

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

10TH SEPTEMBER 2017 – TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“No man is an island...” How true this is for those who follow Christ: each of us has responsibilities towards each other, based on our ‘debt of mutual love’. When we see wickedness and wrongdoing, then because of our privileged position of following the Lord Jesus, we have a duty to speak out. This will not always be easy - remember the prophet Jeremiah last week - but this was the mission of the Lord Jesus himself, and as his followers, it is our mission too. As with everything, love is ‘the answer to every one of the commandments.’

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 3</i> Sunday Missal: page 401; Preface at Priest's choice		Prayers Please
Sunday <i>Day of Special Prayer for Students and Teachers</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ) <i>Special Collection for the Catholic Education Service</i>	<p>Sick: Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Linda Southern, Callum Fazackerley, Elaine Jansen, Josephine Knowles, Mary Cassidy, Tony Wright, Janet Rabbett, Mike Greenhalgh, June Dawson, Greta Barlow, Cassie Wilson, Christine Hasleden, Suzanne Freeman-Hill, Jude McCann Brown, Ann Cunliffe, John Pryor, Maureen Woodward, Rose Adams, Valerie Piddock, Irene Parkinson, Robert Morissey, Father Francis McCauley, Zachary Ainscough (aged 7), Mary Bagg, Mary Castle, Peggy Ainscow, Canon Dorran, Christine Everitt, Mark O'Brien, Sheila Derbyshire, Margaret Gibson, Kathleen & Arnold Banks, Andrew Rostron, Rose Mellor and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness</p> <p>Lately Dead: Priscilla Martin, Herbert Walch, Mary Martindale, Lil Mather, Kevin Johnson, Leo Barnes, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Philip Derbyshire, Boguslaw Palmowski, Michael Flaherty, Sr Mary Baptista CP, Michael Fay, Thomas Rudd, Frank & Joyce Massey</p> <p>Anniversaries: Leila Parker, Michael Clarke</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Leila Parker, Herbert Walch, Philip Derbyshire, Michael Clarke, Kevin Johnson, Michael Fay, Boguslaw Palmowski, Michael Flaherty, Frank & Joyce Massey, Sr Mary Baptista, CP</p>
Monday (11 th)	9.30am Mass (SB) 7.15pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday (12 th)	7pm Mass (SJ) 7.30 SVP (SB)	
Wednesday (13 th) <i>St John Chrysostom</i>	9.15am Yr6 Mass (SC) 9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday (14 th) <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	9.15am Mass (SB)	
Friday (15 th) <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	9.30am St John's School 40 th Anniversary Mass (SJ) 7.30pm SVP Charity Concert (Dunscar Conservative Club)	
Saturday (16 th) <i>St Cornelius</i>	10.30am-12noon Baptism Preparation (Patmos Room, SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) <i>A Special Collection for the</i>	
Sunday (17 th) <i>Home Mission Sunday</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) – With Children's Liturgy <i>Bishops' Conference</i> 11.15am Mass (SB) – With Children's Liturgy 5.30pm Reignite, young adults Mass (Salford Cathedral) <i>A Day of Special Prayer for the Spread of the Gospel</i>	

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor RIP

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor was Archbishop of Westminster between 2000 and 2009, having been Bishop of Arundel and Brighton from 1977. He was created a Cardinal in February 2001 at the same consistory as Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the future Pope Francis. As Archbishop of Westminster, he was also President of the Bishops Conference and popularly referred to in the media as the leader of the Church in England and Wales. He died on Friday 1 September, following a period of illness. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has asked us all to pray for the repose of his soul and to pray for his family and all those who mourn his loss. For more information about his life and about the funeral arrangements see www.catholicnews.org.uk. May he rest in peace.

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Assistant Priest: Rev Francis Parkinson

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Catholic Education Service: Today is Education Sunday. The theme of this year's Education Sunday is *'Gathered in my name'* from the Gospel reading. We are encouraged to pray for all those involved in Catholic education, including, teachers, school staff, parents, governors and volunteers, and all those who contribute in some way. The Catholic Education Service (CES) is the agency of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales charged with safeguarding and promoting Catholic education. The CES regularly negotiates on behalf of schools and dioceses with the Department for Education and Ofsted, to ensure Catholic schools are well represented. The second collection today will be for the diocese's education work, and the Catholic Education Service.



