

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

**23RD OCTOBER 2016**

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2

**Sunday Missal:** page 475; Readings 480; Preface at Priest's choice



A few weeks ago (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time) we had a Gospel about humility in social life – today we hear the Lord reiterating the message, but this time in reference to our prayer lives. The two Gospels are linked by the last words today, which also appear in the other story: “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” This phrase is obviously a key part of our Lord’s teaching! The sin of “self-exaltation” consists in putting others in a lower place – as the Pharisee does to the tax collector. Perhaps the most telling phrase in today’s Gospel is where Jesus refers to the Pharisee saying “this prayer to himself,” rather than offering it to God! And since the Pharisee wasn’t talking to God, how could he expect to be heard?

**Masses, Feasts & Activities**

**Sunday Masses** 9.15am (SJ); 11.15am (SB) – Masses with Children’s Liturgy; SVP Outing to Schoenstatt; 2pm Baptism (SJ)  
*Special Collection for World Missions*

**Monday** (24<sup>th</sup>) 9.30am Mass (SB); 7.45pm SVP (SJ)

**Tuesday** (25<sup>th</sup>) 2-2.45pm Meditation Group (Harbour Room, SB); 7pm Mass (SJ); 7.15pm SVP (SB)

**Wednesday** (26<sup>th</sup>) 9.30am Mass (SJ); 1.15pm-3pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB); 7.15pm-8pm Meditation Group (Harbour Room)

**Thursday** (27<sup>th</sup>) 9.15am Mass (SB)

**Friday** (28<sup>th</sup>) 9.30am Mass - *St Simon & St Jude*

**Saturday** (29<sup>th</sup>) 2pm Baptism (SJ); 5pm Mass (SC) – *Clocks go back one hour*

**Think Vocation**

“I have run the race to the finish: I have kept the faith.” Commitment seems to be lacking somewhat these days. A lifetime seems a long time to commit oneself to something. Short-term contracts and commitments seem to be more comfortable. May St Paul’s tremendous zeal and example inspire others to a lifelong commitment to serve in the Church in the priesthood or Consecrated Life.

**Marriage Matters**

**Piercing the clouds with our humble prayers:** *The humble man's prayers pierce the clouds.* That is why Jesus said the prayers of the repentant tax collector won God’s favour, and why the judgmental attitudes of the Pharisees didn’t. There is a bit of the Pharisee in all of us; humility is knowing the truth about ourselves. Proud people deceive themselves; let us grow in humility together.

**30TH OCTOBER 2016**

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 3

**Sunday Missal:** page 484; Readings 489; Preface at Priest's choice



There is a subversive humour in today’s Gospel which turns upside down the conventions of everyday life: we see a senior tax official climbing up a tree for a glimpse of Jesus, and the faintly ridiculous scene where Jesus stops, looks into the branches of the sycamore and says, “Zacchaeus, come down!”

Did Zacchaeus worry about what people thought? The rest of the story shows that he did not. It would be easy to laugh at little Zacchaeus – and people in the town probably did, in between muttering about his extortionate taxes. And yet he has understood the message of God more clearly than others: he reveals the meaning of the first reading, since he understands that God is gentle, merciful and loving. Jesus corrects him, “little by little...so that he may abstain from evil and trust in the Lord.”

**Masses, Feasts & Activities**

**Sunday Masses** 9.15am (SJ); 11.15am (SB) 2pm Baptism (SJ);

**Monday** (31<sup>st</sup>) No Mass Today; 7.45pm SVP (SJ)

**Tuesday** (1<sup>st</sup>) *All Saints, Holyday of Obligation*

9.15am Whole School Mass (SB); 9.30am Whole School Mass (SJ); 11am Whole School Mass (SC); 2pm Meditation Group (Harbour Room); 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)

**Wednesday** (2<sup>nd</sup>) *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed*

9.30am Mass (SJ); 7.15pm Meditation Group (Harbour Room)

**Thursday** (3<sup>rd</sup>) 9.15am Mass (SB)

**Friday** (4<sup>th</sup>) 9.30am Yr4 Class Mass (SJ) – *St Charles Borromeo*

**Saturday** (5<sup>th</sup>) 5pm Mass (SC)

**Next Sunday** (6<sup>th</sup>) 9.15am (SJ); 11.15am (SB)

**Think Vocation**

St Paul tells us to “pray continually that Our God will make you worthy of his call”. As we can see from today’s Gospel we can all change our ways no matter how embedded we are in a particular way of life. The call to conversion of heart is a daily discipline. It is never too late to change direction in life and to strive to be more perfect in the way we live out the Gospel. May we dare to encourage those whom we feel may need to receive an invitation from the Lord to enter into a deeper friendship with him.

**Marriage Matters**

**The call to praise and affirm each other:** Jesus affirmed Zacchaeus by going to his house for a meal. How often is our focus on what we want our spouse to do rather than on how can we bring him/her life and joy? A daily reflection on where we need ask for forgiveness and on how we can affirm our spouse for something, brings us both new life.

