

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS
27TH NOVEMBER 2011
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: “Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!” is the cry, of a people who need God. “...The master is coming” is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with love and mercy. Nevertheless we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent,

saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord’s coming, we must remember that it might be today!

| Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1</i> <i>Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i> | | Prayers Please | |
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| Sunday | 9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) | <p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Philip Blackburn, Laura Shuttleworth, Bill Kay, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Baby Guy, Bernard Edmundson, Jonathan Rimmer, Maria de los Angeles, Paul Preston, Elizabeth Patterson, Eunice Brierley, Betty Boyle, Bernard Callaghan, Judith Oldham, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Paul Whittle, Caroline Vickers, Bill Sharples, George Cowley, Marie Donnelly, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Gerard Walker, Elzie Ball, Karen West, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Alf Isherwood, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael (six year old), Baby Rose, Calum Russell (baby), Margaret Edge, Frank Brazel, Cynthia Winstanley, Gordon Campbell, Graham Roberts, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O’Grady, Tommy Lenihan, Pauline Bowling, Paul Buckley, Margaret Walsh, Joan Plumbley, Graham Turner and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Marie Rigby, Brian Holt, Francis Xavier Price</p> <p>Anniversary: Paul James Stronge, Moira Cowley, Kevin Canning, Ann Greene, Louis & Florence Hodgkinson, Len Wallwork</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Paul James Stronge, Moira Cowley, Marie Rigby, Kevin Canning, Ann Greene, Louis & Florence Hodgkinson, George Parkinson (Baptism), Blanche Woodburne, Samuel & Ivy Cooper (Birthday Remembrances), Terry Delaney (90th Birthday), Winnie Leahy, Brian Holt, Francis Xavier Price, Len Wallwork, Anne Cordner (Birthday Remembrance)</p> | |
| Monday | 9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Joint Advent Service (Christ Church Harwood) 8pm SVP (SJ) | | |
| Tuesday | 10.30am Nativity Play for parishioners (SJ School) 7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB) 7.30pm Social Committee (Patmos Room) | | |
| Wednesday <i>St Andrew, Patron of Scotland</i> | 9.30am Mass (SJ) 1.30-3pm Harbour Room Book Club 7.30-8.30pm Youth Group (Patmos Room) | | |
| Thursday | 9.15am Mass (SB) 1pm Funeral Service for John Kelly (SJ) 6pm Sacramental Programme Reconciliation (SB) | | |
| Friday | 9.30am Mass (SJ) <i>Day of Special Prayer for Migrants & Refugees</i> | | |
| Saturday <i>St Francis Xavier</i> | 3.30pm Christmas Lights Switch-on (Dunscar) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) | | |
| Next Sunday | 9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 12noon-2pm Christmas Fair (SJ School) 2pm Baptism (SB) | | |
| Advance Notice For our celebration of Christmas we will have Masses on: Saturday 24 December – 6.30pm (SJ) & 8.30pm (SB) Sunday 25 December – 9.15am (SJ) & 11.15am (SB) | | | Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6) We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers |

Graham Turner: Some of you will have met Graham at St Brendan's. He is a deacon and is awaiting ordination as a priest for the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh. He is currently staying with his parents in Harwood whilst undergoing treatment for leukaemia. Hopefully he will soon feel strong enough to be able to exercise his ministry as deacon and assist in the celebration of Mass at St Brendan's. Please keep him in your prayers.

Congratulations: To Oliver Keir & Thomas Benjamin McCann, Archie Michael Newton and Anna & Emily Smith who were baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. Also to George Raphael Parkinson who was baptised at St Osmund's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

New Roman Missal: From today we begin to use the new translation of all the prayers of the Mass. We now have the new missals for use at the Altar and at the Chair. The ones at St Brendan's are being paid for in memory of a recently deceased parishioner. If anyone would like to do likewise for the ones at St John's, please have a word with Fr Cooke. Thanks.

