

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS
4TH MARCH 2012
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

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We spool forward a few centuries in the story of the Old Testament, to arrive at Abraham, “our Father in faith”. Today we hear of another Covenant (like last week) - even though the word is not used. God promises Abraham descendants like “the stars of heaven”, and the showering of blessings. This shows how much God loves Abraham, and all his children. This love is proved for us in Jesus: God loves us so much he sacrificed his only Son (just as Abraham was willing to do); but this is not all: Jesus also rose from the dead, to stand at God’s right hand and plead for us. All this is revealed in the story of the Transfiguration, where Jesus is seen in the glory that is rightfully his as the only Son of God. Not until after the Resurrection will the disciples see this fully again.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 2</i> <i>Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		Prayers Please	
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) <i>CAFOD Fast Day Collection</i> 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Stations of the Cross (SJ) 2.30pm SVP Party (SB School)	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Bill Kay, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, 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, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, Bill Sharples, George Cowley, Marie Donnelly, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Gerard Walker, Elzie Ball, Karen West, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Alf Isherwood, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael (six year old), Baby Rose, Calum Russell (baby), Margaret Edge, Frank Brazel, Graham Roberts, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O’Grady, Tommy Lenihan, Pauline Bowling, Paul Buckley, Margaret Walsh, Joan Plumbley, Graham Turner, Jim Birch, Jane Dent, Mary Keighley, Emma Turner (12yrs old), Bishop Brain, Vincent Wood, Margaret Wood, Patrick O’Donnell (new-born baby), Joan Rankin, Bernard Cummings, Guy (3yrs old) and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Catherine Papworth, Philip Blackburn, Jack Jones, Jack Higginbottom</p> <p>Anniversary: Tony Coop, Andrew & Rose McGarry, James Alexander Sloane</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Guy (now 3yrs old), Charles Bell, Tony Coop, Catherine Papworth, Andrew & Rose McGarry, Philip Blackburn, James Alexander Sloane, For a successful operation, Special Intention, Danny & Eileen Ramsden (Golden Wedding)</p> <p>Cycle of Prayer Part 3 (of 6): We pray especially for: candidates for the sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers</p>	
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 6pm Memorial Service for Chania Williams (Thornleigh) 7.30pm Churches in Harwood Lent Course (SB) 7.30pm SVP & Youth Group – Talk on BRASS (Patmos)		
Tuesday	6.30pm Stations of the Cross (SB) 7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)		
Wednesday <i>Ss Perpetua & Felicity</i>	12.30pm Funeral for Jack Higginbottom (St Andrew’s) 7.30pm Deanery Station Mass (St William, Great Lever) 7.30-9pm Marriage Preparation (Kearsley) 7.30-8.30pm Youth Group (Patmos Room)		
Thursday	9.15am (SB) – School Mass in Church (Y3 – Following Jesus) 7.30pm CAFOD Meeting (Patmos Room)		
Friday	8.30am Mass in St John’s School 10am Coffee Morning for HCPT (Patmos Room) 7.30pm <i>Born to Sing</i> Social Evening (Dunscar)		
Saturday	5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)		<p>Christianity in Bolton <i>Exhibition in Up Close Gallery</i> <i>(First Floor, Central Library)</i> <i>From today until 26 May</i></p>
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Stations of the Cross (SJ) – led by CAFOD Group <i>Fairtrade Fortnight ends</i>		
<p>Collections, Donations, Gift Aid <i>All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan’s or St John’s as appropriate. 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>			
<p>Remember that throughout Lent we are invited to pray, to fast and to give alms. This Lent, any money given to CAFOD will be matched by the Government (UK Aid)</p>			

Congratulations: To Danny and Eileen Ramsden who celebrate their Golden Wedding this weekend.

Graham Turner: Graham, awaiting ordination as a priest for the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, has been undergoing treatment for leukaemia. He appeared to be responding well but has had a relapse and is now in hospital and will have to have some very severe treatment. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Chania Williams: There will be a Memorial Service for Chania at Thornleigh at 6pm on Monday. It is a service specifically aimed at young people and is open to any of her friends who are not at Thornleigh.

Fairtrade Fortnight: Our fairtrade stall at each church will be set up this weekend and next. 5% commission on all goods we sell goes to CAFOD. Please "Take a Step For Fairtrade" and visit the stall this Fairtrade Fortnight!