Congratulations: To Orlagh Faith Callaghan who was baptised at St Brendan's last Saturday. And to Ada Rose Margaret Riley who was baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

Home Mission Sunday – 17 September 2017

The Home Mission Office exists to help the Church throughout England and Wales to share the joy of the Gospel. It can seem daunting to share such a personal part of our lives as our faith in Jesus Christ. However, we can pray that the people we carry in our hearts will encounter him for themselves. Prayer cards and prayer maps for families are available from www.homemission.org.uk. If you would like to pray for the spread of the Good News on a more regular basis, please sign up to their newsletter via www.homemission.org.uk. At our Masses next weekend, we will hold a second collection. The money received from this collection will ensure that the Catholic Faith Centre is resourced and is able to respond to those who have questions about the Catholic Faith. Online donations can also be made: <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Donate>

Becoming Catholic: You may, or may not be aware that we have previously run a programme for any adult who has an interest in becoming Catholic or simply wants to know more about the Catholic Faith. This year we are looking at beginning another group which will start in October at St John's Church. The programme will run until Easter and is for anyone in any of our parishes. If you would like more information and think that this is something that you would be interested in, please contact our parish office on 301927 or office@sbsj.org.uk.

SVP News

Destitution Project: The next collection of food and clothing items will take place at our churches throughout September. There is a list of essential food items on our notice boards. Thank you for your support.

Charity Concert: St John's SVP are holding a charity concert with the Eden Singers on Friday 15 September (7.30pm) at Dunsar Conservative Club. The musical evening will include a *Tribute to the Beatles* and *Decades of Pop from the 1940's up to the present day* and promises to be a very enjoyable event.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
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Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 16 September (10.30am-12noon) in the Patmos Room at St John's. This is for parents from any of our parishes who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. If you wish to attend please phone the office on 01204 301927 or email office@sbsj.org.uk.

Theatre Lovers: Please note that I will be collecting payment for our trip to see *Jane Eyre* (Saturday 27 January, 2pm) throughout September. I will be in the Harbour Room after 11.15am Mass each Sunday. Alternatively, please contact me at 303505. All cheques to be made payable to **The Octagon Theatre**. Thank you. *Madeleine*.

CAFOD: The next CAFOD Group meeting will be on Thursday 21 September at 7pm in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's. New members will be very welcome!

Christian Meditation: The next set of dates are:

Tuesday 10th October. 2pm - 2.45pm
Thursday 12th October. 7.15pm - 8pm
Tuesday 17th October. 2pm - 2.45pm
Thursday 19th October. No meeting.
Tuesday 24th October. 2pm - 2.45pm
Thursday 26th October. 7.15pm - 8pm

St John's School: Will be hosting an evening celebration "*St John's Through the Decades*" on Friday 29 September from 6.30pm. All will be welcome. In the meantime, if you could still have a look for any photographs, or pieces of information, and would be willing to allow us to use them for display purposes and to create a *Memories Book*, these would be gratefully received. The items loaned to us, should include the sender's name so that they can be returned. *Many thanks*

St John's 200 Club

The September winners are:

£50 E Leach (70)
£25 M Armstrong (199)



Marriage Matters

To listen is to Love: Matthew reminds us of Jesus' promise "...where two or more meet in my name I will be with them". In all the practical ways we look after each other, we are saying; 'your concerns are my concerns'. Nothing is too small or insignificant in our marriage, and my beloved is beside me to call me back to our life together.

Think Vocation

When two or more agree to ask the Father something, he hears it more pressingly. Why not start a private prayer campaign with another person to pray for somebody who may be discerning their vocation?

Cycle of Prayer Part 6 (of 6):

We pray especially for: the spread of the Gospel; the harvest; the fruits of human work & the reverent use of creation; justice and peace in the world; all victims of war; young people; prisoners & their families.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for 16/17 September

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SC)	C Molyneux	F Ginty, C Molyneux, J O'Connor
9.15 (SJ)	F Carter	E Rothwell, D Ramsden, A Gracie, F Smith, M Speed, M Cropper
11.15 (SB)	F Doloroso	M Meagher, J Murphy, P Brennan

Minutes of the Consultation Meeting of the Parishes of St. Brendan (SB), Harwood, St. Columba (SC), Tonge Moor and St. John the Evangelist, (SJ) Bromley Cross held at SJ on 5 September 2017.

The meeting was attended by 84 parishioners and chaired by Fr.M Cooke (FrMC), supported by Fr F Parkinson (FrFP).