**Parish Priest:** Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

**Assistant Priests:** Rev Seán O'Brien & Rev Francis Parkinson

**Parish Office:** St John's Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP

**Tel:** 01204 301927 **E-mail:** office@sbsj.org.uk **Website:** www.sbsj.org.uk

*Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity – 250037 Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk*

**Sick:** Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Linda Southern, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Winifred Coyle, Josephine Knowles, Rita Bell, Mary Cassidy, Derek Crompton, Roy Shepherd, Tony Wright, Janet Rabbett, Mike Greenhalgh, Barbara Stoppard, June Dawson, Greta Barlow, Cassie Wilson, Christine Hasleden, Suzanne Freeman-Hill, Josephine Gell, Jude McCann Brown, Ann Cunliffe, John Pryor, Marie France and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.

**Lately Dead:** Philip Riley

**Anniversaries:** George Cowley, Nicola Lamoury, Dorothy Hodget

**Mass Intentions:** Lilian Dawson (Birthday Remembrance), A Special Intention, George Cowley, Love & happiness for a very special couple, Philip Riley, Nicola Lamoury, Betty Taylor (sick)

**World Mission Sunday:** Today the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his official charity for overseas mission. Your prayers and donations today will support the work of missionaries, like those in Rwanda, as they share God's mercy and love with those who are suffering. This special collection will support mission projects worldwide that bring God's love and the Gospel message of dignity for all. Please give what you can, and if possible, please use the Gift Aid envelopes if you are a taxpayer. Thank you

**The End of the Consultation Period:** Bishop John writes: "The period of time for responses to the "Proposal Document" has now closed. I am very grateful for so many helpful responses that have been submitted. We have received many hundreds of replies from individuals, groups and parish meetings, offering ideas and possibilities drawn from long experience and good local knowledge. While there has been, in most cases, a good consensus there is no doubt that some aspects of the proposal will change and perhaps need further consideration. The most important thing is that there has been a manifestation of great positive energy which will help us to respond to the challenges and to develop the mission parishes that Pope Francis encourages us to build. I am very confident that we are in a process which will provide the strong foundations of our Church for future generations. Thank you for all that has been said.

I am hoping that a firm plan can be completed and publicised before the end of the year which will also include some indications of the timing of implementation, which will take place in phases. Please continue to pray for the successful completion of all this work, that we may always be discerning God's Will for our Diocese and that we will have the Grace and determination to complete the next stage of His plan for us.

**"Stay with us, Lord, on our journey"**



**Congratulations:** To Isaac Francis Longworth who was baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that he and his family will continue to grow in faith.



**Birthday Congratulations:** To Marjorie Greenhalgh (a parishioner of St Brendan's parish) who celebrates her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday this weekend. We send all our best wishes for a lovely day.

**CAMEO:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9 November in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's. Kath Denton will hold a "Fun Auction" and money raised will go to the St Brendan's SVP

**Parish Quiz:** There are still a few tickets left! Please contact Frances Smith at the office on 01204 301927

This Newsletter is sponsored by

**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

Peel House  
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.  
BL1 7AL  
01204 309609



## SVP News

**Annual Mass for the Deceased:** Will be held on Saturday 26 November at 11am in St John's Church. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

**Urban Outreach:** Dear Friends, We are celebrating God's blessing to vulnerable people in Bolton through all the food that is flooding in from schools and churches harvest festivals; it really is wonderful to see all the food coming into our unit each day. Whilst this is brilliant, we do need to sort it all and put it into boxes so we can then use it to make up food parcels for Storehouse, and get ready to use it for Winter Watch. So we're asking whether anybody would be able to help the existing volunteers who are valiantly tackling the large piles of food at the unit. The unit will be open at the following times until at least the end of October: Mondays 2pm-4pm, Tuesdays 10am -12noon, Weds/Thurs/Fridays 10am-12noon & 2pm-4pm. There will also be a Tuesday session in the evening of 25 October (7.30–9.30pm). It would be great to see you or members of your churches down at the unit to help us out. Just come on down! The address is Unit 1 (former Comet, next to Jump Extreme), Trinity Retail Park, Springfield, Bolton, BL2 1HY. Thanks again for your support!

**Sacramental Programme:** The first meeting for parents and children from all three parishes will take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 9 November at St Columba's Church. If you have a child in Yr 3 who does not attend one of our schools, or an older child who did not take part in the programme previously, and you would like them to take part in this year's programme, please have a word with one of the priests.

**Harbour Room Book Club:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26 October (1.15-3pm). The book under discussion is *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald. Refreshments are available. All welcome!

### Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for 29/30 October

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SC)	C Smith	M Hilton J O'Connor
9.15 (SJ)	P French	P McArdle, T Armstrong, F Smith, J Carroll, M Cropper, A Gracie
11.15(SB)	L Lamoury	M Durkan, C Owen, P Brennan

### Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for 5/6 November

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SC)	J O'Connor	F Ginty, C Molyneux
9.15 (SJ)	C Grundy	M Russell, F Smith, A Rawlinson, M Fau-Goodwin, J Carroll, M Cropper
11.15(SB)	J Proctor	C Owen, P Brennan, M Durkan