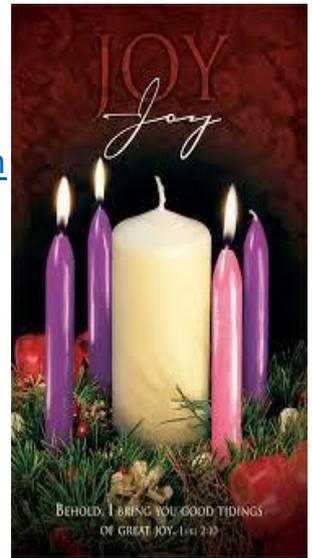




**PARISHES OF**  
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**Parish Priest: Fr Jeremy Bath**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Broxburn</b> 9.30am Requiem Mass Paul Marshall 5.30 pm Vigil Mass Elaine Green RIP	<b>Winchburgh</b> 9.30 am NO MASS 3.00 pm Vigil Mass Ella Differ RIP	Mass of Our Lady 
<b>Sunday</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am Mass Patsy Brady RIP 5pm Mass Alex Gunn RIP	11.30 am Mass John McTiernan RIP 2pm Reception of Coffin Margaret Hill RIP	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am Mass For Christians of Pakistan	11am Requiem Mass Margaret Hill RIP	Memorial of St Lucy
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	No Mass 6pm Family Rosary	9.30 am Mass Deceased members of the Keogh Family RIP	Memorial of St John of the Cross
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am Mass Mary Devanney (Mother) AV	No Mass	Feria
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	No Mass	9.30 am Mass Raymond McDonnell	Feria
<b>Friday</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am Mass Brian Grant AV 10.00-19.00 Exposition	No Mass	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 
<b>Saturday</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30-16.30 Exposition 5.30 pm Vigil Mass Margaret Brady RIP 18.30-20.00 Exposition	9.30 am Mass Billy Mullen RIP 3.00 pm Vigil Mass Joe Dean AV	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 
<b>Sunday</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> December  EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 	9.30 am Mass Charles Canon RIP 10.30-16.30 Exposition 5pm Mass Deceased Hughes & O'Leary Families 18.30-20.00 Exposition	11.30 am Mass Monsignor Peter Smith RIP (Glasgow) 	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Happy 4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent!</i> 

**Confessions - Broxburn – Saturday 6.15pm, Sunday 5.45pm, Winchburgh – Saturday 10.15am**

### Theme: "Good News"

We all like to hear 'Good News'. It raises our joyful hope in life. Sometimes the 'Good News' is tempered by also having to receive 'Bad News' at the same time ... one step forward, then one step back. What is left in no doubt by John the Baptist, is that the coming of Jesus Christ is entirely 'Good News' for the world.

There is no hidden catches with Jesus, there is no imperfection or burden to humanity. In fact, all that Jesus offers us is indelibly good. He baptizes us with 'the Holy Spirit and Fire'. What does this mean? That there is real divine power in his coming, that will change the relationship between God and humanity forever. God is a very personable God. As St Paul says to the people of Philippi, 'the Lord is very near, there is no need to worry'. The word is made flesh and dwells amongst us. This is surely 'Good News'.

### Reflection:

#### "Celebrating an Eternal Advent"

"The early Eastern Church, which too few people in the Western World are familiar with, made it very clear that the incarnation was a universal principle. Incarnation meant not just that God became Jesus, God said yes to the material universe. God said yes to physicality. Eastern Christianity understands the mystery of the incarnation in the universal sense. So it is always Advent. God is forever coming into the world, as it says in John 1:9,10, 'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world and the world came into being through him and the world did not know him'. We are always waiting for spirit to reveal itself through matter. Whenever that happens, we're celebrating Christmas. The gifts of the incarnation keep coming". (Richard Rohr).

### SHARED PARISH NEWS

#### 'Gaudete Sunday' – Third Sunday of Advent



This Sunday we light the 'Rose' coloured candle, which is a sign of joy. I hope you all can see spiritual reasons to be joyful. Our faith has the great capacity to release us from the darkest recesses of sadness and show us grounds for joy and hope. At this time of year, the primary schools traditionally celebrate the Nativity Play. Senior citizens have tea parties, carols and mince pies. Families do their Christmas shopping and Christmas cards are written. Perhaps it is more important than ever to express our love and friendship to others; a handwritten card can do great things for the morale of life and the good of the spirit. God Bless you all.

