


20TH DECEMBER 2015 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



It's only in this last week before Christmas that we begin to hear about the "Christmas story" itself. For the past weeks we have been preparing ourselves to greet the Lord, when he comes. Now we prepare to remember how he first came, by listening to the prophecies of his coming, and by hearing of the events before his birth. We meet the woman, Mary, who herself had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah. She has received the angel's greeting, and his strange news, and has accepted her role in God's plan. Now she hurries to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who herself bears John the Baptist in her womb. John, just as we heard last week, alerts us to the presence of the Lord, as he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. His joy is that God has kept his promise, and is with his people.

Liturgy & Activities This Week	
<i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4</i>	
Sunday Missal page 119; Readings 124; Preface 35	
Sunday <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy 3pm Reconciliation Service (St Columba's)
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 6.30pm Churches in Harwood Carol Singing (at Longsight Lodge and Bramdean)
Tuesday	10am Church Christmas cleaning at St John's & St Columba's 7pm Mass (SB)
Wednesday	10am Requiem Mass for Catherine Slater (SJ)
Thursday Christmas Eve	9.15am Mass (SB) 5pm First Mass of Christmas (SC) 6.30pm First Mass of Christmas (SJ) 8.30pm First Mass of Christmas (SB)
Friday Christmas Day	9.15am Mass (SJ) 10.15am Mass (SC) 11.15am Mass (SB)
Saturday <i>St Stephen</i>	5pm Mass (SC)
Next Sunday The Holy Family	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SJ)
Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6): We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers	
 Thank you to all who have helped prepare our churches for the Christmas Season. Thank you for all your cards, presents and good wishes.	

The Nativity of the Lord

We celebrate this great Feast on Friday, though it begins with our Masses on Thursday evening. We have (hopefully) prepared throughout Advent and now our Feast is here.

We welcome the new-born Jesus, the child of Bethlehem, the Son of God and the Son of David. He is the Light of the World and our Saviour. He is the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The Church gives us the various feasts of the Christmas Season (Christmas Day itself, The Holy Family, The Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord) to help us explore in different ways the significance of this historical event and the wonder of the gift that is given.

Let us make full use of the season, to pray about and reflect upon the mystery of the Incarnation, especially in this Year of Mercy.



A Happy and Holy Christmas to all parishioners, their families and friends.
From Fathers Cooke, O'Brien and Parkinson

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

Assistant Priests: Rev Seán O'Brien & 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

Prayer Please



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, Ron Brierley, Derek Crompton and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.

Lately Dead: John Shorrocks, Agnes Brazel, Catherine Slater, Fr Anthony Sudlow

Anniversary: Joan Stronge, Roy Connelly, Robert Holden, Beatrice Holden, Francis Scholes, Josephine Scholes, Oswald Kenyon, Ann Davies, Eileen Mason, Sheila Smith

Mass Intentions: Eileen Wakes, Maria Verbini (seriously ill), Joan Stonge, Paul Stronge, Mary Cassidy, Agnes Brazel, Roy Connolly, James & Mary Mathen, The Mathen family & friends, John & Mary Carter, The Carter & Cooper families & friends, Deceased members of the Duffy & O'Toole families, Andrew Hustwit, Peter Holden, Robert Holden, Beatrice Holden, Francis Scholes, Josephine Scholes, Oswald Kenyon, John Shorrocks, May O'Brien, Pat O'Brien, John Fitzgerald, Deceased members of the O'Brien families, Ann Davies, Barbara Grimes, Fr Gerard Haugh, Florence Toole (Sick), Eileen Mason, Kathleen Aspen, Gerard Murphy, James & Annie McGrath, Deceased members of the Cambridge & Carter families, Sheila Smith

27TH DECEMBER 2015 - THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday Cycle C: Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1

Sunday Missal: page 143; Preface page 36



As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more “dramatic” events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today’s Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called “hidden years” - the many years of family

life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Masses & Feasts This Week

Sunday - 9.15am (SJ); 11.15am (SB); 2pm Baptism (SJ)
 Monday - 9.30am Mass (SJ) – *The Holy Innocents*
 Tuesday – 7pm Mass (SB)- *St Thomas Beckett*
 Wednesday – 9.30am Mass (SJ)
 Thursday – 9.15am Mass (SB); 1pm Wedding Service for Lewis Grant & Laura Glanvill (SB)
 Friday – 9.30am Mass (SJ) – *Mary, The Holy Mother of God*
 Saturday – 5pm Mass (SC); 6.30pm Mass (SJ); Reconciliation: 5.30-6.00pm (SJ)-*St Basil & St Gregory*

Think Vocation

Because of the permanence of the Sacrament of Marriage, we have the best setting for bringing children into the world. The marriage vows are lived out each day that the Lord sends to us. We pray for the people who are to be married in our parish this year. May the Holy Family bless all the families in our parish with a love for God, for his Church and for the sacred priesthood.