Welcome, Prayer & Opening Comments

FrMC led opening prayers and welcomed parishioners to this important meeting to consider the next steps on the journey towards SB & SJ forming a new, single parish.

Notes of the last Forum Meeting (25 July 2017)

The notes of the meeting held on 25 July 2017 were agreed as a true record and the following matters arising were discussed

Matters Arising

FrMC then gave more information on the following matters: -

- Parish Enabling Team – Had held initial meetings and would meet regularly and seek to provide informed leadership in respect of catechesis, finance and safeguarding and more widely enabling & supporting others to move forward on our journey towards a missionary parish.
- Hope in the Future – An initiative, being launched on 4 October 2017 (The Feast of St. Francis) founded on God's calling to St. Francis to 'Rebuild my Church', designed to help enable parishes to build a working understanding of what it means to be a missionary parish.
- Eucharistic Congress September 2018 – Plans are being developed for the congress which will centre on the importance the Blessed Sacrament should play in our lives. There will be a procession in Liverpool and invitations to parishes will be issued.
- Harwood Methodists – Use of SB Church – The meeting supported the Methodists using SB church whilst their new church was being built. This would probably be from January 2018.

Feedback on Amalgamation Consultation Process

FrMC described the consultation process. FrMC and FrFP had encouraged all parishioners to take part in the consultation. The process had afforded opportunities to everyone to participate, both in writing and online. The outcomes of the Consultation Papers were reported to the meeting in the following four agenda items.

The Future of St Columba Parish (including special parish meeting)

As part of the consultation process, in addition to the multiple meetings mentioned in the notes of the Forum meeting of 25 July 2017, FrMC had held a meeting (19 August 2017) specifically for SC parishioners so they could offer any further comments, contributions, or proposals to address the problems of decline at SC. Thirty people attended this special meeting.

FrMC gave a verbal report and drew attention to the main areas of concern raised through the consultation process and talked through some of the issues highlighted, inviting comments from those attending the meeting. Areas covered were:

- School without a church – both in terms of the pupils not having an experience of church and in terms of pastoral support for the school
- Elderly parishioners and those without transport
- Possibility of sharing a building for Mass – either the school or a local C of E / Methodist church
- Mass times
- Collections – where does the money go?
- St Columba's feeling neglected, unprioritised, a poor relation
- Community Centre on the site?
- Why are numbers low? Strategies to increase them?
- Closing the church in the poorest area – not very Christian!
- Give parishioners time to raise the money needed (though it may then need to close if this is not achieved)
- St Columba parishioners have been through a period of uncertainty

A number of the above points were reiterated by a few parishioners at this Forum meeting. The meeting noted the understandable sadness of some SC parishioners, however, the status of SC remained one of decline of the premises; falling income; falling Mass attendance and a requirement for major capital expenditure. Given such, the case for closure was sound as SC did not have a sustainable future. The meeting was satisfied that all relevant facts had been fully examined and there was a need for certainty and to move on. For those SC parishioners who wished to do so, they had the opportunity to join with SB & SJ (or Holy Infant's) and they would be positively welcomed. FrMC would therefore recommend to the Bishop the closure of SC.

Parish Boundaries

The consultation agreed with the proposed boundaries which had also been discussed with Holy Infant & St. Anthony's parish priest and agreed as appropriate.

Pastoral Provision

All consultation responses agreed that the proposed new parish can serve the pastoral and spiritual needs of the people.

Possible names for the new parish

FrMC informed the meeting of the outcome of the voting process. In the order of the number of votes cast, four potential names have been shortlisted for submission to the Bishop for his consideration and possible approval. (Holy Family [78]; St. Aldhelm [46]; Corpus Christi [39]; Missionary Parish of SB & SJ [31]). None of the other 21 names received more than 25 votes.

Taking the Amalgamation Forward

FrMC explained that the next step was for the paperwork to be submitted to the Diocese.

Consultation with Presbyteral Council (PC)

The paperwork will be submitted to the PC (a body of priests) with whom the Bishop also must consult, and whose primary concern is to ensure that 'due process' had been followed in accordance with Canon Law, as well as giving a view as to the practicalities and workability of the proposed amalgamated parish.

Decision by Bishop

The Bishop will then give his decision on the amalgamation and name of the new parish by issuing a decree. The closure of SC, if approved, will follow once the new parish is established.

Date of Next Meeting

To be held in November 2017. Date & time to follow.