

ST. BERNARD'S PARISH BULLETIN
HAPPY CHRISTMAS



25th December 2011

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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THIS WEEK IN CHURCH

Saturday 24 th	Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Family Mass
Saturday 24 th	Christmas Eve	8.00pm	Traditional Sung Mass
Sunday 25 th	Christmas Day	10.00am	Mass of Christmas
Monday 26 th	St. Stephen's day	12 noon	Feast day Mass
Tuesday 27 th	St. John	12 noon	Feast day Mass
Wednesday 28 th	The Holy Innocents	12 noon	Feast day Mass (Day of prayer for the unborn and victims of abortion)
Thursday 29 th	St. Thomas a Becket	12 noon	Feast day Mass
Friday 30 th	The Holy Family	12 noon	Feast day Mass (Day of prayer for our families)
Saturday 31 st	Seventh Octave Day	11am 12 noon	Exposition and Confessions Feast day Mass
Sunday 1 st January New Year's Day	Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	10am 6pm	Feast Day Mass Feast Day Mass

Items for the news letter should be with us for Wednesday please this week.

Masses received this week: Jim Towey, Christmas Masses, John Press, George Cannon, Pat Jones, Sheila McGinty, Peggy Malyn, Maureen Makin, Christopher Makin, Peter Geraghty, Ronnie Thompson, Pat Serridge, In thanksgiving, Eileen & Liam, Bill McDonald, Irene Whithead, Joe Outram, Imelda Dean, Arthur Kelly, Kitty Somers, Groake Fam, Payne Fam, John Groake, Tony Grobicki, Michael Breen, Waclaw Grobicki, Noreen Power, William Frost, Tony Gaughan, Martin & Margaret Comerford, Michael & Annie Jordan, Mary & Margaret Doyle, David Corrigan.

Sick; please commend to your prayers the sick and housebound of the Parish especially, Alan O'Donnell, Michael Haggarty, Peter Burton, Tullio Biasetti, Lannis Agnew, Christopher Makin.

Holy Father's Intentions for December: *General:* Peace among all peoples. That all peoples may grow in harmony and peace through mutual understanding and respect. *Missionary:* That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that they may be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation.

My dear people, Christmas is upon us once more. It is a time for celebration and giving thanks for all the love that surrounds us. We remember with great affection, those who have gone before us and feel their presence and love still, we pray that this Christmas they will sing the "Gloria" with the angels in heaven. No doubt you will be busy today and probably won't get round to reading this till later in the week, for whatever busy things you are doing let me say thank you, just in case you don't hear it from others. Thank you especially to all who have helped make the Church so beautiful for our celebrations. If you are on your own, or feeling the recent loss of a loved one, know that you will be especially remembered during Mass. So much fuss; sometimes you hear people wondering why? Well, we make the fuss to celebrate the day when God our Father leaned down from heaven and placed his Son among us, it was as though God embraced his people to reassure us that His Son Jesus will make all things new. Christmas without Jesus means nothing, for he is everything. The birth of the Child brings about a new beginning, and the child will grow into a man, who will give his life for us so that we may have life to the full. That is something to celebrate! There are those who would like to take away the Christian meaning of Christmas and replace it with some all inclusive new name: frankly they are barmy! Christmas is one of our special days, its part of our heritage, it helps define who we are just as Eid for our Muslim friends, and Hanukkah for our Jewish friends, who have been celebrating this week. You don't build respect by denying who you are but rather by giving a strong witness to your beliefs and respecting the beliefs of others. Once you know your own identity, it becomes far easier to recognise not only the differences between faiths but also recognise the things we have in common. So don't be ashamed of the Christian message of Christmas, celebrate it: let it be at the centre of your celebrations, let Jesus be your special guest, make sure you have room for him as he always has a place for you. Happy Christmas my lovelies! mjk



Journey in faith: if you are interested in becoming a Catholic or knowing more about our faith we will recommence our sessions in the New Year, watch the news letter for details.

The Sacrament of Baptism: if you have a child for baptism, please let us know ASAP, so we can make the usual arrangements. Thanks.

Getting married next year? Now is the time to contact Fr. Michael to make arrangements: please ring for an appointment. **Please note** the Deanery preparation course which is obligatory begins on 25th January. Please pick up application forms from Fr. Michael Thanks

CAFOD: Now's the time to order your goats, piglets & bicycles etc for Christmas, the World Gifts which transform lives. Simply order by post, by phone or online - details on the CAFOD notice board & leaflets in the porch.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

- ♦ **YOUNG AT HEART** - restarts 9 January Parish Hall - Mondays - 1.00pm to 3.00pm
- ♦ **LEGION OF MARY** - Parish Hall - Tuesdays - 7.45pm
- ♦ **DIVINE MERCY** - Sacristy - Thursdays - 7.30pm (taking a break till the New Year)

OTHER NOTICES

CAFOD: We hope you enjoyed your Mulled Wine & Mincepies. Together with the raffle this raise **£70** for our parish **Ethiopian Project**. Thank you for your generosity.

APF and Mill Hill Missions (red Boxes): collectors books and calendars are in the Parish Hall.

Diocese of Salford Almanacs now on sale £3.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS If anyone is available during the week and could take Fr Michael to visit their sick please let him know to make arrangements.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD MASS READERS FOR JANUARY					
	Reader 1	Reader 2	Prayers		
10.00am	Tony Black	Trevor Richards	Audrey Stedford		
6.00pm	Shelagh Bridge	Andrew Smith	Tony Addyman		
If you unavailable anytime, please arrange a stand-in or contact Tony Black 445 1788					
PARISH MINISTRIES GROUPS					
		Offertory	Eucharistic Ministers Sunday 10.00am	Counting	Tea /Coffee
This week	25 th December	6	New Group 1	1	7
Next week	1 st January	7	Group 2	2	1
		Eucharistic Ministers Sunday 6.00pm	Eucharistic Ministers Weekdays	Cleaning	Eucharistic Ministers Tuesday 7.00pm
This week	25 th December	No Mass	4	3	3
Next week	1 st January	1a	1	4	4
Signed Mass Cards can be obtained from Bridie Close, 44 Shawbrook Rd, during the week or on Sundays from the Bookstall (back of Church) or the Piety Stall (Parish Hall). Items for the Bulletin can be left at the Presbytery or emailed to anniteresa@hotmail.com by Thursday for inclusion the following Sunday.					

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

Manchester Royal Infirmary - Fr. D. Egan tel: 276 4247 (MRI) and 224 1895 (home).

The Christie - Fr. M. O'Brien - tel: 446 3097

Wythenshawe Hospital - Fr K. Brigham and Sr Bernadette - tel: 291 2297

Alternatively ask the ward staff to inform the Chaplain.

SRCDT Registered Charity