


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

**18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was "promised long ago" (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b>		<b>Prayers Please</b>
<i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekdays of Advent; Divine Office Week 4</i> <b>Sunday Missal:</b> page 119; Preface page 35		<p><b>Sick:</b> 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><b>Lately Dead:</b> Ann Blackburn, Maribel de Leon Benitez, Joseph Walton, Marian Surplus, George Rutter, Arthur Dicker</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Ann Davies, Roy Connolly, May O'Brien</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Ann Davies, Ann Blackburn, Peter Quinn, Mary Ann &amp; Peter Quinn, Elizabeth &amp; William Jenkinson, Roy Connolly, Maribel de Leon Benitez, Blessings for family abroad (Jordan &amp; Hayhurst), Ambrose &amp; Mary Royle and deceased members of the Royle &amp; Kilkoyne families, Special Intention to the Holy Family for the Harris &amp; Smith families, Arthur Dicker</p>
Sunday	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>	
Monday (19 <sup>th</sup> )	9.30am Mass (SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday (20 <sup>th</sup> )	8.15am Advent Mass in Church (SC) 11am Funeral Service for Carole Knott (Overdale) 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday (21 <sup>st</sup> )	9.15am Whole School Mass (SC) 10am Requiem Mass for Anne Blackburn (SJ) 1.30pm Whole School Nativity Service (SB) 7pm Reconciliation Service (St Brendan's)	
Thursday (22 <sup>nd</sup> )	9.15am Mass (SB)	
Friday (23 <sup>rd</sup> )	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday (24 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 5pm Mass (SC) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) 8.30pm Mass (SB)	
<b>The Nativity of The Lord</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> 9.15am Mass (SJ) 10.15am Mass (SC) 11.15am Mass (SB)	
Sunday (25 <sup>th</sup> )		
<b>Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6)</b> We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers		<p>This Newsletter is sponsored by</p> <p><b>HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE</b></p> <p>Peel House 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton. BL1 7AL 01204 309609</p> <div style="text-align: right;">   <small>www.lhfs.co.uk</small> </div>

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### Baptism Preparation

Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 14 January 2017 (10.30-12noon) in the Patmos Room at St John's. This is for parents from any of our three parishes who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Before making arrangements to attend one of our Baptism courses, please speak to one of priests after Mass.

**Harbour Room Book Club:** Thank you to all members who attended the last meeting of the Harbour Room Book Club. A special thanks to all who contributed and helped in any way to make it such an enjoyable meeting. Congratulations to our Raffle winners! The next meeting will be on 25 January 2017. A very Happy Christmas and New Year to all our members.

**Churches Together in Harwood Helping Urban Outreach:** The gravy granules have been safely delivered and were gratefully received by Urban Outreach. Thank you so much for your generosity. Providing 435 cartons (which was St Brendan's share of the 1,300 needed) was no mean feat!

**The Destitution Project:** The final food/clothing collection at each of our three churches is this weekend. 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



**Gaelic Coffee Morning (SJ):** After the 9.15am Mass this Sunday. 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

### 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.

**Ceilidh:** The CAFOD group are organising a Ceilidh on Friday 10 February 2017. Please save the date and come along and enjoy! Tickets will be on sale soon.



**Church Cleaning (St John's):** The general clean for Christmas will be held on Thursday 22 December at 10am. Please come along if you are able to help. Thank you.

**Christian Meditation:** There will not be any meetings next week.

### Advent and Christmas

**A Journey for Advent:** The final evening of reflection on Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel* is this Monday (7.30pm-9pm) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's.

**Advent Carol Services at the Hidden Gem:** These end on Wednesday 21 December (after the 12.30pm Mass) All welcome to join in these special services.

**Churches in Harwood Carol Singing:** On Monday 19 December there will be singing at Longsight Lodge and the Bramdean estate at 6.30pm.

### 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

**Taking courage from love:** The Gospel relates how Joseph overcame his serious doubts about Mary – and married her! She too had faced her own fears about the future – and said “Yes!” We too can have doubts and lack confidence in the future, but like Mary and Joseph we can take courage from our love for each other and God's love for us too.

### Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend (24/25 December)

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00pm (SC) 6.30pm (SJ)	L Seals To be arranged	M Hilton & J Cranshaw T Armstrong, P McArdle A Rawlinson, V Rawlinson, M Fau-Goodwin, E Rothwell To be arranged
8.30pm (SB)	To be arranged	To be arranged
9.15am (SJ) 10.15am (SC) 11.15am (SB)	A Grundy  To be arranged To be arranged	A Gracie, M Cropper, F Smith M Speed, A Grundy, J Carroll To be arranged K Wilkinson, P Carolan, J Murphy

H	T	R	I	B	D	R	E	A	R	BETROTHED	CHILD	HUSBAND
E	L	E	T	C	E	N	R	U	D	HONOUR	DIVORCE	ANGEL
H	F	W	H	O	H		O	I	I	DREAM	WIFE	BIRTH
M	E	I	M	P	T	N	V	S	V	SON	PROPHET	HOME
O	L	F	W	S	O	O	T	O	O			
D	D	I	T	H	R	R	O	E	R			
E	E	R	S	C	T	O	P	M	E			
N	A	G	E	E	E	O	L	O	C			
A	N	D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I			
L	E	G	N	A	M	O	H	E	S			