



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 23 rd December	5.30 pm Vigil Mass Sisters Maria Tecla and Helen McGuire (sick)	9.30 am Mass James O'Hara (Jnr) RIP	Feast of St John Cantius
Sunday 24 th December 	9.30 am Mass George Murphy RIP 6.30 pm Children's Mass (First Mass of Christmas) Hugh Wardrop RIP Midnight Mass Deceased Members of the Band RIP	11.30 am Mass For the People of the Parish 6.30 pm Children's Mass (First Mass of Christmas) John Ferguson RIP	4 th Sunday of Advent (B) Christmas Season Christmas Eve 
Monday 25 th December	10.00 am Dawn Mass Derek James Lynch	9.30 am Dawn Mass Mass of Thanksgiving	Christmas Day
Tuesday 26 th December	No Mass	9.30 am Mass Winnie Duffy RIP	Feast of St Stephen (the first Martyr)
Wednesday 27 th December	9.30 am Mass Jim Fleming AV	No Mass	Feast of St John the Evangelist
Thursday 28 th December	No Mass 1.00 pm Funeral Service Joanne MacIntosh RIP	9.30 am Mass Marion Hayes (Get Well)	Feast of the Holy Innocents
Friday 29 th December	9.30 am Mass Billy Linton AV	10.30 am Mass Thanksgiving Mass for all who helped with the Legion of Mary Visit	St Thomas Becket (Bishop and Martyr)
Saturday 30 th December	5.30 pm Vigil Mass Michael Philbin AV	9.30 am Mass John Ferguson RIP	Christmas Octave
Sunday 31 st December	9.30 am Mass For the People of the Parish	11.30 am Mass Linda Dalton RIP	Feast of the Holy Family

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 6.30 pm Winchburgh: Fri. 11.00 am Sat. 10.15 am



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 24TH DECEMBER 2017

THEME

"Disturbed": Christmas is disturbing. It penetrates into the secular rush of daily life. Would you like to listen to how Christ came to be born? 'Not really', remarks the busy shopper. 'I'm too busy preparing for Christmas, please don't disturb me.' The madness of the rush overshadows the beauty of the hush; the hush of a stable in Bethlehem, where the faint cry of a new born pricks the cool starlit night. God disturbs us because He loves us. He does lament when we turn away from celebrating the birth of His only Son. Lamenting our loss of embracing with joy this spiritual feast. The unspiritual is disturbed by the spiritual - why? Because it invites us to put our lives at the will of a power beyond ourselves. That is what Our Blessed Lady did. She declared, after being disturbed by the Archangel Gabriel, "Let what you have said be done unto me."

REFLECTION:



"What is a wonderful gift, that God has freely given. The gift of His Son, the Blessing of heaven. Who brings us much joy and gives eternal life. When he came as a baby, then became our sacrifice. So when we believe, and put our trust in Him. We will truly know His peace, and freedom from our sins." (Anonymous).

SHARED PARISH NEWS

Greetings to You All: On the eve of Christmas 2017 I wish to extend a Holy and Loving Blessing on all the People of God who have entered the House of God to give thanks for the birth of the Christ child. May our thoughts and prayers go out into the streets and homes of those we love, to those who are housebound and those whose love we are yet to experience. The Church, at its best, is a 'COMMUNIO' of God's love. On behalf of Canon John and myself may we wish you all a joyous and Blessed Christmas. Fr Jeremy.

Fr Younis: He is kindly offering up Masses for the parishioners in both our parishes on Christmas Eve in Pakistan. God Bless Him.

THANK YOU: Fr Jeremy also wishes to express a big THANK YOU for all the prayers, cards, good wishes and kind gifts he has received; it is overwhelming the generosity of the people in both parishes.

THANK YOU ALSO: to all the parishioners in St Philomena's and SS John Cantius and Nicholas who have worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations come about. It is a lot of work. Well Done!

New Year's Eve - Night Prayer and Benediction (SS John Cantius and Nicholas Church): On Sunday 31st January at 6.00 pm Fr Jeremy will lead the Evening Prayer of the Church, followed by Benediction to bring the 'Old Calendar Year' to a close. Open to all who wish to attend. (It will finish by 7.15 pm).

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: The next adult Catechesis class is on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 6.45 pm in the Canon Hoban Hall. The theme is 'Liturgy'.

Gozo Trip: If anyone is still interested in visiting Gozo please let Fr Jeremy have the names by 31st December. The dates of the visit are from 13th to 17th May 2018.

Thank You: Sheila Wotherspoon would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and kind wishes during her illness.

Guild of St Stephen: - Renewal and Presentation of Medals. After the Feast of St Stephen, the Altar Servers should renew their promises and new servers be commissioned. This will take place at 5.30 pm on Saturday 13th January and 9.30 am on Sunday 14th January in Broxburn. Also at 11.30 am on Sunday 14th January in Winchburgh. When all are back from holiday.

Diocesan Directories 2018: The new Archdiocesan Directory is on sale, only £2.50. It is packed with useful information and photos.

Parish Calendars: These will be available for the New Year. Please take one home and give one also to your friends. No charge. Thank you to Harry Arthur and John Muir for organising them.

Death of Anne Glenn RIP: We pray for the repose of the soul of Anne Glen who died recently and who was buried on Thursday. Anne was brought up in Broxburn and her maiden name was Clusker. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord. May she rest in peace.

Death of Joanne MacIntosh RIP: Joanne's funeral service is on Thursday 28th December at 1.00 pm in SS John Cantius and Nicholas Church, followed by a burial service at Loaninghill at 1.45 pm. We pray for her dear husband, Ian, and her daughter Fiona and son Stuart, her dear grandchildren, Lee, Connor and Charlie. May she rest in peace.

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

Next Sunday's Readings: (Feast of the Holy Family - 31st Dec). 1st reading: a reading from the book of Genesis 15:1-6. Psalm: 104:1-6. 2nd Reading: a reading from the letter to the Hebrews 11:8, 11-12. Gospel: Luke 2:22-40.



SS JOHN CANTIUS AND NICHOLAS PARISH



Christmas Concert DVD: The DVD of the St Nicholas Primary School Christmas concert is now available from Harry Arthur, priced £6.50. Proceeds will go towards the school. The DVD can be delivered within a reasonable distance. Please call 01506 857077.

Vestry Hour: The next Vestry Hour is on Tuesday 2nd January at 7.00 pm. For all general pastoral enquiries.

Housebound Visits: Fr Jeremy will 'First Foot' the housebound on Tuesday 2nd January in Broxburn east and west and Uphall, Uphall Station and Dechmont on Wednesday 3rd January.

Senior Citizens Party: SVDP, who are organising this party, are appealing for any donations of raffle prizes which can be left in the porch.

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

Collections: Offertory: £869.80. Building Fund: £300.90. Candles: £110.02. '59 Club': £200.00 Thank you for your generosity.

'59 Club': 16th December - (No. 14) Group 1 - E Glass. Group 2 - C Lynch.



ST PHILOMENA'S PARISH



Sunday Teas and Coffees: There will be no teas and coffees on Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December or on Sunday 31st December.

Housebound Visits: Fr Jeremy will 'First Foot' the housebound in Winchburgh on Tuesday 16th January

Vestry Hour: The next Vestry Hour is on Saturday 30th December at 11.00 am. For all general pastoral enquiries.

Collections: Offertory: £381.77. Thank you for your generosity.

