

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

**25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011  
CHRISTMAS DAY:  
NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

*Divine Office Proper of Season*



There's a wonderful way in which the Christmas message emerges as we gather for the First Mass of Christmas: the first words of Scripture we hear are: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." The mystery of Christmas is this - a great revelation: a light in the darkness, a star through the night, the birth of the Sun of Justice; the showing to the whole world of the love of God, made visible in Jesus. No wonder there is a great throng of the heavenly host shattering the darkness of the cold night on the hillside outside Bethlehem - because the invisible night of sin and sadness is shattered by the light of the Saviour's birth.

**Liturgy & Activities**

Sat 6.30 Mass (SJ); 8.30 Mass (SB)  
Sun 9.15 Mass (SJ)  
Sun 11.15 Mass (SB)  
Mon - No Mass - St Stephen  
Tue - No Mass - St John the Evangelist  
Wed - 9.30 Mass (SJ) - Holy Innocents  
Thur - 9.15 Mass (SB) - St Thomas a Becket  
Fri - 9.30 Mass (SJ) - The Holy Family  
Sat - No daytime Mass  
Reconciliation - No celebration this week

**Think Vocations**

God chooses the lowly shepherds of Bethlehem to be the first witnesses of the Incarnation. As Mary says in her Magnificat "he raises the lowly". The Lord Jesus will eventually choose to call himself the Good Shepherd. The Lord continues to call others to humbly serve in the sacred priesthood as shepherds of his flock, the People of God.

**1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2012  
NEW YEAR'S DAY:  
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

*Divine Office Week 2*



We begin our New Year with this feast of Mary. It is an integral part of the Christmas story that Mary responded to God's invitation to become the mother of his son. She enabled God's plan of salvation to be implemented. All the other celebrations focussing on Mary and all the qualities we attribute to her flow from this special role which she was willing to undertake. The gospel tells us that, at the visit of the shepherds, Mary "treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart." She became a faithful disciple of her son, was present at the foot of the cross, and was a witness to his resurrection.

**Liturgy & Activities**

Sat 6.30 Mass (SJ)  
Sun 9.15 Mass (SJ)  
Sun 11.15 Mass (SB)  
No weekday Masses  
Mon - St Basil the Great & St Gregory  
Tue - The Most Holy Name of Jesus  
  
Sat 12 noon at Salford Cathedral:  
Joe Gee's Ordination as Deacon  
Reconciliation - Sat 5.30-6.00 (SJ)

**Think Vocations**

Like Mary we need not fear responding positively to the Lord's invitation to serve him in whatever way that may be. May the Mother of God lead us closer to Christ, as we celebrate the Feast of his Incarnation. By her prayers and intercession may Our Lady urge us to always trust in God's power and goodness.

**8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012  
THE EPIPHANY  
OF THE LORD**

*Divine Office Week 3*



Today is the 'Feast of the Manifestation', or the "Showing" of the Saviour to the whole world. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the new born child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord." By this feast, we proclaim God's plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour's birth revealed at last to us.

**Liturgy & Activities**

Sat 6.30 Mass (SJ)  
Sun 9.15 Mass (SJ) - Children's Liturgy  
Sun 11.15 Mass (SB) - Children's Liturgy  
Mon - 9.30 Mass (SJ) - Baptism of Lord  
Tue - 7.00 Mass (SB)  
Wed - 9.30 Mass (SJ)  
Thur - 9.15 Mass (SB)  
Fri - 9.30 Mass (SJ)  
Sat - No daytime Mass  
Reconciliation - Sat 5.30-6.00 (SJ)

**Think Vocations**

The wise men travelled far in order to bear witness to Christ as the Saviour of the whole world. Our basic vocation, through baptism, is to make Christ known in the world around us. Some have a more specific vocation but each one of us, at the end of Mass, is invited to manifest Christ as we "Go and announce the gospel of the Lord."

### Prayers Please

**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.

**Lately Dead:** Chania Williams, Terry Delaney

**Anniversary:** Oswald Kenyon, Winifred Kenyon, Anna Mikolajewski, Rita McLaughlin, Eileen Croft, Sheila Smith, Kenneth Walker, Ellen Murphy

### Mass Intentions

Dorothy Whyte, Mary & John Marshall, Frances Smith, Fr Dorran, St John's SVP, Mary & Tony Beatty, Special Intention, Philip Marshall, Fr Gerard Haugh, Deceased members of the Lamoury & Thomas families, Barbara Grimes, Oswald Kenyon, Winifred Kenyon, Anna Mikolajewski, Rita McLaughlin, The Noon family, Peggy Davis, The Connaughton, Houlihan, Mannion & Donelan families, Eileen Croft, Ron Higson, Frances & Thomas Cocker, Terence Cocker, Louisa & Peter Higson, Terry Delaney, Leila Parker & family, The Dillon family, Sheila Smith, Kenneth Walker, Philip Blackburn, Deceased members of the Blackburn & Dunleavy families, John & Mary Carter, James & Mary Mathen, Joy & Robert Marsh, Special Intention, Maria Narcissi & Calagero Alaimo, Gerard Murphy, Thanksgiving for 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mark & Norah Maher, Marie Brooks, Cath Clithoroe, The Murphy family, Ellen Murphy, The Cocker family, Chania Williams

*[Masses handed in over the Christmas period will be on the next newsletter]*

### Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6)

We pray especially for: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers

**Chania Williams:** Chania died last Sunday, aged 17, after suffering a brain haemorrhage. She was currently a Sixth Form student at Thornleigh and a former pupil at St John's. Please pray for those two school communities, as well as for Chania and her family at this very difficult time. May she rest in peace.

**Happy Birthday:** To Mary Atkinson, a parishioner of St Brendan's, who is 101 on Christmas Day.

**Thank You:** To all who have prepared our churches for our Christmas feast. Thanks too for your cards, presents and good wishes at this time. *Fr Cooke*

**Christmas Draw:** This raised a total of £873. Many thanks to all who bought or sold tickets or donated prizes. A full list of prize winners is displayed in the Patmos Room. Please bring your ticket if claiming a prize.

**Teachers:** A reminder to those following the CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies) course at Mount St Joseph that the next module begins on 11 January.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

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638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.  
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### Winter Watch

Hopefully you had chance to look at the display in the Harbour Room & Patmos Room to see the quiz answers.

There were 3 rough sleepers in Bolton. As the display said, Malcolm who slept rough in Astley Bridge was recently found on Dunscair Golf Course in a coma; sadly he died.

There are about 2000 homeless people in Bolton, the average age of those going to WinterWatch is 15-25 and the life expectancy of drug users is 28. WinterWatch operates from January to March and the average daily number of users during that period is 77.

On the New Year weekend, members of our Youth Group will make an appeal at the Masses. This will be very specifically for UHT Whole Milk which can be brought to church the following week and will then be taken to WinterWatch.

At the end of January, the SVP in both parishes will be organising a cake bake and the cakes will be taken to WinterWatch. *[More details on next newsletter]*

Please keep this project in your prayers.

**A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS  
AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR  
TO ALL PARISHIONERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**

The next newsletter will be issued on the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January  
Any "urgent" notices will be announced at the weekend Masses or published on the parish website  
Find out about our Parishes, Masses, Events, Groups and so much more: [www.sbsj.org.uk](http://www.sbsj.org.uk)