



ST. BERNARD'S PARISH BULLETIN

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11th December 2011

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GAUDETE SUNDAY.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH

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Today	11 th December	10.00am 6.00pm	Mass Mass
Monday	12 th December	9.00am	Mass: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tuesday	13 th December	6.00pm 6.00pm 7.00pm 7-30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <i>Advent Confessions</i> Mass: Reception of Jim Towey RIP
Wednesday	14 th December	11-30am	Requiem; (St. John of the Cross)
Thursday	15 th December	9.00am	Mass
Friday	16 th December	9.00am	Mass
Saturday	17 th December	11.00am 12 noon	Sacrament of Reconciliation and Exposition Mass

Next Sunday 4th of Advent is a day of prayer for Expectant Mothers; I would be delighted to offer a blessing to any expectant mother after the post communion prayer during Mass. Please let me know before Mass.

'COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS'



Christmas provides a great opportunity for us to reach out to others, and to invite them and welcome them to our Churches, so here is a simple idea.

'LIGHT A CANDLE,PRAY AND INVITE'

During the season of Advent, lets use the candle stand in front of Our Lady to light candles for those you would like to see come back to a more regular practice of their faith.

+ I offer our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Jim Towey who has died aged 96: and to Fr. Ahern on the death of his sister Noreen. May they sing with the angels this Christmas. +

Masses received this week: Tony Grobicki, Betty Kelly, Michael & Andrew Neary, Jean Wilson, Alex Haggerty, Angela Neiri, Martina Norton, Nora Hernan, Jim Towey, Margaret Mulligan, Margaret Hughes, Kathleen Towey, Thomas Walsh, Margaret Conway, Tommy Tilzy, Joan McDonald, Gemma & James, Frank Cunningham, Maureen Mulligan, Denise Robinson, Marcia & Brian Nuttall, Shelagh & Jim Dynan, Patrick & Agnes Coyle, Mary Moran.

Sick; please commend to your prayers the sick and housebound of the Parish especially, Alan O'Donnell, Michael Haggarty, Peter Burton, Lannis Agnew. I am very grateful to the Eucharistic ministers who have offered to take me round the sick, and will continue this week and into next week. If you are housebound know you are not forgotten and very much in our prayers.

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, I found my self hearing confessions both here and in other parishes this week, and have been struck by the sincerity of so many good souls, some of who were coming back to the Sacrament after a long time. I suppose we all need to encourage each other, to turn over new leaves in our lives; it is very easy to get stuck in a rut about many things. It's possible that when we reflect we discover that we take so much for granted, our family members, what is provided for us, that loved ones will always be there, that the bus will come, that water will always come out of the tap, and so on. Advent is a time, when we can step out of the usual, and begin to revalue who we are, what makes us who we are, and what influences we have in our lives. We are challenged by the Church to rejoice at the coming of the Lord at Christmas and asked to make provision so that as we now humbly say again in Mass "I am not worthy to receive you under my roof". Understand that the Lord is delighted to stay with you, love you, rest awhile with you; he is desperate to share his love with you and is only too willing to forgive you. Don't take him for granted! Don't take everything connected to your life for granted, use Advent and Christmas to affirm and enjoy everything as though it was the very first time of experiencing it. Kind words and actions can make others feel special; reaching out to forgive others, especially family members can bring a little more sparkle in your life. Searching out the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation can fill us with the Christmas Star burst, which can lead us to the crib and encourages us to invite others to be there with us. Think on! Only two weeks to go, love mjk

Thank you so very much to all who contributed in any way to the success of the Christmas Fair last week. It was obvious that much planning and experience went into planning the event, and I offer our thanks to the organisers on the part of us all. Thank you to all who came along on such a bad day and helped to raise over £4400. Well done. Mjk

The Christmas Fair was once again a great success. We raised £4477.68 what a result! All the hard work from those who helped was greatly appreciated and your support and generosity once again shone through.

Thank you and we hope you have a lovely Christmas.

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. 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. Just the thing on a cold and frosty morning - next week (Dec 18th) our CAFOD group will be serving **Mulled Wine & Hot Mince Pies after Mass**, in support of our Ethiopian Project. Thank You

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

- **YOUNG AT HEART** - Parish Hall - Mondays - 1.00pm to 3.00pm
- **LEGION OF MARY** - Parish Hall - Tuesdays - 7.45pm
- **DIVINE MERCY** - Sacristy - Thursdays - 7.30pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTIAN'S TOGETHER IN BURNAGE: Carol singing around Burnage on Wednesday 14th December. Please meet at Christ Church on Burnage lane at 7-30pm. We will walk around Burnage Garden village and return to Christ Church afterwards for refreshments. Please bring some mince pies to share, and torches to light the way.

CHRISTMAS MEAL (formerly arranged by SVP) - SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER - 12.45pm Christmas Lunch

PARISH CHRISTMAS BUFFET MEAL- 19th December 7.00pm - 9.30pm £5 per person

Jack and the Beanstalk 17th December - Balance is now due £12.75. Theatre goers should be at St Bernard's for 6.30pm

OTHER NOTICES

APF and Mill Hill Missions (red Boxes): collectors books and calendars are now ready for picking up in the Parish Hall.


DIocese of SALFORD Almanacs now on sale £3.

CHILD'S BIKE FOUND OUTSIDE CHURCH AT WEEKEND. If you think it is your bike please call into the Parish Hall after 10am Mass and ask for Bernadette. The bike will remain here for a further week then we will contact the local police station.

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.

PARISH MINISTRIES GROUPS

		Offertory	Eucharistic Ministers Sunday 10.00am	Counting	Tea /Coffee
This week	11 th December	4	New Group 4	6	5
Next week	18 th December	5	New Group 5	7	6
		Eucharistic Ministers Sunday 6.00pm	Eucharistic Ministers Weekdays	Cleaning	Eucharistic Ministers Tuesday 7.00pm
This week	11 th December	2a	2	1	1
Next week	18 th December	3a	3	2	2

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.

Fancy a chuckle? Try these: I woke up last night to find the ghost of Gloria Gaynor standing at the foot of my bed. At first I was afraid...then I was petrified!

The wife has been missing a week now. Police said to prepare for the worst. So I have been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.