



PARISHES OF

ST JOHN CANTIUS AND ST NICHOLAS

Telephone No. (01506) 852040

34 West Main Street, Broxburn, EH52 5RJ

e-mail: broxburnandwinchburghparishes@gmail.com

Website: www.broxburncatholicchurch.co.uk

Saint Vincent de Paul: 07765 488257

AND ST PHILOMENA

Telephone No. (01506) 891310

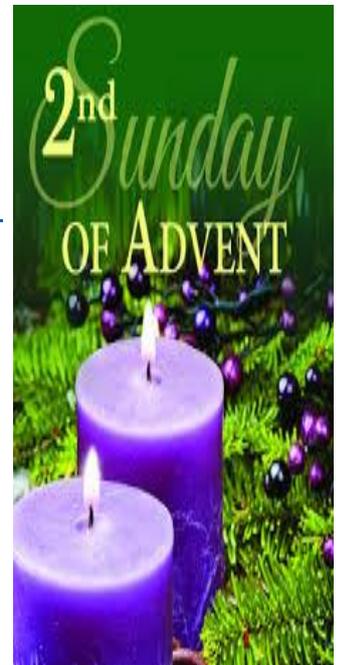
28 Niddry Road, Winchburgh, EH52 6RY

e-mail: stphilomenaswinchburgh@gmail.com

Website: www.st-philomena.co.uk

Saint Vincent de Paul: 07817 696761

Parish Priest: Fr Jeremy Bath



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 5th December 2021

Saturday 4 th December	<u>Broxburn</u> 5.30 pm Vigil Mass Patrick Devanney (Grandfather) RIP	<u>Winchburgh</u> 9.30 am Mass Catherine McAuley 1 st AV 3.00 pm Vigil Mass Angela McDowell RIP	Memorial of St John Damascene
Sunday 5th December	9.30 am Mass Jordan Derek Gavin 5pm Mass Brendan Larkin AV	11.30 am Mass Maggie Foody RIP	2ND Sunday of Advent
Monday 6 th December	9.30 am Mass Clarke Family Anniversaries 1.30pm School Mass Canon Philip Docherty (90)	No Mass 	Feria
Tuesday 7 th December	No Mass	9.30 am Mass Fryderk Poreski 1 st AV	Memorial of St Ambrose
Wednesday 8 th December	9.30 am Mass Niall Michael Sweeney RIP	No Mass 	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday 9 th December	No Mass	9.30 am Mass Sister Antonia RIP	Feria
Friday 10 th December	9.30 am Mass Philip Gordon AV	No Mass	Feria
Saturday 11 th December	5.30 pm Vigil Mass Elaine Green RIP	9.30 am NO MASS 3.00 pm Vigil Mass Ella Differ RIP	Mass of Our Lady
Sunday 12th December	9.30 am Mass Patsy Brady RIP 5pm Mass Alex Gunn RIP	11.30 am Mass John McTiernan RIP	

Confessions -

Broxburn – Saturday 6.15pm, Sunday 5.45pm,

Winchburgh – Saturday 10.15am

Theme: "Power"

In the Gospel of Luke today, we hear read out aloud the temporal power base of the Middle East at that time; it focused on Emperor, Kings and High Priests. It was they that shaped the age, the culture, the powerbase of the land and its peoples. It was made by an Emperor who ruled by force and fear. 'Puppet Jewish Kings' who ruled by a semblance of fear and oppression; lastly a 'High Priest Temple' authority enshrined in the Jewish Sanhedrin who subjugated the People of Israel by the commands of Moses and the Torah. This powerbase was about to be radically eroded by a Nazarene, the Son of God, who comes with no army, no Temple Court or Coronation. Instead, he comes from beyond the bounds of Kingdom and Empire to pronounce a universal rule that casts aside all temporal power that determines truth justice and love.

Reflection: "Dei Verbum – The Word of God"

Para 21: 'Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church'



"The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she venerated the Body of the Lord, in so far as she never ceases, particularly in the sacred liturgy, to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the Word of God and the Body of Christ. She has always regarded and continues to regard the Scriptures, taken together with Sacred Tradition, as the supreme rule of her faith. For, since they are inspired by God and committed to writing once and for all time, they present God's own Word in an unattainable form, and they make the voice of the Holy Spirit sound again and again the words of the prophets and apostles. It follows that all the preaching of the Church, as indeed the entire Christian religion, should be nourished and ruled by sacred scripture".

