

SS JOHN CANTIUS & NICHOLAS

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AND ST PHILOMENA'S

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Parish Priest: Fr Jeremy Bath



Date	SS John Cantius & Nicholas	St Philomenas	Feast Day
Saturday 2 nd December	5.30 pm Vigil Mass Rose Hanlon AV	9.30 am Mass SVDP Intention (sick and housebound)	Mass of Our Lady
Sunday 3 rd December	9.30 am Children's Mass For the People of the Parish	11.30 am Mass John McTiernan RIP	1 st Sunday of Advent (B)
Monday 4 th December	9.30 am Mass Patrick Devenney AV	No Mass	St John of Damascus
Tuesday 5 th December	6.00 pm Mass Sheila Donnelly RIP	9.30 am Mass SVDP Intention (deceased teachers of Holy Family School)	1 st week of Advent
Wednesday 6 th December	9.30 am Mass George Lawson RIP 1.30 pm Mass (School) Thanksgiving	No Mass	Feast of St Nicholas 
Thursday 7 th December	No Mass	9.30 am Mass Pat Donnelly AV	St Ambrose
Friday 8 th December	9.30 am Mass John Stevenson RIP 6.00 pm Mass Bert McFall AV	10.30 am Mass Joe and Josie Dean RIP	Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday 9 th December	5.30 pm Vigil Mass Annie Breslin RIP	9.30 am Mass Sue Pulman (sick)	St Juan Diego
Sunday 10 th December	9.30 am Mass Philip Gordon AV	11.30 am Mass For the People of the Parish	2 nd Sunday of Advent (B)

Morning Prayer: Broxburn: Mon. Wed. Fri. - 8.30 am

Winchburgh: Tues. 8.30 am Sat. - 8.30am

Confessions: Broxburn: Sat. 4.45 pm - 5.15 pm Tues. 6.30pm

Winchburgh: Fri. 11.00 am Sat. 10.15 am



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 3RD DECEMBER 2017

THEME



'Wake Up!': At a national conference of priests in 1993, 25 years ago, it was stated that the western world is spiritually falling asleep to the presence of God. The situation is even more perilous today. As we see from the history of Holy Scripture there has always been a danger of the people of God falling away from their faith and allowing the secular world to take control of our lives. The sacred season of Advent is an invitation once again to put God at the centre of our lives and to be set free from the spiritual bankruptcy of materialism and self-centredness. Without faith in God we are much more vulnerable to human error and a distorted understanding of truth. As Jesus says in the Gospel, 'Be on your guard, stay awake because you do not know when the time will come.' God bless you all.



REFLECTION



'A Jewish Blessing': 'May the One who blessed our mothers, Sarah, Rebekah, Leah and Rachel, bless this child and keep her from all harm. May her parents rear her to dedicate her life in faithfulness to God, her heart receptive always to the Law and the Commandments. Then shall she bring blessing to her parents, her people and all the world.'

Advent: At the start of Advent for the next 3 weeks we enter into the sacred season, which is the first season of the new Church's year. It is a time of joyful waiting and expectation, firstly for preparing ourselves for the second coming of Christ and latterly to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. The Church encourages us in these 21 days to purify our spiritual lives, to repent of our sins and to grow closer to the person of Christ. Let us be determined to wait until nearer to Christmas to sing carols and praises to God and to ignore the cry of the secular world to celebrate Christmas too soon. Each Sunday we will light a candle on the Advent wreath, wear purple vestments and refrain in our singing. God Bless you all.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on Friday 8th December, a day when we particularly pray for the unborn child and the protection of their lives. There will be an extra Mass on Friday evening at 6.00 pm in Broxburn. Please note that the second collection in both parishes on 9th/10th December is for the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.

Children's Advent Calendars: There are Children's Advent Calendars at the back of both churches and they are free of charge.

Confessions during Advent: A reminder that Confessions are available in both churches four times a week. Broxburn - Tuesday at 6.30 pm and Saturday from 4.45 - 5.15 pm. Winchburgh - Friday at 11.00 am and Saturday at 10.15 am.

Appointment: The Archbishop has asked Fr Jeremy to be Vicar Episcopal for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations in the Archdiocese. This will take up some of his time, but he hopes to be, in due course, relieved from other responsibilities in the Archdiocese. He asks for your prayers and support.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: We pray for Douglas, Charis and Jacqueline, our three enquirers, as they prepare to be received into the Catechumenate and for their ongoing instruction in the Catholic Faith. The next adult Catechesis class is on Tuesday 5th December at 6.45 pm in the Canon Hoban Hall. The theme this week is 'When we die'.

