

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS
25TH SEPTEMBER 2011
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



“Once a sinner, always a sinner.” That seems to be the attitude of the self-righteous in the first reading and the Gospel; they object that God is unjust, because he gives sinners another chance. But God tells them quite clearly that such attitudes are the real injustice - to allow prejudice and hardness of heart to come between repentance and forgiveness. The words of Christ in the Gospel must have struck a chill into the hard hearts of the so-called righteous chief priests - even today they can make us stop and think: “Prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.” All our outward show matters little, if it does not correspond with what is deep in our hearts; all our words are meaningless, if they do not correspond with the way we live our lives.

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 1 Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SB)	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Philip Blackburn, Laura Shuttleworth, Bill Kay, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Baby Guy, Bernard Edmundson, Jonathan Rimmer, Maria de los Angeles, Paul Preston, Elizabeth Patterson, Eunice Brierley, Betty Boyle, Bernard Callaghan, Judith Oldham, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Rowland Coles, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Paul Whittle, Caroline Vickers, Bill Sharples, George Cowley, Marie Donnelly, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Gerard Walker, Elzie Ball, Karen West, Tommy Lenihan, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Marie Rigby, Francis Xavier Price (new-born baby), Alf Isherwood, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael (six year old), Baby Rose, Calum Russell (baby), Margaret Edge and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Ralph Gubbins, Martha Ryder, Kathleen Smith, Frank Greenhalgh, Michelle Urmston</p> <p>Anniversary: Barbara Grimes, Arthur Hamer</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Martha Ryder, Michelle Urmston, Barbara Grimes, Ralph Gubbins, Frank Greenhalgh, Arthur Hamer. Birthday Remembrances for David Greenhalgh, Dorothy Tudhope and Betty Carolan</p> <p>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</p>
Monday	9.30 Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Walsingham Mass (Salford Cathedral) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
<i>St Vincent de Paul</i>		
Wednesday	9.30am Diamond Wedding Mass: Harry & Kath Gillett (SJ) 1pm Requiem Mass for Frank Greenhalgh (SB) 1.30-3pm Harbour Room Book Club 7.30-8.30pm Youth Group (Patmos Room)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB)	
<i>Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael</i>		
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
<i>St Jerome</i>		
Saturday	5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
<i>St Teresa of the Child Jesus</i>		
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SJ)	
<i>Collection for Retired Priests' Fund</i>		
Baptism Preparation	Sacramental Programme	Youth Group
The next session for parents will be on Wednesday 12 October (7-8.30pm) in the Harbour Room. Please let Fr Cooke know if you will be attending.	We will shortly be beginning the new programme in each parish. Anyone with a Year 3 child not in one of our schools, or an older child who has missed the sacraments in earlier years, who would like to join the programme this year should contact Fr Cooke.	This resumes meeting this week on Wednesday evening (7.30 to 8.30) and is open to young people of secondary school age from either of our parishes.

Celebration Weekend: Thanks to all who organised, prepared and supported the various events to mark our special anniversaries. It was particularly heartening to see such full churches for the Masses at which the children were singing. We will leave the exhibitions of photos/memorabilia up for a few weeks, so please take a look at them. The special celebration collection raised just over £700 across the two parishes. Many thanks.

Congratulations: To Amy Rose Walsh who was baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that she and her family may continue to grow in faith.

Harbour Room Book Club: Welcome back to all members! I hope you all had a lovely break and read lots of great books which you are prepared to write some reviews about! (I am ever hopeful!) The next meeting will take place in the Harbour Room at 1.30pm on Wednesday September 28th and will finish at approximately 3pm. A charge of £1 is usual and homemade refreshments are provided. The designated summer read up for discussion is *The Island* by Victoria Hislop.

I have just received notice of a funeral taking place at St Brendan's at the same time as Book Club next Wednesday. We want to do all we can to help with the arrangements and so I would ask all members not to park outside the church, or the Harbour Room but to use the road outside or to arrange to be dropped off for the meeting and collected later. Perhaps this would be a good time to do some car-sharing to limit the number of vehicles around. We all send our sympathies to the family and will certainly not add to the constraints of parking on this sad occasion.

Some enquiries have been made as to whether we are having another Book Sale and the answer is yes but it will be at St. John's this time, probably sometime in October. Watch this space for dates.

Many thanks for all the support. We are all looking forward to seeing our members, old and new. *Madeleine*

Church Cleaning (SJ): J & M Gething

From the Musical Hall to the Musicals: This variety evening, including an audience sing along, is taking place at Birtenshaw Methodist Church on Saturday 1 October at 7pm. Tickets are £7.50, £5 for children or £20 for a family ticket (including supper) and are available from Susan Whitter on 592064.

Children of Eden: The Bolton Catholic Musical and Choral Society (BCMCS) are presenting this spectacular musical version of the story of creation written by Stephen Schwartz (creator of *Wicked* and *Godspell*) at the Bolton Albert Halls from 18th to 22nd October at 7.15pm (with a 2.15pm Saturday matinee). In view of the present economic climate, ticket prices have been slashed and are as cheap as £5 for groups of 15 or more. Full details are on the notices in the church porches or available via the box office (01204 652804) or website www.bcmcs.co.uk

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LOURDES 2011

Designated theme 'The Our Father'

I was one of those lucky enough to attend this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes as part of our parish group. This was my first visit to Lourdes—and what an experience it turned out to be.

It is fair to say that, because of airport coaching problems and aeroplane delays, our first 24 hrs did not go too well. Undeterred, however, and with little sleep we all managed to arise, somewhat bleary eyed, in time to attend the Diocesan introductory Mass on Thursday morning in the Basilica of St Pius X, a magnificent underground structure that holds 25,000 people. Our diocesan pilgrims filled only a small part of the Church using the far end altar for a Mass offered by Bishop Brain.

Whether it was the overall aura of the Lourdes Domaine, the magnificence of the Basilica of St Pius X, the beautifully concelebrated Mass including the Bishop's meaningful introductory sermon and pastoral welcome or a combination of all these things I do not know but I can say that I quickly became aware that I was now somewhere, or in the presence of something, very special. I could go on about feelings and emotions but things of that nature are personal and cannot be expressed easily.

I can say, however, that what followed throughout the 6 days, including the Torchlight Marian evening processions, the Catechesis evenings, the Blessed Sacrament procession (this year led by the Salford Diocese with our Vicar General, Fr. Anthony Kay carrying the Monstrance), the magnificent Upper Walk Stations of the Cross led by our own Fr. Michael, the Grotto (the spiritual heart of Lourdes), the Grotto Mass, the Mass for the Anointing of the Sick and the Closing Pilgrimage Mass and presentations, was simply inspiring.

I must mention that one of my everlasting memories of the week will always be the tremendous daily effort of our young people, some 200+ young adults, who worked tirelessly pushing wheelchairs and conveying the sick from dawn to dusk without a sign of discontent and always a smile on their faces. We all felt very proud to be associated with them.

Of course the main participants were the sick and infirm, both children and adults, whose courage in adversity was an example to us all. *Terry Smith*

Retired Priests' Fund

Last year we had a special appeal for this fund and there was a tremendous response across the diocese. We are having the annual collection next weekend or you can make a more regular contribution by standing order.

Think Vocations

St Paul speaks today of the need to have a common purpose and a common mind. Our Christian vocation should lead us to discover and carry out God's purpose for us. Our minds should be focused on Christ which will lead us to put other people first and purify ourselves of conceit.