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Chaplaincy News

 Sunday 8th December 2013

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Between Sunday 15th Dec and Mon
13th January

Sundays - 12pm

Mon – Fri - 1.05pm

Saturday - 11am

CONFESSIONS
"FACE TO FACE"
Father William will
be available in the
church this
Wednesday 11th
and Friday 13th
4pm - 6pm



Can You help? We need...

**VOLUNTEERS TO
COOK AFTER MASS,
HELPERS FOR
NEWSLETTER,
HELPERS FOR
CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT,
READERS, ALTAR
SERVERS**

As we move deeper into Advent and closer to Christmas we are introduced to the great figure of John the Baptist, who Jesus called the greatest of all the Prophets. John bridges the Old Testament and the New Testament. John, the cousin of Jesus, as a baby is the first person on earth to leap for joy at the coming of Jesus. So he reminds us of our waiting with Joy at advent and that our role as Christians in Advent is to recognise the coming of our Saviour as John himself does hidden in the womb. We are told that as a prophet he speaks with the power of Elijah. As we can see in today's (Sundays) Gospel – he is not frightened to speak truth to power – even if that will eventually mean his own death at the hands of King Herod. The courage and the authority of John the Baptist is made all the more real to us this week as the world mourns the passing of Nelson Mandela, someone else who wasn't afraid to speak truth to power.

These great advent figures, Elijah, John with Mary soon to come into focus, are important for us to reflect on as we try and rescue our Christmas preparations from the inevitable commercial pressures and the toll of Christmas Parties. This Wednesday we will celebrate our popular Carols by Candlelight, come early if you wish to help out, there are lots of preparations as we will host a large crowd. Finally, if you are a student and not able to make it home for Christmas – the chaplaincy will be partially open during the Christmas break – with some activities and drinks for students after midnight mass, and a Christmas meal with the Jesuit Community on Christmas Day. Please don't worry about spending Christmas on your own. If you would like to be involved in the Christmas dinner and celebrations make sure you give your name to Fr Tim.

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The Week's Activities

This week at the chaplaincy...

Mon 9th 7pm SVP Meeting (Last one of this term)

Tues 10th 7.15pm Readers Christmas Dinner – meet at Chaplaincy

Weds 11th 7pm Carols by Candlelight - followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Thurs 12th 5pm – 6pm **Craft Group** - All levels welcome. We can teach knitting and crochet!

Sunday 15th Only Mass - 12pm in the Church (9.15 & 7pm start again on Jan 19th)



Over the next few weeks...

Mon 16th 7pm Postgraduate 'Bring and Share' meal (see Newsletter)

Thur 19th CLC Mass & Social

Tues 24th Drinks & Nibbles in the Chaplaincy after Midnight Mass for students (see Fr Tim)

Weds 25th Christmas Dinner – 2pm in Chaplaincy for Students (tickets necessary see Fr Tim)



General News

Carols by Candlelight – Weds 11th 7pm, come into the chaplaincy to collect posters during the week - we need them up in every department and every hall of residence! We need volunteers for ushering, hospitality etc, if you'd like to help please email ccpurle@btinternet.com

MASS TIMES - There will be only one mass a day from next Sunday 15th Dec till Mon 13th January (12pm Sun, 1.05pm Mon – Fri, 11am Sat,)

FOODBANK OPENING TIMES – Over the Christmas Holiday the foodbank will be Open on Monday 23rd Dec, Friday 27th Dec, Mon 30th Dec and Friday 3rd Jan (10am – 12pm). The week beginning Jan 6th it returns to its normal Weds / Friday opening times. Any volunteers that can help at this time please email

St Edwards 'Carol Service': Thursday 12th December at 7pm in St Edward's. There will be a collection taken in aid of the 2014 Missionary Trip to Peru, and the proceeds will contribute to the fantastic work completed out there by local students. There will be refreshments and a raffle in the Church hall after the service.

SVP News - There will only be three homeless runs next week, on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The breakfast club at the Holy Name Primary School is thriving – with students attending Tues- Thurs. This involves supervising, chatting, playing with and generally having fun and being a positive role model for the children at the school. There are also plans to help build a 'Peace Garden' for use by school pupils when they wish to have some quiet and tranquillity. Volunteers are needed to help construct the garden (digging, planting etc.). This will mainly be manual work, and will not actually involve any contact with the children. It is likely to take place after-school hours (3-5pm). IF you are interested in getting involved email : ccpurle@btinternet.com

THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

Monday - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates Mary's unique status in being preserved by the merits of Christ from all taint of original sin.

Wednesday - Pope Saint Damasus was a towering figure of the 4th century who helped to put down the Arian heresy and who employed St Jerome as his secretary.

Thursday - Our Lady of Guadalupe; the hugely popular Mexican shrine is built to honour the miraculous image of the Virgin bestowed on a Mexican peasant in 1531.

Friday - St Lucy was a virgin martyr of the early Church and her feast day is celebrated with symbols of light (lux) as we approach the winter solstice.

Saturday - St John of the Cross was a Spanish mystic and reformer of the Carmelite Order, whose poems are among the treasures of 16th century religious literature.

Postgrad Meal Monday 16th December - Please bring some food to share - Christmas specialities from your home country are encouraged.. Any questions email postgrad.muscc@gmail.com

University of Manchester Music Dept – Carol Service in the Holy Name. Friday 13th December at 7.30pm