3RD JANUARY 2016 - THE EPIPHANY

Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Wk 2

Sunday Missal page 165; Readings 167; Preface 37



In the East, this Season of Christmas is called the “Time of Manifestation”, or Showing. Today is the ‘Feast of the Manifestation’, or the Showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men that travelled from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the new born

child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: “All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.” The same is true of the key word in the second reading: “Revelation”. Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God’s plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour’s birth revealed at last to us.

Masses & Feasts This Week

Sunday – 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB)
 Monday - 9.30am Mass (SJ); 7.45pm SVP (SJ)
 Tuesday – 7pm Mass (SB); 7.30pm SVP (SB); 7pm Becoming Catholic Course (SJ)
 Wednesday – 9.30am Mass (SJ)
 Thursday – 9.15am Mass (SB)
 Friday – 9.30am Mass (SJ)
 Saturday – 11am Baptism (SC); 5pm Mass (SC); 6.30pm Mass (SJ); Reconciliation: Saturday 5.30-6.00pm (SJ)
 Next Sunday - 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB); 2pm Baptism (SB) – *The Baptism of The Lord*

Think Vocation

The magi were guided by a star to be shown the Prince of Peace in Bethlehem. As Christians, we have a responsibility to make Christ known to all those whom we encounter. We do this by living lives that show that Christ is alive within us. May our love for the Lord grow in this Year of Faith and lead others closer to Christ.

Congratulations: To Vincent McGuinness & Tracy Winder who were married at St Columba's last Sunday. We pray that they will have a long, happy and fulfilling married life.

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 16 January 2016 (10.30am-12noon) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's. This is for parents from any of our three parishes who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Please let one of the priests know if you will be attending or email office@sbsj.org.uk.

Harbour Room Book Club: Thank you to all members who attended our Christmas Book Club. Congratulations to all the raffle prize winners and a big thank you to all who helped make it such an enjoyable occasion. Our next meeting will be Wednesday 27 January to discuss *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak beginning at the new time of 1.15pm and expecting to finish at 2.45pm. A Happy Christmas and a New Year to all! *Madeleine*

Almanacs: The new Diocesan year book is on sale at £3.

Help Required (Paid): For an elderly St John's parishioner. The help is needed 5pm each day (for half an hour) to prepare a light meal. Please telephone Simon (304221).

Church Cleaning: The general Christmas clean for St John's and St Columba's will take place on Tuesday 22 December at 10am.

Destitution Project Collection: Thank you for the fantastic response so far! The joint food collection will continue during December at each of our three churches.

Christmas Draw: The Christmas Draw for St Columba's and St John's will take place after the 9.15am & 10.15am Masses this weekend.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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



Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	V Cryer	M Hilton, J Cranshaw
9.15 (SJ)	S Copley	M Russell, J Summerton, A Cunliffe, M Speed, J Carroll, F Smith
11.15(SB)	J Proctor	C Owen, P Brennan, M Durkan

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers 2 & 3 January 2016

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	T Lees	K Egan, C Molyneux
6.30 (SJ)	G Roohan	B Ramsden, F Filbin, L Rule
9.15 (SJ)	M Isherwood	E Rothwell, T Armstrong, A Grundy, D Ramsden, M Cropper, A Gracie
10.15(SC)	F McDowell	F Ginty, T Owen
11.15(SB)	K Wilkinson	P Brennan, M Durkan, C Owen

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers 9 & 10 January 2016

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	M Maybury	M Hilton, J Cranshaw
6.30 (SJ)	E Openshaw	Z Mikolajewski, J Cowen, F Filbin
9.15 (SJ)	T Peyton	M Russell, F Smith, J Summerton, A Cunliffe, M Speed, M Cropper
10.15(SC)	V Cryer	M Hilton, J O'Connor
11.15(SB)	K Denton	T Proctor, T Taylor, J Proctor

A	B	Y	M	E	L	C	H	I	O	R	R	E
B	D	E	L	B	A	T	S	L	A	A	E	S
S	I	V	D	L	E	O	N	Z	T	R	H	N
A	S	R	E	J	O	S	A	S	T	E	R	E
N	G	G	C	N	O	H	O	S	P	E	T	C
T	N	Y	O	M	T	S	A	H	G	I	J	N
A	I	B	R	L	Y	M	E	N	T	E	R	I
C	K	A	A	S	T	R	A	P	S	A	C	K
L	A	B	T	S	D	M	R	U	H	T	O	N
A	B	R	I	G	H	O	S	H	O	L	Y	A
U	M	R	O	O	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R
S	H	E	N	L	E	S	N	I	T	A	R	F
C	R	I	S	D	S	Y	R	A	M	I	N	G

CHRISTMAS TREE
DECORATIONS
HOLLY
REINDEER
TINSEL
MANGER
BABY
JOSEPH
JESUS
SHEPHERD
KINGS
STAR
STABLE
SANTA CLAUS

ADVENT
CAROLS
ANGEL
CRIB
HOLY
NOEL
MARY
BALTHAZAR
MELCHIOR
CASPAR
GOLD
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH

