

29TH JULY 2012 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Divine Office Week 1</i>	5TH AUGUST 2012 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Divine Office Week 2</i>																				
<p>For the next five weeks we take our leave of Saint Mark's Gospel (since it is not long enough to fill the year) and read Chapter Six of Saint John's Gospel. This is the famous "Eucharistic Discourse" and begins with the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. A line of the Psalm gives the meaning of today's readings: "The eyes of all creatures look to you (O God) and you give them their food in due time." Our God is the God who provides for his people; the prosperity and fruitfulness of our earth and the mysterious cycles of nature ensures that all have what they need - and have some left over. The actions of Elisha and Jesus are in a sense prophetic: many would say that there is not enough food in this world to go round, just as the two sets of disciples complain that there is not enough for the hundred or the five thousand. But the prophetic action states that this is not true: God provides what is needed. This might prompt us to think about the unfair and unequal distribution of the fruits of the earth: the miracle is a sign of the Kingdom of God - what God wants the world to be like. Perhaps we should take the message of the miracle to heart this Sunday and think about the multitude that still sits in hunger in our world today.</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="padding-left: 10px;"> <p>We continue reading from John 6: this is the aftermath of the miracle, and we see the beginnings of a misunderstanding that will develop over the next four weeks. People have seen the miracle, but not the message: they have seen the sign, but not what it points towards. The bread that was given is a sign of the Bread of Life, which is the teaching, the words and the very person of Jesus, as the revelation of the Father. His mission is to draw people back to his Father, to found a New Covenant or relationship.</p> <p>As the weeks go by, we will see that the people's hunger is simply for spectacle and miracle, not for the much harder teaching of living nourished by God's word and the presence of his only Son. For us, the People of the New Covenant, these passages must make us think of how we receive the Lord in the Eucharist. Are we nourished by his presence, so that all the hunger and thirst of our lives is answered by the One who is the Bread of Life?</p> </div> </div>																				
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Masses & Feasts This Week	Masses & Feasts This Week																				
<p>Sunday – 9.15am Mass (SJ); 11.15am Mass (SB) Monday – 1pm Requiem Mass for Brian Turner (SB) Tuesday – No Mass – St Ignatius of Loyola Wednesday – No Mass – St Alphonsus Mary de'Ligouri Thursday – No Mass Friday – No Mass Saturday – St John Mary Vianney – 6.30pm Mass (SJ)</p>	<p>Sunday – 9.15am Mass (SJ); 11.15am Mass (SB) Monday – No Mass – The Transfiguration of the Lord Tuesday – 7pm (SB) Wednesday – 9.30am (SJ) – St Dominic Thursday – 9.15am (SB) – St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Friday – 9.30am (SJ) – St Lawrence Saturday – St Clare – 6.30pm Mass (SJ)</p>																				
Think Vocation	Think Vocation																				
<p>The boy in the Gospel was encouraged to generously give to Jesus the little bit of food he had. Each of us has an abundance of gifts but often a reluctance to allow them to be used by the Lord for the building up of his Kingdom. Let any reluctance we have be replaced by an outpouring of trusting generosity.</p>	<p>Every time we come to Mass and receive Our Lord in Holy Communion we have an opportunity to dedicate our Communion for a particular intention. Perhaps this week we could offer this intention for vocations to the priesthood and Religious Life.</p>																				
Day for Life	Olympic Games																				
<p>This year's theme is "Use your body for the glory of God" (1 Cor 6:20) and we have a collection to assist the work of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church. See www.dayforlife.org</p>	<p>Let us pray that the Olympic and Paralympic Games go well, are an example of people giving of their best in a true spirit of sportsmanship, and help to bring the nations of the world together in harmony and peace.</p>																				
<p>Keep up to date with parish news – and join in the online forum discussions – via our website: www.sbsj.org.uk</p>																					

Prayers Please

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, Judith Oldham, Kathleen Humphreys, Betty Boyle, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, George Cowley, Marie Donnelly, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Gerard Walker, Elzie Ball, Karen West, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Margaret Edge, Frank Brazel, Graham Roberts, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O'Grady, Pauline Bowling, Paul Buckley, Margaret Walsh, Joan Plumbley, Emma Turner, Vincent Wood, Margaret Wood, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, Trevor Gee, Catherine Crowley, John Barrett, Fr Patrick Quinlan, John Devine, Bea Gilmore, Tara Vinden, Roy Smith, Isabelle Karzynski, Bob Whaley, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Amanda Calcutt, Dr Bernard Higgins and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.

Lately Dead: Brian Turner, Sheila Barlow, David Tyldesley

Mass Intentions: Amanda Calcutt, John Hayhurst, Steve Wadson, Sheila Barlow, Dr Bernard Higgins, David Tyldesley & family, Joseph Gilmartin

Congratulations: To Jackson David Ball, Molly Grace Hayes and Jessica Winifred Livesey who were baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday (22nd). We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

Lourdes: The diocesan pilgrimage will be celebrating Mass at the Grotto on Friday (7.30am here at home). You can watch it on the webcam (Google "TV Lourdes") and you might recognise the preacher!

Donation: Members of the Harbour Room Book Club will be pleased to know that a thank-you letter has arrived from the Leprosy Association (LEPRA) for our donation of £30 towards their treatment programme. This letter is on the Harbour Room notice board if anyone would like to read it. Thank you to all members. *Pauline* (Treasurer)

Nappies: Last Saturday night (21st) someone put a soiled nappy in the bin in the kitchen area of the Patmos Room. Luckily it was discovered and removed that evening or the stench in the Patmos Room would have been unbearable by Sunday morning. Please do not leave soiled nappies in either of our church premises but take them home and dispose of them as you normally would. Thanks.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

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Parish Forum Discussion

To continue the discussions begun at the recent forum meeting, online forums have been set up on the parish website (www.sbsj.org.uk) for each of the following topics:

Sharing the Load

Discussion of this topic acknowledged the heavy workload I carry as parish priest of two parishes together with deanery and diocesan responsibilities. However, I was at pains to point out that the starting point for this should not be "because Father is too busy" but recognition of the call in Vatican II for laypeople to exercise their rights and responsibilities to play a more active part in the life and mission of the Church.

There are a considerable number of roles that parishioners could and should take on in order to "share the load" both with the priest and with one another. Have you any ideas about what those roles might be and how people (perhaps including yourself) might be encouraged to take them on?

The Future of St Brendan's Presbytery

The presbytery has now been empty for over four years and is clearly deteriorating. The meeting was advised of a number of local and diocesan conversations about possible uses, none of which have proved viable. One of the main sticking points has been the shared access to the site.

However, the forum believed the presbytery was still a significant asset and demolition was not the preferred option. If anyone has any further suggestions for potential use of the presbytery they are encouraged to put this forward now since the diocese will want to revisit this issue in the near future.

Reverence and Respect

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?

Development of the Patmos Room

This matter was discussed several times at meetings of the St John's Parish Forum and plans had been drawn up by diocesan-approved building surveyors. These were not considered to be entirely what was wanted and the last forum discussion raised a number of issues about ensuring that any adaptation provided for both worship and social use of the space, so another architect was asked to do some work.

The most recent suggestion is to build a separate room but linked to the existing building by some form of corridor. Any ideas would be gratefully accepted for consideration.

*If you would like to contribute to the discussion of these matters, either log on to the website and add your comments to the ongoing discussion thread for the particular topic or put your comments in writing in an envelope marked "Parish Forum" and submit them at either church. The closing date for comments is **Sunday 16 September**, which will allow the comments to be collated before the next forum meeting in October. Please do take this opportunity to help shape our parishes. Thanks.*