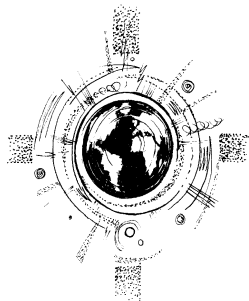


**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

**1ST DECEMBER 2013
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



Advent opens with a great promise: “In the days to come...” the hope of a people who need God. “...The master is coming” is also a promise, not a threat to breed fear, but to answer our cry. So 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 stay awake, and 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 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 A; Weekdays of Advent; Divine Office Week 1</i> Sunday Missal: page 90; Preface page 34		Prayers Please
Sunday	9.15am (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB)	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Elizabeth Patterson, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O’Grady, Pauline Bowling, Emma Turner, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, John Barrett, Bea Gilmore, Roy Smith, Isabelle Karzynski, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Vera Evans, Julie Smith, Ernie Little, Mary Coyne, Anthony Axford, Mary Marshall, Joan Pearce, Joshua Almond, Jacqueline Kay, Wynn Elliot, Tom Wardle, Joan Peake (nee Hooton), Bob Taylor, Rita Margiotta, Noel Gannon, Sheila Derbyshire, David Walton, Dr Bernard Higgins, Winston Shanley, Vera Casey Shaw, Heather Goil, Anna Rule and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Gladys Mills, Paul Sale, Thekla Rock, Malcolm Maybury</p> <p>Anniversaries: Florence & Louis Hodgkinson, Monica Dawson</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Joyce Knight, Bernard Carroll (for the successful outcome of a surgical operation), Paul Sale, Florence & Louis Hodgkinson, Samuel & Ivy Cooper (Birthday Remembrance), Monica Dawson, Christie Friends, Jessica Green (age 6 who is terminally ill), James & Mary Mathen (family & friends), John & Mary Carter (family & friends)</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ) <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Migrants and Refugees</i>	
Tuesday <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	1.30 – 3.30pm Christmas Spirit Afternoon (Harbour Room) 7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.15am School Mass in church (SC) - Advent	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) 7.30 - 8.30pm Scripture Study Course (SB)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday <i>St Ambrose</i>	11am-12noon Adoration and Reconciliation (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday <i>Bible Sunday</i>	9.15am (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 10.15am (SC) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ) <i>St Columba’s Christmas Fayre</i>	
<p>Collections & Donations: <i>All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan’s, St Columba’s or St John’s as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Mass Intentions: <i>Cheques should be made payable to St John’s</i></p> <p>Gift Aid: <i>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. Thanks</i></p>		

Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Michael Cooke

Assistant Priests: Rev Joseph Gee & Rev Francis Parkinson

Parish Office: St John’s Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity – 250037 Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Congratulations: To Mia Rose Travers who was baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that she and her family will continue to grow in faith.

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 14 December (10.30am-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. Please let one of the priests know if you will be attending or e-mail office@sbsj.org.uk

BRASS Collection: There will be a joint food collection during December at each of our three churches. The items particularly needed are: cartons of orange juice, vegetable oil, tinned fruit, jam, biscuits, tinned tomatoes, kidney beans, chickpeas, coffee and sugar.. Thankyou for your continued support!

3 Parish Social Group: Further to the item from Terry Smith on last week's newsletter, here is a message from Ursula Shorrock: Hello! If you have any ideas for outings or events, please contact me on (01204 392591) or email u.shorrock@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you and any help would be appreciated. Thankyou.

Coffee Morning: Wednesday 11 December (10.30am onwards) at 294 Turton Road, Bradshaw. All proceeds will go to CAFOD and the Good Life Orphanage, Kenya. Please join us for a raffle, gift stall, tea, coffee and plenty of talk. Entrance £1.50. Please ring 302584 for travel assistance.

Mary's Meals: Thankyou to all those who returned their boxes for Mary's Meals. The total collected was £167.25 which is a wonderful amount as Mary's Meals are now feeding 822,142 children every day.

Healthcare Professionals: A retreat and holiday for healthcare professionals, entitled "Health and Salvation, Compassion and Creativity" will take place at Boarbank Hall (Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7NH) from 6th-11th January 2014. For further information or to book please contact Sr Margaret Atkins on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk or 015395-32288.

Missio: During 2012, parishes in the Salford Diocese sent £287,802 to the Association for the Propagation of the Faith and Mill Hill Missionaries. Missio have written to the bishop to thank all involved, from the local secretaries, to the parish collectors and all those who hold a red box.

Christie Friends: On Wednesday 20 November, I was asked by Eileen Murphy & Joanne to go to the Christie with them. This was to accept a cheque, together with the Chairperson, Sue Royle, to the value of £3000 from the sale of her book *From Black Clogs to Shiny Shoes*.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Eileen, friends and parishioners for their support over the last twelve years in helping to raise the fabulous total of £50,000. Without them this would not have been possible. The monies are used for patients and their families needs. Just recently, for patients from Young Oncology who have had to travel to America for proton treatment. In the not too distant future, this will be available at the Christie. A Mass will be said for all your intentions. *Kath Brown.*

Advent & Christmas

Christmas Spirit: On Tuesday 3 December (1.30-3.00pm) there will be an afternoon of Christmas Spirit in the Harbour Room (SB). This will be in aid of the Northern Cleft Palate Association- a charity which puts the smile back on children's faces. Besides mince pies, tea, coffee & mulled wine, there will be Christmas music and a raffle. Please come and enjoy a pleasant afternoon and help a child to smile!

Making Music for Christmas: Bolton Music Service present an evening of Christmas music at Thornleigh Salesian College on Saturday 14 December (7.30pm). Entrance costs £4 (children free).

Christmas Posters: The *Keep Christ in Christmas* posters (from the Knights of St Columba) are available for you to take home this weekend

St Mary's, The Hidden Gem: Are holding daily, midweek, lunchtime carol services throughout Advent (until Thursday 19 December). They start at 1pm after the 12.30pm Mass. Please see our Church notice boards for more details or visit the website www.hiddengem.catholicfaith.co.uk

Rosa Mystica: There will be a Mass on Monday 9 December at St Thomas of Canterbury's, Lonsdale Road, Bolton (11.30am) for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This will be followed by the Hour of Grace for the Whole World at 12 noon.

CAMEO Group: *Christmas Decoration Workshop.* The next event will be on Wednesday 11 December (2-4pm). If possible, please bring garden evergreens (different sizes, colours & textures), dried hydrangea heads, candles, baubles, ribbons (if required) and sharp scissors/secateurs. Oasis & dishes will be available for sale if required.

Bolton Hospice: The Light Up A Life service takes place at Bolton Parish Church at 7pm on Wednesday 11 December.

St John's Christmas Draw: Tickets are now on sale

St Columba's Christmas Fayre: 8 December 2013

Parish Christmas Dance: Friday 20 December (for all three churches) at Dunsar Conservative Club. Tickets and more information available soon.

Think Vocation

Today marks the start of the Church's Liturgical Year. It's a very busy time of year but the Church tries to present it as an opportunity to slow down, to pray and reflect on the direction our lives are taking. We are preparing for the coming of the Prince of Peace. May this be a blessed time for us to become clearer in our minds about our priorities.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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