Relay of Prayer: Due to a change of plan at St Columba's, the torch could not be taken there on Friday afternoon so it will be transferred from St John's on Monday morning (with an assembly about Côte d'Ivoire). Later that day it will be taken to Holy Infants and then on to Thornleigh.

Marriage Preparation: The first of the deanery courses begins this week and will run on Wednesdays 7, 14, 21 March & 4 April (with another course on the Tuesdays of October). If you are planning to get married in church, then you need to attend this preparation.

Coffee Morning (SJ): This will take place on Friday morning (10am) in the Patmos Room and will raise funds for HCPT (deferred from February). Please support it.

Born to Sing: Tickets are still on sale (£6 including refreshments) for the parish social evening at Dunscair Conservative Club on Friday 9 March at 7.30pm.

Joe Gee: A date has now been set for Joe's ordination as a priest. This will be Saturday 21 July 2012 at 12noon in Salford Cathedral. Please continue to pray for Joe.

Harbour Room Book Club: Many thanks to all the members who attended our last meeting. We had never attempted two book discussions before and it all went extremely well. Thank you also to the many willing hands who helped to wash pots and generally clear up afterwards! The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28 March and the designated read is *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue M Kidd. *Madeleine*

Church Cleaning (SJ): D Peyton & A Vinden

Cynthia Winstanley: Following Cynthia's request for donations to charity instead of flowers for her funeral, John Howarth has forwarded donations totalling £907.50 (£797.50 to CAFOD & £110 to Bolton Hospice). There have also been direct donations to CAFOD and Christie's, giving a final total in excess of £1000. Sincere thanks to all donors. *Bert Winstanley & family*

Funeral: Jack Higginbottom's funeral will take place at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Tonge Moor at 12.30 on Wednesday. He was known to many at St Brendan's.

Rosaries for Aboriginals: Deacon Tony Cunningham is soon to visit islands where only aboriginals, one priest and a few social workers live. They are in desperate need of rosaries – any age, colour or condition. Please search high and low and bring any unwanted rosaries to church so that they can be sent along *poste haste*. Thank you. *Rita Brooks*

Lent Activities This Week

Churches in Harwood Lent Course

Monday Evening 7.30-9pm
5 March – Harwood Methodists (Tottenham Road)

Stations of the Cross

Sunday Afternoon 2pm at St John's
Tuesday Evening 6.30pm at St Brendan's

Deanery Station Mass

Wednesday Evening 7.30pm (Confessions from 7pm)
7 March – St William, Great Lever
[76a Lever Edge Lane, BL3 3EN]

Friday Morning Mass

8.30am in St John's School

All are welcome to attend any of these activities

Blessed Sacrament: Last Sunday, the tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament was stolen from Christ Church, Nelson. Each parish in the Salford Diocese is asked to make an act of reparation for this act and to focus our hearts and minds on the centrality of the Eucharist in our lives and the importance of the Reserved Sacrament at the heart of our parish communities. We will do this through the Stations of the Cross this Sunday afternoon.

Adoration: In preparation for the Eucharistic Congress, we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St John's from Saturday 17 to Sunday 18 March. We will have a 9.30 Mass that Saturday morning and then Adoration through to evening Mass time and from after evening Mass through to just before the 9.15 Mass on the Sunday. We will need volunteers – from both parishes – to pray before the Blessed Sacrament (and keep an eye on the church) throughout that time. Please sign the lists at the back of each church. Thanks. *Fr Cooke*

Lourdes: Prices are now available for this year's diocesan pilgrimage. Costs with full board at our preferred Hotel Irelande are: by train-£525; by train with overnight Calais stop-£571; by air-£605. An insurance of £21 is available if required. I have the application forms and full details for distribution to prospective pilgrims. *Terry Smith* (531197)

Think Vocations

Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son to show his faithfulness to God. Let us pray for parents who find it difficult to accept that their son or daughter may have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. In any sacrifices we make we need to see the bigger picture and not just how it directly affects us. In encouraging their children to serve Our Lord in the Church, parents could see that new life is being given to countless people.

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Baptism Preparation: The next session for parents will be on Thursday 29 March (7-8.30pm) in the Harbour Room