

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

**1ST SEPTEMBER 2013
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



Humble behaviour is the mark of the Christian, as it always was the mark of someone “in favour with the Lord.” In the Gospel, we see Jesus watching the Pharisees: it’s almost amusing to picture them shuffling for the best places, the polite “After you!” to put themselves in a better position. How would they have reacted to his teaching? They may well have remembered the passage we read from the Old Testament, and realised that Jesus was teaching the teachers something they should be well aware of.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2</i> Sunday Missal: page 391; Readings 397; Preface at Priest's choice		Prayers Please
Sunday	9.15am (SJ) 10.15am Mass (SC) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SB & SJ)	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Edmundson, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Elizabeth Patterson, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, George Cowley, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O’Grady, Pauline Bowling, Emma Turner, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, Catherine Crowley, John Barrett, Bea Gilmore, Roy Smith, Isabelle Karzynski, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Emma Jimanez (baby), Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Vera Evans, Julie Smith, Ernie Little, Mary Coyne, Anthony Axford, Mary Marshall, Joan Pearce, Joshua Almond, Jacqueline Kay, Wynn Elliot, Tom Wardle, Joan Peake (nee Hooton), Elizabeth Evenson, Bob Taylor, Rita Margiotta, Noel Gannon, Joan Taylor and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Bernard Smith, Mark Latham, Sally Deakin</p> <p>Anniversaries: Angela Gargan, Constance Dalton, James Dowbakin, Albert Jansen, David Gracie, Joseph Eric Hopkinson, Sarah Anne Kendall, Ellen Anne Corlett</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Cynthia Winstanley, Sheila Chadwick, Bernard Smith, Frederick Martin (Birthday Remembrance), Constance Dalton, St Anthony for a Special Intention, Mark Latham, In honour of St Anthony, St Jude & the Sacred Heart, James Dowbakin, Joyce Knight, In honour of St Anthony, Kathleen Felton, Sally Deakin (from Staff & Pupils at St John’s School), Albert Jansen, David Gracie, Joseph Eric Hopkinson, Sarah Anne Kendall, Ellen Anne Corlett</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday <i>St Gregory the Great</i>	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday	9.15am School Mass in church (SC) – <i>Note SC not SB</i> 7-9pm Parish Forum Meeting (SC) [<i>See overleaf</i>]	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	11am-12noon Adoration and Reconciliation (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	9.15am (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 10.15am (SC) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy <i>Special Collection for Catholic Association for Racial Justice</i>	
<p>Collections & Donations: <i>All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan’s, St Columba’s or St John’s as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Mass Intentions: <i>Cheques should be made payable to St John’s</i></p> <p>Gift Aid: <i>If you are a tax-payer, the parish can claim back the tax you have paid on any donations you make if you simply sign a Gift Aid form once. Please ask. Thanks</i></p>		

Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Michael Cooke

Assistant Priests: Rev Joseph Gee & Rev Francis Parkinson

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Parish Forum Meeting

Please come along and take an active part

Thursday 5 September – 7pm at St Columba's
[for all three parishes]

Agenda

1. Welcome, Prayer & Opening Comments
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Last Meeting (21 March)
4. Draft Action Plan
5. Reverence and Respect
6. Spiritual Development
7. Property Matters
8. Social Committee Update
9. Date of Next Meeting (March)

Congratulations: To Hattie Lottie Crompton who was baptised at St Brendan's on Sunday 18 August and to Francesca Grace Jeffries who was baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

Adoration and Reconciliation: The next period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be on Saturday (11am-12noon).

Scripture Study: A reminder that from 3 October we will be running a course on Scripture on Thursday evenings for 12 weeks. Further details to follow. If anyone would like to express their interest in attending this course, there are sign-up sheets at the back of each church.

SVP: The Mass for the housebound, sick and disabled this year will be celebrated at St John's on Saturday 28 September at 11am. Everybody is welcome. Refreshments available after Mass. If you require transport to attend this Mass, please contact a member of the SVP.

Social Committee: Two events have been arranged for later this year, a Quiz Night on Friday 18 October and a Christmas Dance on Friday 20 December, both at Dunscair Conservative Club. Tickets will be on sale 3 or 4 weeks before each event.

BRASS: The collection, throughout August, will take place at the weekend Masses at St Brendan's. *Thank you for your continued support.*

Pope Francis: When Fr Gee was last in Rome he brought back three pictures of Pope Francis – one for each of our churches. These have now been framed and are hanging in the church porches.

Smithills Community Choir: If you are interested in joining this brand new community choir, the first rehearsal will be on Tuesday 17 September (6.30-7.30pm) in the Band Room, Middle Drive, Smithills School. For further information contact Assistant Headteacher, Chris Wormald. Email: office@smithillsschool.net

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Think Vocation

“Behave humbly and then you will find favour with the Lord.” The Lord can work with us most readily and easily when we are most disposed to the work of the Holy Spirit. When we know that we depend for everything in our lives upon God then we are being truly humble. Let us pray for the gift of humility upon those in positions of authority within the Church.

Reverence and Respect

This has been a topic of discussion at several Parish Forum meetings and is on the agenda again for this Thursday. As a reminder of previous discussions and a preparation for this week's meeting, here are some articles on this matter which have appeared on previous newsletters:

From September 2012: There was unanimous concern and disquiet about the growing trend of a lack of reverence and respect in our churches. This is not only when we have large numbers of visitors (e.g. for baptisms, first communion and weddings). Some parishioners make unnecessary noise by talking and the inappropriate use of mobile technology also detracts from a prayerful and respectful atmosphere.

The forum discussed a number of possible remedies and, subject to the outcome of a consultation exercise, all felt that this matter ought to be addressed promptly in the short term. Have you any suggestions about how we might create a more prayerful atmosphere in our churches, especially in the time immediately before our services begin?

From October 2012: Following the discussion at the Parish Forum meeting on Thursday (and at the previous Forum), there is a desire to try and create a more reverential atmosphere in our churches prior to the celebration of Mass.

Notices will be placed near the doors into the main body of the churches to remind us that we are entering into a sacred space, made especially so by the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Sometimes we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament prior to Mass, or we will play Taize music quietly. At other times we will rely on people simply to remain silent. This will help to create an atmosphere for quiet prayer in the 10 or 15 minutes before Mass begins.

We do appreciate that coming to church is also a social occasion – and for some may be the only such opportunity to see each other in the week – but we would ask that such socialising take place after Mass or, if it must be before Mass, in the church porches.

In our society today, it is very hard to find opportunities for quietness and reflection. Coming to church should afford us such an opportunity but it can so easily be taken away by those who, with the best of intentions, are “having a word” with this one and that one in the main body of the churches.