Nativity Play: St John's School invite parishioners to a performance of the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One Nativity Play on Tuesday 29 November at 10.30am. Tickets are £1.50 and include tea/coffee and a mince pie!

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 30th, at 1.30pm - 3pm approx. to discuss *The Little House*, a psychological thriller, by Philippa Gregory. Homemade refreshments and £1 admission. All welcome! *Madeleine*

CAMEO Group: "A Christmas Arrangement". The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 December (2-4pm) in the Harbour Room. It will be a Christmas decoration workshop. Come along and learn how to make your own decorations.

Christie Friends: As most of you are aware, I am on a small committee supporting "The Friends". The money raised is for the benefit of the patients and their families should problems arise. With family, friends and your help, I've raised £40,000 over the past 10 years. Paul, my son, works at Schipol Airport and a Dutch airline has given him a £500 holiday to raffle off for "The Friends". The tickets are £10 each, limited to 200. If anyone is interested, please contact me on 01204 529838. Also, special thanks to the Phoenix Knights of Harmony. Thank you for your support. *Kath Brown*

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation session for parents wishing to have their child baptised in either of our churches will take place on Thursday 15 December (7-8.30pm) in the Patmos Room at St John's. Please let Fr Cooke know if you will be attending.

Toy Offertory: This will take place at St John's on the weekend of 10/11 December. All contributions must be in by the end of the 9.15 Mass that Sunday so that they can be taken over to the church in Blackburn which organises this scheme.

Bromley Cross Christmas Lights: Saturday 3 December, 3.30pm at Dunscair War Memorial. There will be community carol singing with Eagley Band, a short blessing from the minister of Christ Church and then the switch on around 4pm. Everyone is then invited to move to Christ Church, Walmsley for free mince pies and small treats (and mulled wine for the adults). Parking will be available at Christ Church.

Christmas Draw (SJ): Tickets are on sale at St John's.

Christmas Dance: On Friday 9 December at Dunscair Conservative Club, with entertainment from Jo Lester & The Stardusters. Tickets cost £6 (including supper) and are on sale at both churches.

Ordination: If you are planning to attend Joe's ordination as a deacon (Saturday 7 January 2012 at 12noon in Salford Cathedral) please put your name on the list at the back of either church so that we can give the cathedral some idea of the numbers to expect. Please continue to pray for Joe as he prepares to take this important step.

Church Cleaning (SJ): J Burton & H Bradbury

Pilgrimages

Lourdes 2012: Lists are on the noticeboards in both churches for those who may be interested. Cost details are not yet known but, based on this year's tariff, the expected price per person should be in the region of £600 to include travel and full board. The dates are Tuesday 31 July to Monday 6 August. *Terry Smith*

Rome & Assisi: Monday 17 September 2012 until Monday 24 September 2012. The cost is £1345 per person sharing a twin-bedded room and includes many items normally extra on a holiday.

A full colour brochure detailing the daily programme can be found on the parish website - www.sbsj.org.uk or you can view the copy displayed on the notice board in the Patmos Room and the Harbour Room.

Please contact me on 01204 853515 or email me - margaret_russell@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested in going. I am acting as tour leader and co-ordinator for the pilgrimage and booking forms and brochures are available from me. I will look forward to hearing from you! *Margaret Russell*

Bruges, Paderborn & Douai: This is being organised by Our Lady of Grace parish, Prestwich. It is a coach tour from 23 July to 3 August 2012, with 3 nights in Bruges, 5 in Paderborn and 3 in Douai (all half board) at a cost of £745 (with £209 single room supplement). For further details, see the noticeboards in church.

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Think Vocations

It might seem a little daunting to know that we all have a vocation. But this is simply to say that God has a plan for each one of us. That is what a vocation is - a call from God, to become the saint that he wants us to be. As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, we can resolve to discover that vocation or, if we know it already, to live it to the full.