

Sunday Missal	
Opening Prayer.....	110
Readings.....	116
Preface	34
Eucharistic Prayer..(at priest's choice)	
Post Communion	118



This Sunday is called “Gaudete” Sunday — “Rejoice Sunday”. This comes from the readings we hear today, and it underlines an important point. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what to do - they must repent, and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing - something which is hard and unrewarding. The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful. When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm - nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly. Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing! The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord - even though it may involve hard work - is something utterly joyful, because of our love for Him, and His love for us

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 3 Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		
Sunday <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ)	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Edmundson, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Elizabeth Patterson, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Betty Boyle, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, George Cowley, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Margaret Edge, Frank Brazel, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O’Grady, Pauline Bowling, Paul Buckley, Margaret Walsh, Joan Plumbley, Emma Turner, Vincent Wood, Margaret Wood, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, Catherine Crowley, John Barrett, Bea Gilmore, Tara Vinden, Roy Smith, Isabelle Karzynski, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Amanda Calcutt, Leila Parker, Emma Jiminez (baby), Bernard Cummings, Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Catherine Cooke, Canon Byrne, Vera Evans, Archbishop Patrick Kelly and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Gerard Dobson, Joyce Mortimer, Father David McGarry.</p> <p>Anniversary: Margaret Ann Guest, John Patterson, Andrew Moore, Paul Skinner, Elizabeth Wright.</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Joyce Knight, Gerard Dobson, Margaret Ann Guest, John Patterson, Andrew Moore, Joyce Mortimer, In thanksgiving to St Jude, A successful operation, Paul Skinner, For cancer illness (someone in hospital), Bill O’Shea who is sick following a stroke, Deceased relatives and friends of the Tetlow family, Elizabeth and Frank Wright, In memory of Gerard Dobson from the staff and children of St John’s School.</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7pm Reconciliation Service (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	No Mass today 6.15pm St John’s School Nativity (in church) 7pm Carol Service at Thornleigh 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 1pm-3pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB) 6.15pm St John’s School Nativity (in church)	
Thursday	9.15am (SB) 10am General Church Cleaning (SJ) 2pm St Brendan’s School Nativity (in church) 6pm Churches in Harwood Carol Singing [<i>see overleaf</i>]	
Friday	9.30am School Mass in church (SJ)	
Saturday	5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ) 3pm Reconciliation Service (St Columba’s) 6pm Carol Service at Tottington Road Methodist Church <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	
Collections, Donations, Gift Aid		
<p><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></p>		

Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Michael Cooke E-mail: michael.cooke@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Rev Joseph Gee E-mail: joseph.gee@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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

Tel: 01204 301927 Parish E-mail: office@sbsj.org.uk Parish website: www.sbsj.org.uk

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

Archbishop Kelly: Our former bishop has had a slight stroke. Please keep him in your prayers.

Congratulations: To the choir from St Brendan's School for giving an excellent performance at the Bridgewater Hall on Tuesday evening. They were fantastic and we can all be rightly proud of them.

Car Park (SB): The car park at St Brendan's has recently been icy. A salt grit bin is provided and, as far as reasonably practicable, efforts will be made to grit the car park. All car park users should take special care in the cold weather.

Christmas Draw: The draw will take place this Sunday (16 December) after the 9.15 Mass.

Almanacs: The new Diocesan Yearbook for 2013 is now on sale at £3.

Year of Faith – Catholicism: The final meeting at St James' Parish Montserrat is:

- Monday 17 December – *The Indispensable Men*: Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure.

The session begins at 7.30pm and lasts about an hour. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19 December. PLEASE NOTE the earlier time of 1pm. It will finish at 3pm as normal. The designated read is a comic novella by Alan Bennett entitled *The Uncommon Reader*. Refreshments and raffle. All welcome. *Madeleine*

Church Cleaning (SJ): The general clean will be on Thursday 20 December at 10am. Please come along and help if you can.

St John's 200 Club

The December winners are:

£50 M Boardman (102)
£30 M Callaghan (201)
£20 L Murphy (32)



CARITAS Diocese of Salford: Has vacancies for *Residential Care Workers* – full time or part time, SCP14-20 £15,725 - £18,453 (pro rata for part time) and *Bank Staff (Residential Care Workers)* – ad hoc hours, £9.12 per hour (rate includes holiday pay). For more information and to download an application pack please visit their website: www.caritassalford.org.uk/jobs

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
BL1 7AL
01204 309609



Think Vocation

What must we do? Advent is a time for us to reflect about our lives. A regular examination of a well-informed conscience is essential for the committed Christian. By exposing ourselves regularly to such questioning in prayerful reflection, the Lord can guide us to take the steps in our lives that keep us on the way of peace.

Votive Candles – Fire Danger

You may have seen in the *Bolton News* that there was a fire at St Osmund's Church last week caused by candles (tea lights) like the ones we use in our churches. This happened because the tea lights were in contact with one another rather than having a space between them. In such circumstances, they can get extremely hot and the whole light bursts into flame rather than burning via the wick.

Every week at St John's, votive lights are placed on the stands in such a way that they are in contact with one another and this means someone has to reach across other candles to separate them in order for them not to cause a fire. **Please do leave a gap between the candles when you place them on the stands.**

The stands at St Brendan's were specially designed to prevent candles coming in contact with one another. However, occasionally candles are placed on top of the metal separating bars or (worse still) on the wooden surround. **Please only place candles in the designated spaces.**

In both churches: If the stands are full, do not light your candle.

During Mass at St Brendan's last week a parishioner had to go onto the sanctuary to extinguish a candle that had burst into flames on the shelf holding the statue of Our Lady. This shelf (which it took us a long time to get right during the refurbishment of the church) now has a burn mark in it. If it were not for the action of that parishioner, the situation could have been a lot worse. **Never place lighted candles onto flammable surfaces unless they are in a suitable holder.**

Observing these simple rules will keep us all safer!

Advent & Christmas

Carol Singing: Churches in Harwood will again be singing carols in various community locations on the evening of Thursday 20 December. We start at 6pm at Longsight Lodge and move on to Bramdean before having refreshments (sherry & mince pies) at St Brendan's (about 7.30pm) and then going on to the White Horse (9pm) and the Grey Mare (10pm). Please come and join us.

Carol Service: Bolton FM are recording a carol service at Tottington Road Methodist Church on Sunday 23 December at 6pm. All are welcome.

Reconciliation Services

Monday 17 December 7pm (SJ)
Sunday 23 December 3pm (St Columba's)

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: 6.30pm First Mass of Christmas (SJ)
8.30pm First Mass of Christmas (SB)

Christmas Day: 9.15am Christmas Mass (SJ)
11.15am Christmas Mass (SB)