

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS
18TH DECEMBER 2011
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 character of Mary and hear of the angel Gabriel being sent to her to invite her to take her part in the mystery of the Incarnation, "the revelation of the mystery kept secret for endless ages". This mystery springs from the House of David and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the establishing of that house. An interesting idea is that the first reading talks of David wishing to build a house for the Lord; through the prophet he is told not of the house that he would build, but the House which is his line: eventually, in Mary (betrothed to Joseph) the House of David does itself become the house of the Lord, the womb wherein he has a dwelling place.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4 Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		Prayers Please	
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i> 11.15am Mass (SB) <i>CAFOD Box Collection</i> 3pm Reconciliation Service at St Columba's 6-8pm Aspire Youth Mass (Spiritans Centre, Salford)	<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, Jim Birch, Peter Broughton, Jane Dent and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Ellen Kelly, June O'Shea, Fr Joseph Corcoran, Fr Basil Prior OSM</p> <p>Anniversary: May O'Brien, Pat O'Brien, Jack Fitzgerald, Andrew Moore, Michael Clarke, Annie & James McGrath</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Deceased members of the O'Brien & Fitzgerald families, Andrew Moore, Margaret Baron, Michael Clarke, June O'Shea, Annie & James McGrath, Charles Bell <i>["Christmas Masses" will be on next week's newsletter]</i></p> <p>Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6): We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers</p>	
Monday <i>Advent II</i>	No Mass today 8pm SVP (SJ)		
Tuesday <i>Advent II</i>	No Mass today 7pm Carol Service at Thornleigh 7.30pm SVP (SB)		
Wednesday <i>Advent II</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) – School Mass in church 1pm Thornleigh Choir at Hidden Gem, Manchester 7pm SJ School Carol Service (in church) 8.30pm Churches in Harwood Carol Singing		
Thursday <i>Advent II</i>	9.15am Mass (SB) 10am Church Cleaning (SJ) 1pm SB School Nativity Service (in church) 6.30pm Churches in Harwood Carol Singing 7pm Reconciliation Service (SB)		
Friday <i>Advent II</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 10am Church Cleaning (SJ)		
Saturday <i>Advent II</i> Christmas Eve	6.30pm Mass (SJ) 8.30pm Mass (SB)		
Next Sunday Christmas Day	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB)		
Collections, Donations, Gift Aid <i>All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan's or St John's as appropriate. If you are a tax-payer, the parish can claim back the tax you have paid on any donations you make if you simply sign a Gift Aid form once. Please ask. Thanks.</i>			Baptism or Marriage <i>By appointment and with preparation You must give six months notice for Marriage See Fr Cooke to arrange</i>
Find out about our Parishes, Masses, Events, Groups and so much more: www.sbsj.org.uk			

In the Picture – Passion for Christmas: Until 4pm on Sunday in Crompton Place Shopping Centre. The story will be told briefly and you can dress in the costumes and have your picture taken. The pictures can then be downloaded free from the website www.getinthepicture.org.uk

Congratulations: To Amelia Elise Wright and Henry James Wright who were baptised at St John’s last Sunday. We pray that they and their family may continue to grow in faith.

Church Cleaning (SJ): The general cleaning will take place on Thursday and Friday at 10am for those able to come along and help prepare the church for Christmas.

Harbour Room Book Club: Many thanks to all the members who made our Christmas meeting such a lively and interesting one. Thank you to all who contributed mince pies, raffle prizes and plenty of ideas for discussion! Congratulations to our raffle winners! The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25 January, same time, same place. A very Happy Christmas to all our members. See you in the New Year. *Madeleine*

St Brendan’s 100 Club

The November winners are:

- £25 C Owen (27)
- £15 T Rabbitt (17)
- £10 T Taylor (23)



This Newsletter is sponsored by
HOWARTH’S FUNERAL SERVICE
 Peel House
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Carol Services
 Thornleigh on Tuesday 20 December – 7pm
 St John’s on Wednesday 21 December – 7pm

Churches in Harwood Carol Singing
 Wednesday 21 December
 8.30pm The White Horse; 9.30pm The Old Grey Mare
 Thursday 22 December
 6.30pm Longsight Lodge; 7.30pm Bramdean
[Apologies that this clashes with our Reconciliation Service]

Carols at Hidden Gem, Manchester
 Thornleigh Choir – Wednesday 21 December – 1pm

Nativity Service
 St Brendan’s on Thursday 22 December – 1pm

Reconciliation Service
 (for both parishes)
 Thursday 22 December – 7pm at St Brendan’s

Christmas Masses
 Saturday 24 December – 6.30pm (SJ) & 8.30pm (SB)
 Sunday 25 December – 9.15am (SJ) & 11.15am (SB)

Children’s Liturgy
 No special liturgy on 25 December or 1 January

Think Vocations

Today we are told how Mary responded when invited by God to be the mother of his son: “let it be done to me according to your word”. Do we have the courage to respond so wholeheartedly to whatever God is asking us to do in our lives?

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

ANGEL	GABRIEL	JOSEPH
MARY	REJOICE	SON
LORD	JESUS	CHILD
ELIZABETH	BARREN	HANDMAID

WinterWatch Quiz

If you didn’t get chance to play this quiz last week, have a go now. Answers are displayed in the Harbour Room & Patmos Room.

1. How many people sleep rough on the streets in Bolton? A. 3 B. 30 C. 300
2. How many “homeless” people live in Bolton? A. 20 B. 200 C. 2000
3. What is the average age of the people who go to WinterWatch? A. 15-25 B. 26-35 C. 36 +
4. What is the life expectancy of the drug-users who seek help and guidance through WinterWatch?
 A. 18 B. 28 C. 38
5. What is the average number of people who use WinterWatch daily? A. 17 B. 47 C. 77