Advent Booklets: There are Advent 'Day by Day' booklets for sale at the back of the church priced at £1.00. They contain scripture readings and meditations for each day of Advent.

Syrian Appeal: Thank you to all of our parishioners who have kindly donated warm clothing for the people of Syria. The response has been magnificent and the clothes will be sent out to Syria very soon. The last day for handing in clothing is today Sunday 10th December.

Praying for the Sick: Amongst all those who are sick at this time please remember: May Lawson, Martin Donoghue, Margaret Foodie, Mary Doyle, Anne O'Kane, Mary Boylan, Marion Caulfield, Bridget Nelson, Sheila Wotherspoon, Cardinal O'Brien, Chris Brown. Our Lady, Patroness of the Sick, pray for them.

Next Sunday's Readings: (second Sunday of Advent - 10th Dec). 1st reading: a reading from the prophet Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11. Psalm: 84:9-14. 2nd Reading: from the second letter of St Peter 3:8-14. Gospel: Mark 1:1-8.

SS JOHN CANTIUS AND NICHOLAS PARISH

Feast of St Nicholas: Wednesday 6th December is the Feast of our co-patron St Nicholas. This is a very important Feast Day for our parish and, if possible, it will be good to have a big turn-out at Mass on Wednesday morning. We should celebrate the Feast of our co-patron therefore Fr Jeremy extends a warm invitation to anyone who wishes to come into the parish house after the 9.30 am Mass for a cup of tea or coffee. Happy Feast Day to all of you. St Nicholas was a Bishop in the fourth century and had a great reputation for his generosity especially to the poorest children, hence the name - 'Santa Claus'.

Visits to the Sick and Housebound: Fr Jeremy will visit the housebound in Broxburn east and west on Tuesday 5th December. He will visit Uphall, Uphall Station and Dechmont on Wednesday 6th December.

Hall Committee Social Club: Fr Jeremy is hoping to start up a Social Committee in Broxburn parish to help to run social events in the Canon Hoban Hall. We are very grateful for the hall committee's work in looking after the building, but they do not have the resources as well to organise a social calendar for the parish. If you are interested in helping to organise social events in the parish hall then please let Fr Jeremy know.

Rota for Communion Ministers and Readers: Please note that the new rota is now available in the porch.

Carol Concert: St Nicholas Primary School are organising a Carol Concert in the Broxburn church on Wednesday 13th December at 6.30 pm.

Poinsetta Sunday: Sunday 17th December is Poinsetta Sunday. Please bring along a Poinsetta to help decorate our church for Christmas.

Brass Band Concert: There is a brass band concert in the Canon Hoban Hall on Sunday 10th December at 7.00 pm where they will be playing Christmas Carols and other pieces.

Farewell: We wish Ted and Eileen Bonar good wishes as they are leaving the parish to live in Kinross to be with their daughter Mary and her family. We thank them both for all the service they have given to the parish. We wish them the best of luck.

Jessie Jordan RIP: We pray for the repose of the soul of Jessie Jordan who has died and was buried a couple of weeks ago. Eternal rest grant unto her soul O Lord, may she rest in peace.

Christmas Lights: The Broxburn and Uphall Christmas tree lights will be switched on on Saturday 9th December at 4.30 pm in Broxburn and 5.00 pm in Uphall.

Cleaning Rota: 4th Dec. Group 1. 27th Dec. Group 2. 15th Jan. Group 3. 5th Feb. Group 4.

Vestry Hour: The vestry hour is on Tuesday 5th December at 7.00 pm. For all general pastoral enquiries.

Collections: Offertory: £898.00. Building Fund: £278.00. Candles: £99.30. '59 Club': £200.00. Thank you for your generosity. '59 Club': 18th November - (No. 11) Group 1 - M Nicol. Group 2 - B Donnelly. 25th November - (No. 8) Group 1 - H McLaughlin. Group 2 - M Maltman.

ST PHILOMENA'S PARISH

Visits to the Sick and Housebound: Fr Jeremy will visit the housebound next Tuesday 12th December.

Hall Bookings: Our St Philomena's Social Club request that as much notice as possible (preferably 6 to 8 weeks) be given for hall bookings to allow voluntary staff arrangements to be made.,

Stall at Christmas: Our stall has a wide range of new Christmas stock including cribs of all shapes and sizes, angels, Christmas cards, Advent calendars and annual calendars. Also, we have a selection of candles for the church and cemetery, including solar candles. All profits will go towards our church.

Vestry Hour: The vestry hour is on Saturday 9th December at 10.45 am. For all general pastoral enquiries.

Collections: Offertory: £362.33. Thank you for your generosity.