SHARED PARISH NEWS

Advent - 'Come Back to Me with all Your Hearts'

'Advent' could be translated as 'Coming to'. 'Coming to What?' Coming to God in the sacred celebration of the Mass. One of the sensitive issues I want to talk about is 'Coming back to Mass when you have been away for a long, long time'. If you've been following the COVID-19 guidelines, you will perhaps know that the Scottish Bishops relaxed the teaching on physically attending Mass during restrictions of numbers as an obligation. What does 'obligation' actually mean? It means simply that in normal times, it is seen right and true to keep Sunday holy by attending Mass, in keeping with our Baptismal and Confirmation promises. The difficulties arise when Baptised Catholics see Mass merely as a 'lifestyle option' and only come when it suits them; in a way taking Jesus for granted. I accept that COVID has made many good faithful Godly people reticent about coming out and gathering in numbers, however, if you believe in your heart that you have just got out of the habit of coming to Mass and have just not made the effort, then the most loving act you can undertake is to come to the Sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation before returning to Holy Communion. It shows God that we are respectful that we do care for the real presence of Jesus and that we have a Christ centred conscience. Erratic Communion with no entry into Confession is like demanding supper at home when we've never bothered to visit. Fr Jeremy is more than happy to give guidance on this sensitive matter. I applaud those who return to Mass in a responsible manner.

Feast of St Nicholas – Monday 6th December

This is a very important Feast Day for the Parish of St John Cantius and St Nicholas, the celebration of our Co-Patron Saint. St Nicholas is the ancient Patron Saint of the Church in this part of West Lothian. (The old St Nicholas Church in Uphall dating from the 12th Century). St Nicholas, the original Santa Claus, is a major Saint in Greece, Russia, Turkey and beyond. Patron Saint of sailors, prisoners, pawn brokers and the welfare of children. Born in the 4th century, Bishop of Myra (present day Turkey) great preacher, defended the faith against Arianism. Champion of justice for prisoners. Appeared to sailors in a dream whilst in a storm and brought them safely home. Come to the 9.30am Mass in Broxburn that day – a special celebration - School Mass with the P6's taking part. HAPPY ST NICHOLAS DAY!!

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Wednesday 8th December

This is a major Marian Feast in the Liturgical Calendar. A day to especially pray for the Pro-Life work of the Church throughout the world. The theology of this Church teaching was originally promulgated by Blessed John Duns Scotus (a Scot) in the Middle Ages. The teaching is that when Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, Anna, she was conceived without sin. It's a faithful projection of the future unique choosing by God of her Motherhood of Jesus. We honour today all those who are with child in the womb and pray that the unborn are loved, cherished and that no temptation to termination will prevent that new life from reaching fulfilment. Rosary at the shrine in Broxburn that day.

Primary 3 – Sacramental Preparation

Fr Jeremy will meet with the P3 parents after Mass on Sunday morning (today) to talk briefly about 'How we celebrate our Catholic life in the Church'. Remember to bring your attendance sheets.

Christmas is Coming!

Only less than 3 weeks to Christmas Eve and people want to know the Christmas Mass times:

Christmas Eve – Friday 24th December: 5.30pm Mass Broxburn, 5.30pm Mass Winchburgh, 9.30pm Carols Broxburn, 10.00 pm Mass (Midnight Liturgy) Broxburn.

Christmas Day – Saturday 25th December: 9.30am Mass Broxburn, 11.00am Mass Winchburgh.

There is no 5.30 pm Mass on Christmas Day in Broxburn.

You are encouraged to book in for Mass on Christmas Eve in both parishes. The 5.30pm Vigil Mass in Winchburgh and the one in Broxburn will be very busy. To avoid overcrowding and being compliant with public health needs we will open an Eventbrite booking system in the next few weeks. If you don't make an effort to book for a seat at the Vigil Masses at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, we cannot unfortunately guarantee you a place. Please make plans in advance. God Bless you all.



Understanding Advent

'Remember when we speak of Advent or preparing for Christmas, we are not just talking about waiting for the little baby to be born; that already happened 2,000 years ago. In fact, we're welcoming the 'Universal Christ', the Christ that is forever born in the human soul and into history'. (Richard Rohr).

Universal Church Synod

Thank you to all who took part in the initial session of the Synod. I think it is better at this time of year to gather the interested participants after Mass in the morning rather than at night. The Archdiocese has now extended the Parish Consultation until the end of March 2022. With Christmas approaching, the next consultation module will be after the Sunday morning masses on Sunday 30th January 2022. The key focus for the Synod is the objectives of 'Communion' and 'Mission'. This is your opportunity to submit to the Holy Father enlightened thinking of what it means to live our Catholic life. Next time we will look at 2 key questions:

1. How to protect our religious practices and values in an adverse secular culture?
2. What needs to change to make our parishes 'Mission Centres' of evangelisation?

Forthcoming Forty Hours Adoration

His Grace, the Archbishop, has asked all Parish Priests to open their churches at some point for 'Forty Hours Adoration' in the coming year, thus emphasising the centrality of the Eucharist to the Catholic way of life. **Broxburn Parish is 17th, 18th and 19th December 2021, Winchburgh Parish is 11th, 12th and 13th March 2022.** There is nothing more beautiful and uplifting for the soul than to have time for silent prayer before Our Blessed Lord in the Holy Eucharist. As St John Cantius and St Nicholas start their Exposition on Friday 17th December, the times for the Church being open are as follows:

Friday 17th December – 10.00 am (after 9.30am Mass) till 7.00pm (Benediction)

Saturday 18th December – 10.30 am till 8pm (the 5.30pm Vigil Mass will take place)

Sunday 19th December – 10.30am (after 9.30am Mass) till 8.00 pm (the 5pm evening Mass will take place). There are one-hour timeslots where it would be good for parishioners to keep vigil before the Blessed Sacrament. (At least two people being in the Church at any one time). Timesheets will be in the Church porch to 'commit to at least an hour of prayer'. The theme of the Exposition are the words of Jesus to his Apostles in Gethsemane, "Can you not spend one hour with me in prayer"?