#### Forty Hours Eucharistic Adoration – 'Quarantore'

The Archbishop has requested that Broxburn Parish host 'Forty Hours of Exposing the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar'. What does this mean? It means that for 3 days, Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December, the Church will be open from 10am till 8pm for people to come and pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament, the Body of Christ in the sacred host. The Archbishop sees this as a powerful spiritual way of rekindling the fire of love in the real presence of Jesus on the altar. Since March 2020, many of us have become detached from the Sanctuary of God due to Covid-19. This is an opportunity under safe regulations to pray quietly in front of our Blessed Lord. Why not give an hour of your life in those three days to come and sit or kneel before the Blessed Sacrament. The stillness and peace will do great things for your spiritual life – a perfect antidote from the hurly burly of people rushing around before Christmas. The theme of the Forty Hours is 'I am the Bread of Life' – the declaration in St John's Gospel by Jesus that he comes to nourish our lives with his own Body and Blood in Holy Communion. There are timesheets at the back of the Church so you can book in for one hour at a time, or even one hour a day if you can manage. I promise you, you won't regret that time of prayer.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 10am to 8pm,**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December – 10.30am to 8pm (break for Mass)**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December – 10.30am to 8pm (break for 2 Masses)**

**"The Canon's Event" – St Mary's Cathedral – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 12.45pm Mass**

Six new Canons will be sworn in, including Fr Jeremy, on this day. A bus has been laid on for both parishes. Pick up times are: Winchburgh 11.20 am Broxburn 11.30am – please pay Jacqui your £10 return bus money on the bus - If travelling independently, you would want to be at the Cathedral by 12.15pm to ensure a seat. There is a 'Social Event' of thanksgiving in the Canon Hoban Hall on our return, where the 'New Canon' will join us all at 3pm. Fr Jeremy is very grateful for all your kindness and encouragement through prayer to press ahead with this exciting event. Special thanks to Canon John Agnew, the senior Canon in our midst. Thank you also for you very generous donations from our collection last Sunday for the Canon Robes it is greatly appreciated. Father is looking forward to celebrating with you. God bless you all.

Eucharistic



Adoration

### Christmas Mass Times

Just to remind you of Christmas Mass times in both parishes. Note: **No** 5.30 pm Vigil Mass on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Christmas Eve – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December:**

5.30pm Vigil Mass in St John Cantius and St Nicholas Broxburn – book online by Eventbrite or by phone.

5.30pm Vigil Mass in St Phil's Winchburgh – book online by Eventbrite or by phone.

9.30pm Broxburn – Carol Singing, 10.00 pm (Midnight Liturgy) Mass Broxburn – no need to book.

#### **Christmas Day – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December:**

9.30am Dawn Mass Broxburn – no need to book

11.00am Mass Winchburgh – no need to book



All the current Covid Regulations apply. Please wear masks, Track and Trace, sanitise and social distance.

**Eventbrite** will go live on the 15<sup>th</sup> December to book the Christmas Eve Masses please follow the links:

**Winchburgh:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/223183426637>

**Broxburn:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/219041046667> or call the office on Wednesday 01506 852040 from 10-1pm. Thursday 10.30-1pm.

### Forthcoming Funerals

**Margaret Hill (Boylan) RIP:** Her coffin will be received into St Philomena's at 2 pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Her Requiem Mass is at 11 am on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December followed by a burial at Winchburgh Cemetery. Canon Pat Boylan will also concelebrate, Margaret's dear nephew. God rest her soul.

**Denis Langton RIP:** His reception of his coffin is on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm in St John the Baptist Church, Fauldhouse. Fr Jeremy will assist at this service. His Requiem Mass is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10am in Fauldhouse. Our sympathies to Linda and all the Langton Family. May he rest in peace.

### Tocatta Concert for Christmas

This will take place this Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in St John Cantius and St Nicholas Church. The West Lothian Ladies Choir will bless us with a wide repertoire of carols, songs and solos. Tickets available at the door. Well worth attending if you have the time. All proceeds to charity.

### Ecumenical Service of Lessons and Carols

This will take place in St Philomena's Church, Winchburgh, on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 3 pm. The Rev Derek Henderson and Fr Jeremy Bath will lead the service and the Winchburgh Community Choir will take part. Teas in the hall afterwards. You would be most welcome. Collection to help repair the Parish Kirk in Winchburgh.

### Canon Hoban Hall – Appeal for Volunteers

Our marvellous parish hall in Broxburn needs your generous help and support. Dear Jim and Brian have courageously kept things going during the pandemic. They are now advanced in years and would dearly appreciate if some younger parishioners would help, even a couple of hours a week, to keep the hall in good shape. Volunteers could help either to keep it clean, to ensure maintenance, to staff the bar when required and to organise parish social events. Please see Fr Jeremy or Jim Gallagher if willing to lend a hand. Every little helps!

