Bill Callaghan, Fr Denis Sheahan, Fr Willoughby, Fr Fearn (Special Intention), Kevan Dunleavy, Joyce Knight
Thursday	10am Requiem Mass for Agnes Brazel (SB) 1.30pm St Brendan’s School Nativity Service in Church	Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6): We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers
Friday	9.15am St Columba’s School Christmas Mass in Church 9.30am St John’s School Christmas Mass in Church	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>This Newsletter is sponsored by</p> <p>HOWARTH’S FUNERAL SERVICE</p> <p>Peel House 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton. BL1 7AL 01204 309609</p>  <p>www.hfs.co.uk</p> </div>
Saturday	2pm Baptism (SC) 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 11.15am Mass (SB) – Children’s Liturgy 3pm Reconciliation Service (SC)	
<p>Christmas Mass Times</p> <p>Christmas Eve: 5pm (SC); 6.30pm (SJ); 8.30pm (SB)</p> <p>Christmas Day: 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB)</p> <p>That weekend we will have just three Masses: Sat 5pm (SC); Sun 9.15am (SJ) and 11.15am (SB)</p>		

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG
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Congratulations: To Lucy Jayne Seed who was Baptised at St Columba's Last Sunday. We pray that she and her family may continue to grow in faith.

Donations: Many thanks indeed to parishioners of St John's who made a donation of £1,000, part of which is to be spent on having the Tabernacle restored and the rest put towards our current building project. Thanks too for a donation of £50 for our Retired Priests Fund and a donation of £10 to CAFOD in memory of Fr Sheahan.

Christmas Toy Collection: Thank you for the wonderful response to the toy collection last Sunday. Both Jennifer and Sylvia have asked us to pass on their gratitude for your generosity.

Poppy Appeal: Thank you to all who bought poppies at St John's this year. It raised £53.20.

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: Thirty seats have been provisionally booked for the Octagon's "*Singin' in the Rain*". The date will be Wednesday 8 June (2pm matinee). The cost is £15.45. Cash won't be collected until after Christmas. Contact Frank and Madeleine on 303505 or see us after Sunday Mass.

Harbour Room Book Club: This will take place on Wednesday 16 December at 1pm. There will be refreshments and a raffle. The books under discussion are the Regency Romances of Georgette Heyer. All welcome!

Advent & Christmas

Advent Masses: St Columba's Church, 8.15am Tuesday (15 December).

School Christmas Events:

St Columba's Nativity (In Church)

Monday 14 Dec: KS1 & Early Years (2pm); KS2 (6pm).

Tuesday 15 Dec: 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: 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: The Draw will take place on Sunday 20 December after the 10.15am Mass.

St John's Christmas Draw: The Draw takes place on Sunday 20 December after the 9.15am Mass. This week is the last chance to bring back your sold tickets or you can drop them off before next Sunday at the Presbytery.

Buildings Update

St John's Patmos: Room: Hopefully, as you have been watching this building go up, you can see that we are going to have a fine modern addition to our church. Unfortunately, there has been a serious delay on the project and the completion date has been put back to mid-February. The contractors have assured us that they will be in a position to remove the wooden hoarding inside the church and put the benches back in time for Christmas. It does however mean that we will not have the Patmos room available as an overflow for our Christmas services.

St Columba's Heating: After an initial problem with the new boiler, caused by a faulty circuit board, we now have a warm and cosy church for the winter.

St Columba's Presbytery: Many thanks to those parishioners who have helped, over the past few months, to clear things from the Presbytery in preparation for its demolition. There is more to knocking a house down than just getting a bulldozer! Tenders for the demolition will be sought over the coming weeks and hopefully it can be demolished in the New Year

St John's 200 Club

The December winners are:

£50 M Speed (9)
£30 P McDowell (85)
£20 C Walton (116)



Marriage Matters (twainoneflesh.org.uk)

Rejoice in God's gift: Today we are invited to 'Rejoice' and recognise 'God is in our midst'. This theme of celebration is manifest in our love and acceptance of each other. Though our life will fade with the passing years, the love we have for each other will continue to grow. We are always God's delight, His gift to His people.

Think Vocation

What must we do? Advent is a time for us to reflect about our lives. A regular examination of a well-informed conscience is essential for the committed Christian. By exposing ourselves regularly to such questioning in prayerful reflection, the Lord can guide us to take the steps in our lives that keep us on the way of peace.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	A Houghton	K Egan, C Molyneux
6.30 (SJ)	C McArdle	L Rule, Z Mikolajewski, J Cowen
9.15 (SJ)	A Grundy	A Grundy, J Summerton, D Ramsden, A Cunliffe, M Speed, M Cropper
10.15 (SC)	G Roohan	P & F McDowell
11.15 (SB)	L Lamoury	M Durkan, P Brennan, C Taylor