

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

4TH DECEMBER 2016 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Everything gets more specific today: what is being preached is not an event, but a person: Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him,

Paul invites us to imitate him. We have here a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah – useful to refer to when we get to Christmas and he is revealed as a child in a manger!

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekdays of Advent; Divine Office Week 2</i> Sunday Missal: page 99; Preface page 34		
Sunday Bible Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB) <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Openness to the Word of God</i>	<p>Sick: Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Linda Southern, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Winifred Coyle, Josephine Knowles, Rita Bell, Mary Cassidy, Derek Crompton, Roy Shepherd, Tony Wright, Janet Rabbett, Mike Greenhalgh, Barbara Stoppard, June Dawson, Greta Barlow, Cassie Wilson, Christine Hasleden, Suzanne Freeman-Hill, Josephine Gell, Jude McCann Brown, Ann Cunliffe, John Pryor, Marie France, Maureen Woodward and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Bob Horrocks, Bernard Hulme, Gemma Fogarty, Ivan Connaughton, Gillian, Louise Ridley, Cynthia Buckley, Agnes Tetlow, Marie Claire Winstanley, Stephen Jones, Mary Hennessey, Theresa Pucacco</p> <p>Anniversaries: Gerard Dobson, Robert Healey, Hilda Healey, Arthur McSherry, Annie McSherry</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Gerard Dobson, deceased members of the O'Kane & Boardman families, Fr O'Brien (a special intention), Robert Healey, Hilda Healey, Bob Horrocks, Bernard Hulme, Gemma Fogarty, Ivan Connaughton, Gillian, Elaine Jansen (99th Birthday), Louise Ridley, Cynthia Buckley, Arthur McSherry, Annie McSherry</p>
Monday (5 th)	9.30am Mass (SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday (6 th)	8.15am Advent Mass in Church (SC) No Meditation today No Evening Mass at St John's Today 7.15pm SVP (SB) 7.30pm Becoming Catholic Meeting (Patmos Room, SJ)	
Wednesday (7 th) <i>St Ambrose</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.15pm No Meditation today	
Thursday (8 th) <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.15am Mass (SB) 7pm CAFOD Meeting (Harbour Room) – Please note change of venue. There will be a Ceilidh coming up in February 2017	
Friday (9 th)	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday (10 th)	11am Memorial Service for Sarah Stewart (SB) 5pm Mass (SC) – With Children's Liturgy	
Next Sunday (11 th) <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy	
Think Vocation		Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6)
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.		We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

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

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Father Seán O'Brien

This Sunday we say farewell to Fr O'Brien. Although this is both a sad and joyous time, we wish him all the very best and thank him for everything he has brought to our parishes. We will keep him very firmly in our thoughts and prayers as he prepares now to start his time at Ampleforth.

A Message From Fr O'Brien: Thank you, sincerely, for all the cards, gifts and good wishes you have given to me. Please continue to pray for me, as I will pray for you. *Fr O'Brien*



Congratulations: To Summer Isla Niamh Jones who was baptised at St John's last Saturday. We pray that she and her family will continue to grow in faith.

Churches Together in Harwood Helping Urban Outreach: Please help! The collection of Chicken Gravy Granules cartons will continue until 11 December at St Brendan's. We are quite a way off our target, so every carton counts. *Thank you.*

The Destitution Project: The food/clothing collection continues at each of our three churches. The items particularly needed at the minute are: rucksacks, underpants, hats, gloves, scarves, jeans and trousers, sweaters, waterproof and warm coats (all medium), sunflower or vegetable oil, sugar, tuna and especially sardines in oil. Thank you for your continued support

Bolton Cancer Voices: Have two exciting concerts in the run up to Christmas: The first is at the Barlow, Edgworth, on Sunday 4 December (7.15pm) *Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Music*. Tickets £8, with complimentary refreshments, are available by phoning 01204 883977 or from the office at The Barlow. The second is *Christmas at the Rock* where the choir joins forces with the Houghton Weavers on Saturday 10 December at 7.30pm in Bury Parish Church, The Rock, Bury. Tickets priced £10 are available by phoning 01204 883977 or from the House on the Rock Café at Bury Parish Church, BL9 0LA.

Fort Alice Christmas Toy Collection: We will hold a special toy collection at our Saturday and Sunday Masses on the 10 & 11 December and a representative from Fort Alice will give a short talk. *Thank you*



Bolton Wanderers Carol Service & Panto: The Carol Service is at 7pm on Monday 5 December. All donations go to Caritas. Donations to Caritas Bolton Young Parents Service can be doubled as part of the national *Big Give* campaign. If you wish to have your donation doubled please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/givingtuesdayBIGGIVE>.

Also, if you would like to go to the Bolton Wanderers Christmas Panto, again with donation to Caritas, please email Meriel Woodward M.woodward@caritassalford.org.uk

Asda (Astley Bridge Store): Is running the green penny campaign for Bolton Young Parents Service; the winner will receive £500 – please ask for green pennies at the till!



Gaelic Coffee Morning (SJ): After the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 18 December. All proceeds will go towards supporting the Children's Liturgy. All Welcome!

Advent and Christmas

A Journey for Advent: Each Monday evening in Advent, there will be time for reflection on Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel*. All are welcome to come along (7.30pm-9pm) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's.

Advent Carol Services at the Hidden Gem: These take place every weekday lunchtime during Advent at 1pm (after the 12.30pm Mass) starting on Monday 28 November. (ending on Wednesday 21 December). The Thornleigh school choir will be singing on Friday 16 December. All welcome to join in these special services.

Cameo Group: The next event will be on Tuesday 6 December (2-4pm) in the Harbour Room and is a *Christmas Decoration Demonstration* by Margaret Fazackerley. All welcome.

Churches Together in Harwood: The Advent Service will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 5 December at Christ's Church.

Celebration of Music and Readings: For Advent and Christmas with the Choir of Saint John's Cathedral and "Notability" Choir at Salford Cathedral at 7.30pm on Sunday 11 December 2016, raising funds for Salford Loaves and Fishes and Caritas Diocese of Salford. Tickets are £5.00 and are available from Loaves and Fishes (0161 737 8775) or Caritas (0161 817 2250) or on the door. Refreshments are available afterwards.

Bolton Hospice: The *Light up a Life* services take place at Bolton Parish Church at 7pm on Wednesday 7 December and Wednesday 14 December (6.30pm) at Bolton Hospice.

Christmas Draw: Tickets are on sale in both St John's and St Columba's Churches.

CAFOD World Gifts: Catalogues for these are now available at the back of each of our churches. You may wish to make use of these gifts as an alternative to traditional Christmas presents.

Marriage Matters

Advent - a new beginning for us? Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves. Our prayer can be that we drop our defences, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend (10/11 December)

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	V Cryer	M Hilton & J O'Connor
9.15 (SJ)	A Hayes	P McArdle, T Armstrong, D Ramsden, J Carroll, M Cropper, A Gracie
11.15(SB)	E Rankin	P Carolan, J Murphy, K Wilkinson

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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