### Vestry Hour

*Broxburn Parish – 01506 852040 – Wednesday 15th December 5pm.*

*Winchburgh Parish – 01506 891310 – Thursday 16th December 10am.*

**(For all general pastoral enquiries)**



### New Online Facility – 'YouTube' - Broxburn

Apologies for the poor transmission of liturgical events in Broxburn over several weeks. We now have a super improved signal from the modem to the Church that will enable masses to be received by the housebound on YouTube. The same as St Philomena's. **PLEASE NOTE** that watching Mass online is NOT a substitute for coming in person to mass. The service is primarily for the elderly and incapacitated who otherwise cannot attend mass and transmits funerals, weddings and baptisms to other parts of the world for those who cannot attend. Thank you to Gareth of Zen Sounds for installing it.

### Votive Tealights Appeal

If any of you are kind enough to go into Poundland, B&M or Home Bargains and donate tealights for our side altar shrines, we would be very grateful. Thanks.

## Altar Servers for Christmas

Any servers willing to serve on the altar at Christmas, please let Fr Jeremy know. It would be nice if the Christmas Masses were attended by altar servers. Thank you. Help is also appreciated with decorating the Church for Christmas in both parishes and volunteers to read and help with the Holy Eucharist.

### The Archdiocese is Recruiting –

The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh is looking to recruit a full-time Religious Education Adviser (Primary Schools). Closing date for applications is this Monday (13 December). Details at [bit.ly/vacancy\\_2021](https://bit.ly/vacancy_2021)



### Safeguarding

Volunteers who have still to complete their Induction Part 1. Induction - Part 1 Online Training (Duration approx. 90 mins) **Trainer: Callum Timms - [Callum.Timms@staned.org.uk](mailto:Callum.Timms@staned.org.uk) Saturday 18 December 2021 at 2pm** Please book directly with Callum via the email address above. Places must be pre-booked to obtain the joining details. Please also provide your parish name and role when booking.

### Advent: Rosary for Life

Join parishioners and clergy from across the Archdiocese each Tuesday throughout Advent to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all Pro-Life intentions. It continues at 7:45pm this Tuesday (14 December) and includes a reflection from Fr Martin Eckersley of St Francis Xavier in Falkirk. Event on Zoom, register at [bit.ly/14DecRosary](https://bit.ly/14DecRosary)

### Feast of the Holy Innocents

Archbishop Cushey will celebrate Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocents in St Margaret's Chapel, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh EH9 1BB, at midday on Tuesday 28 December. The Mass has been organised by our Pro-Life Office and will be followed by refreshments, covid guidelines permitting. Register at [bit.ly/InnocentsMass21](https://bit.ly/InnocentsMass21)

### Mary's Meals: Double the Love

Until 31 January 2022, all donations up to a total of £1.6 million will be matched by a group of private donors, so please consider supporting this campaign and praying for its success. There are many ways to donate, including choosing Mary's Meals gift cards as a meaningful gift this Christmas, or setting a virtual place at your Christmas table. Find out more at [marysmeals.org.uk](https://marysmeals.org.uk)



### The Teaching of the Catechism

#### 'Contemplative Prayer' – Para 2717

It is 'silence' the symbol of the world to come, or 'silent love'. Words in this kind of prayer are not speeches, they are like kindling that feeds the fire of love. In this silence, unbearable to the 'outer' man, the Father speaks to us, his incarnate Word, who suffered, died and rose, therefore, we share in the prayer of Jesus.

### Saints Days this Coming Week

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Memorial of St Lucy:** 3<sup>rd</sup> century Martyr. Lived on the island of Sicily. She consecrated her life solely to Christ. When she turned down an arranged marriage with a pagan aristocrat at the time of the persecution of Diocletian, he reported her, in spite, to the Roman authorities and she was put to death.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Memorial of St John of the Cross:** 16<sup>th</sup> century Carmelite Friar who met St Teresa of Avila, also a Carmelite, who persuaded him to reform the male branch of the Carmelite Order. He faced much opposition within the Order and inspired them to change for the better by his beautiful poetry. He experienced visions of Christ overseeing the world from above.

### Answers to last week's quiz

1. Hyssop
2. The Niagara River
3. Clarinet
4. Performing the first operation using general anaesthetic in 1794.

### This week's quiz

1. If a house cost £4,000 in 1964 and now costs £400,000 in 2021, what percentage increase is this in price?
2. The Elgin Marbles come originally from where?
3. What does the word 'Discalced' mean in relation to a Carmelite?
4. How many 'Nail Bars' are there in Broxburn?



**Next Week's Readings: First Reading: Mic 5:1-4 Psalm: Ps 79 Second Reading: Hb 10:5-10**

**Gospel: Lk 1:39-44**