

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

11TH DECEMBER 2016 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)



In many ways the readings this Sunday are simply a continuation of last week – Isaiah gives us more details about the work of the Messiah, and Paul invites us to continue to be patient until the Lord’s Coming. What is slightly different is the voice of John the Baptist this week: last week in Matthew 3 he was proclaiming with utter confidence that “someone is coming”. Now, in Matthew 11, he asks Jesus from prison: “Is it you?” For us, as we listen to these scriptures, we are being offered something very particular – the prophecies of Isaiah (and indeed the prophet John the Baptist) are pinned down firmly and securely in the person of Jesus, Son of Mary – in fact, Jesus himself, in his reply to John says as much: “I am the Messiah that Isaiah prophesied.” Again we are invited to hold the images of the prophecies in our minds until Christmas, when we can look on the child in the manger and say “We know who this is: it is the promised Messiah – God who comes to save us!”

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekdays of Advent; Divine Office Week 3</i> Sunday Missal: page 110; Preface page 35		Prayers Please
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children’s Liturgy	<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, , Maureen Woodward, Rose Adams, Valerie Piddock and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Joseph Walton, Marian Surplus, George Rutter, Marie France, Bob Horrocks, Bernard Hulme, Gemma Fogarty, Ivan Connaughton, Gillian, Louise Ridley, Cynthia Buckley, Agnes Tetlow, Theresa Pucacco</p> <p>Anniversaries: James & Annie McGrath, Jean (McGarry) Stones</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Ivan Connaughton, Marian Surplus, James & Annie McGrath, Valerie Piddock (for a successful operation), Andrew Hayes (Birthday Remembrance), Theresa Pucacco, Joseph Walton, Jean McGarry Stones, Margaret Barrett</p>
Monday (12 th)	9.30am Mass (SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday (13 th) <i>St Lucy</i>	8.15am Advent Mass in Church (SC) 2pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room) 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday (14 th) <i>St John of The Cross</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 1pm-3pm Harbour Room Book Club (Harbour Room, SB) 2pm Nativity (KS1 & EYFS) St Columba’s 6pm Nativity (KS2) St Columba’s 7pm St John’s School Candlelight Advent Service in Church (SJ) 7.15pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room)	
Thursday (15 th)	9.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Nativity (KS2) St Columba’s 6pm Nativity (KS1 & EYFS) St Columba’s	
Friday (16 th)	9.30am Whole School Mass in Church (SJ)	
Saturday(17 th)	5pm Mass (SC)	
Next Sunday (18 th)	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children’s Liturgy 5.30pm Reignite Mass(Salford Cathedral) <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	
Think Vocation		
<p>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.</p>		<p>We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers</p>

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Congratulations: To Robbie Lawrence who was baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that he and his family will continue to grow in faith.

The Harbour Room Book Club: Will meet on Wednesday 14 December at 1pm-3pm. Please note the earlier meeting time which is to accommodate the raffle, refreshments and general social occasion. The books under discussion are the murder mysteries of Agatha Christie. Please watch out for a special TV showing of Christie novels over the Christmas period. Everyone is most welcome.

Churches Together in Harwood Helping Urban Outreach: The collection of Chicken Gravy Granules cartons will continue until this Sunday (11 December) at St Brendan's. *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

Fort Alice Christmas Toy Collection: We will hold a special toy collection at our Masses this weekend. A representative from Fort Alice will give a short talk. *Thank you*

Fair trade Stall:

The fair trade stall will be open before and after the 9.15am Mass at St John's this Sunday. There will be a range of fairly traded Christmas gifts and there is a machine for card payments. The stall will be open on a regular basis on the second Sunday of each month and you can be assured that the producers are very grateful for your support.



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!

Taize Pilgrimage: The Taize community are inviting anyone aged 18-35 to join their European pilgrimage of *Trust on Earth* to Riga, Latvia (from 28 December to 1 January 2017). This will be the first time in a Baltic country. Are you interested and would like to find out more? You can phone James Walton on 07460 505055

Tea & Coffee: Are always available after the Sunday morning Masses at St John's (9.15am) & St Brendan's (11.15am). Everyone always welcome to come along.

Salford Diocese – Vacancy

The Diocese of Salford have an exciting opportunity for a suitably experienced and qualified practitioner to join our expanding Safeguarding Team. We wish to appoint a highly motivated and well-organised Safeguarding Officer to support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator with the development and implementation of Safeguarding policies and strategies throughout the Diocese. Applications are welcomed from candidates with a practical working knowledge and experience of safeguarding and the ability to relate this experience to providing advice and support. Please see posters on the notice boards for more details.

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.

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 on Wednesday 14 December (6.30pm) at Bolton Hospice.

Churches in Harwood Carol Singing: Will begin at the White Horse (8.30pm) on Friday 16 December. On Monday 19 December there will be singing at Longsight Lodge and the Bramdean estate at 6.30pm.

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

Reconciliation Service

7pm Wednesday 21 December (St Brendan's)
This service is for all three parishes.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: 5pm First Mass of Christmas (SC)
6.30pm First Mass of Christmas (SJ)
8.30pm First Mass of Christmas (SB)

Christmas Day: 9.15am Christmas Mass (SJ)
10.15am Christmas Mass (SC)
11.15am Christmas Mass (SB)

Marriage Matters

Cherish the gift: John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' coming. When Jesus came, the Magi brought gifts. We are preparing gifts for family and friends. When you married, and every day since, you have gifted yourself...entrusted yourselves ...to each other; do you still cherish the gift? How much has trust helped you on your journey together? Thank the Lord!

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend (17/18 December)

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	C Smith	M Hilton & J Cranshaw
9.15 (SJ)	V Holstead	M Russell, A Rawlinson, J Carroll, M Cropper, A Gracie F Smith
11.15(SB)	T Proctor	J Murphy, K Wilkinson P Carolan,

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