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We now return to Saint Mark, for the rest of the year. The Gospel brings out one of the central problems of all religion: the way in which peripheral laws and customs gradually take over the more fundamental commandments, and the way in which “externalism” and a concern with superficialities gradually suffocates a true “internal” faith which is lived out. Here we see the angry Jesus: he calls them “hypocrites”, as he condemns their “worthless worship”. He teaches a central truth: it is what comes from within that determines whether we are clean or unclean, good or evil. The commandments of God, which Moses puts before the people with such great pride, become the source of justice when they are given a place in the heart. When other rules and regulations about how to wash and what to eat displace them, then they are stifled and justice is practised no longer.

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b> <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>		<b>Prayers Please</b>
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB)	<p><b>Sick:</b> 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, Kathleen Humphreys, Betty Boyle, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, George Cowley, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Gerard Walker, Elzie Ball, Karen West, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard &amp; Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Margaret Edge, Frank Brazel, 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, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Amanda Calcutt, Dr Bernard Higgins, Eric Roberts (Snr), Leila Parker and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> James Dowbakin, Bob Whaley, Gerard Greenhalgh, Catherine Murray, Frank Haslam, Constance Dalton</p> <p><b>Anniversary:</b> Albert Jansen, David Gracie</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Frederick Martin (Birthday Remembrance), Bob Whaley, Gerard Greenhalgh, Catherine (Kay) Murray, In honour of St Anthony for a special intention, Frank Haslam, Constance Dalton, Albert Jansen, David Gracie, Special intention</p> <p><b>Cycle of Prayer Part 6 (of 6):</b> We pray especially for: the spread of the Gospel; the harvest; the fruits of human work &amp; the reverent use of creation; justice and peace in the world; all victims of war; young people; prisoners &amp; their families</p>
Monday <i>St Gregory the Great</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	9.15am Mass (SB) – <i>Note morning Mass today</i> 7.30pm SVP (SB) 7.30pm Deanery Safeguarding Meeting (Horwich)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) 7pm Meeting for Rome & Assisi Pilgrimage (Patmos)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday <i>Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	11am Mass for the Housebound (SB) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB) <i>Special Collection for Catholic Association for Racial Justice</i>	
<p><b>Collections, Donations, Gift Aid</b> <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>		

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**Assistant Priest:** This weekend we welcome Father Joseph Gee as Assistant Priest to our parishes. We hope that he will have a happy and fruitful ministry here with us. His dad is still very seriously ill, so Father Joe will need to spend some time each week with his family. Also in the next few weeks, he needs to prepare for a final exam for his degree and will return to Rome for this at the end of this month and the beginning of October.

**SVP:** The Mass for the housebound, sick and disabled this year will be celebrated at St Brendan's on Saturday 8 September at 11am. Everybody is welcome. Refreshments available after Mass. If you require transport to attend this Mass, please contact a member of the SVP.

**Rome and Assisi:** Those who are going on this parish pilgrimage are invited to a meeting at 7pm on Thursday 6 September in the Patmos Room.

**Baptism Preparation:** The next preparation session for parents wishing to have a child baptised in either of our churches will be on Monday 10 September (7-8.30pm) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's.

**Education:** As our schools re-open this week, we wish our pupils and staff every blessing for the year ahead. We also wish every blessing to those who are going on to college or university, whether in Bolton or further afield.

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**Piety Stall (SB):** There will be a sale of existing stock over the next few weeks. There may be some bargains!

**Quiz Night:** This will take place on Friday 5 October at Dunscair Conservative Club. Tickets will go on sale the weekend of 8/9 September.

**BCMCS:** The next production is *The Sound of Music*, from 16 to 20 October at the Albert Halls. Tickets (from £11) are available from the box office (01204 334400) or at [www.alberthalls-bolton.co.uk](http://www.alberthalls-bolton.co.uk) There is also a special deal which, for £17, includes a pre-theatre meal at Olympus Fish & Chip Restaurant.

**Christie's Friends:** There will be a Fashion Show by Joan Berry of Harwood in aid of Christie's Friends on Thursday 27 September at 7pm in the Ukrainian Club, Castle St, Bolton. Raffle & Bar. Tickets (£5) are available from Kath Brown (07753 170241) or Eileen Winniczuk (07903 976227)

**Marriage Celebration:** Are there any more couples celebrating Golden Weddings (or above) who would like to attend the special celebration at the Cathedral on 26 October?

#### Think Vocation

"You must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves". People can often feel unable to share their thoughts about a possible vocation with anyone else. Let us pray at this present time for those who feel called to the priesthood and Religious Life, but lack the courage to do anything about it.

#### Parish Forum Discussion

*A reminder to make any further contributions to these discussions either via the parish website ([www.sbsj.org.uk](http://www.sbsj.org.uk)) or in writing by **Sunday 16 September**. Please do take this opportunity to help shape our parishes. Thanks.*

##### 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.