Poinsettia Plants – Please bring along your Poinsettia Plants on the 18/19th December for Christmas.

Congratulations

1. To Dawn and David MacKay who were married at St John Cantius and St Nicholas Church in Broxburn on Saturday 4th December. We wish them every joy and blessing in their married life together.
2. To Fr James Tracey, appointed as the new Director for Lourdes Pilgrimages, and to Fr Scott Deeley, the new Vicar Episcopal for the Welfare of Clergy.



Bus to Cathedral for the Service of Chapter of Canon's - The Bus will be leaving on the 14th December from Winchburgh at 11.20am, pick up in Broxburn at 11.30am and then onto the Cathedral. Return pick up is at 2.15pm. There are still spaces available, if you would like to join us, please put your name down at the back of the porch. There will be tea, coffee and something to eat at Canon Hoban Hall on the way back.

Special Collection for the 4th December

At the Parish Council meeting on 23rd November the members agreed that a special collection should take place on 4th December to cover the costs of the vestments Father Jeremy will need when he is installed as Canon in the Cathedral on 14th December. Any donations gratefully received. **(Helen Mooney PPC Chair).**

Forthcoming Funerals

Saturday 11th December - Paul Marshall RIP: His Requiem Mass will take place at St John Cantius and St Nicholas Church at 9.30am, followed by a burial service at Adam Brae Cemetery in Livingston. (No 9.30am Mass in Winchburgh that day). We pray for his wife Marie and son Robert who loved him and cared for him so dearly.

Monday 13th December – Margaret Hill (Boylan) RIP: Her Requiem Mass will take place at 11 am in St Philomena's, Winchburgh. Her coffin will be received into the Church there at 2 pm on Sunday 12th December. Burial at Winchburgh Cemetery at 12.15 pm. We pray for her two devoted sons, John and Gerard. Canon Pat Boylan will assist at the Requiem.

Friday 17th December – Denis Langton RIP: His Requiem Mass will take place in St John the Baptist Church, Fauldhouse, at 10 am, followed by a Cremation at 12 noon in West Lothian Crematorium. We pray for his dear wife, Linda, and all the Langton Family. Denis was a loyal parishioner in Broxburn for many years.

Ecumenical Advent Services



1. Fr Jeremy was very privileged to take part in a beautiful Advent Ecumenical Service at Uphall South Church on Sunday 28th November. It set the scene perfectly for our times.
2. There is an Advent Ecumenical Service of Lessons and Carols at St Philomena's Church, Winchburgh, on Sunday 19th December at 3 pm, followed by teas in the Hall, COVID permitting. Why not come along and join in the pre-Christmas Spiritual preparations?

Other Advent Events this Coming Week

Monday 6th December: School Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Nicholas.

Tuesday 7th December: Blessing of Crib – Holy Family School.

Wednesday 8th December: Fr Jeremy to preach at the Advent Mass in West Calder 7 pm (Feast of the Immaculate Conception).

Friday 10th December: Blessing of Crib – St Nicholas School. Note: Advent Prayer books are available at the back of the Church.



Blessing of Married Couple

We pray for Thomas and Sarah Harkins, married last year under COVID restrictions, who are coming back for a special First Anniversary Mass of Blessing in St John Cantius and St Nicholas Church at 1pm on Saturday 11th December. Fr Kenneth Owens is the celebrant. (Tom's dad was married to Diane in the same church 30 years ago).

Vestry Hour

Winchburgh Parish – 01506 891310 – Monday 6th December 5.30pm.

Broxburn Parish – 01506 852040 – Tuesday 7th December 6.45pm.

(for all general pastoral enquiries)



Answers to last week's quiz

1. Who was John the Baptist's parents? **Zechariah and Elizabeth**
2. Which punk group released an anarchic version of 'God Save the Queen' in 1977? **Sex Pistols**
3. Who blew up Eilean Donan Castle in 1719 because it housed a Spanish garrison in the Jacobite uprising? **The Royal Navy**
4. Which English football team has the nickname of the 'Black Cats'? **Sunderland**

This week's quiz

1. Which Plant was instructed by Moses to smear the blood of the lamb on their doors on Passover night?
2. Which river flows onto the Niagara Falls?
3. Which instrument did Benny Goodman play?
4. Robert Liston was born in Ecclesmachan in 1794. What was he famous for?

Next Week's Readings: 12th December: First Reading: Is 61:1-2,10-11

Psalm: Lk 1:46-50.53-54

Second Reading: 1 Th 5:16-24 **Gospel:** Jn 1:6-8.19-28

