

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

16TH JULY 2017 – FIFTEENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME



The Gospel today is the beginning of a new section in Matthew, called ‘The Parabolic Discourse’ - a section of parables Jesus tells the crowd, which we will read over the next three weeks. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning: we can easily remember the story, and gradually the true meaning becomes clearer and clearer. Today is a famous example: *The Parable of the Sower*. In itself, it is a story that would easily be understood by Jesus’s audience - people who lived in an agricultural economy. Jesus uses their understanding to make an important teaching about the message he has brought: it is like a seed that is thrown out and received in different ways - the ideal is when the seed finds good soil, and produces a crop that can be seen and harvested: so the ideal listener to the word is one who allows it to lodge in the heart, but also produces a visible result. What is the harvest we should yield, when we have heard the word?

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 3</i> Sunday Missal: Page 317; Preface: At priest’s choice		Prayers Please	
Sunday <i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Principal Patron of the Diocese</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 3pm Final Service at Birtenshaw Methodist Church	<p>Sick: Mary Leigh, 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, Edwin Rankin, Father Francis McCauley, Margaret Patterson, Zachary Ainscough (aged 7), Mary Bagg, Mary Castle, Peggy Ainscow, Jacqueline Kay, Peter Westwell, Canon Dorran, Christine Everitt, Priscilla Martin, Mark O’Brien, Philip & Marie Derbyshire and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness</p> <p>Lately Dead: Geoff Bradshaw, Raymond Stones, Kath Pilling, Beatrice Eccles, Maureen Westley, Barbara Hollinshead</p> <p>Anniversaries: Winifred Weston, Michael Hayes, Anne Howarth, Eileen Dearden</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Geoff Bradshaw, Vincent Heron (Birthday Remembrance), A Special Intention, Mark O’Brien (sick), Winifred & James Weston, Michael Hayes, Anne Howarth, Fr Ivor Netto SDB, Eileen Dearden, Philip & Marie Derbyshire (sick)</p>	
Monday (17 th)	No Mass Today 7.45pm SVP (SJ)		
Tuesday (18 th)	10am Bromley Cross Art & History Group Coffee Morning in aid of Bolton Hospice (SJ) 2pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room, SB) No Mass Today 7.15pm SVP (SB)		
Wednesday (19 th)	No Morning Mass Today 7pm Mass for Staff of St John’s School (SJ Church)		
Thursday (20 th)	9.15am Yr6 Leaver’s Mass (SB) 1pm-3pm Colouring Social Group (SJ) 7.15pm-8pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room, SB)		
Friday (21 st)	9.15am Yr6 Leaver’s Mass (SC) 9.30am Yr6 Leaver’s Mass (SJ) – Seeds & Gardeners		
Saturday (22 nd) <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	12noon Ordinations to the Priesthood (Salford Cathedral) 5pm Mass (SC)		
Sunday (23 rd) <i>Day of Special Prayer for Europe</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ)		
<p>Collections & Donations: All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan’s, St Columba’s or St John’s as appropriate.</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Cheques should be made payable to St John’s</p> <p>Gift Aid: 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</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6):</p> <p>We pray especially for: a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; human life; seafarers</p>

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Assistant Priest: Rev Francis Parkinson

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Congratulations: To Olivia Elizabeth Foster who was baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that both she and her family may continue to grow in faith.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2017: A group from our parishes will again be taking part in this year's Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (28 July - 3 August). If you wish the group to place petitions, on your behalf, in the Grotto, please enclose them in an envelope and hand them to either of our priests or to Margaret Russell at St John's and Peter Carolan or myself at St Brendan's. During the pilgrimage, the group will organise a special gathering to light a Parish Candle adjacent to the Grotto and offer prayers on behalf of all fellow parishioners and families. *Terry Smith*

Save The Date: St John's SVP are holding a charity concert with the Eden Singers on Friday 15 September (7.30pm) at Dunscair 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. Tickets priced at £8 will be on sale soon and will include a pasty supper. There will be a full bar facility available at the Conservative Club.

Theatre Lovers: I have provisionally booked 20 places for the Octagon's production of *Jane Eyre* on 27 January 2018. This will be a matinee 2pm performance on a Saturday (weekday performances heavily booked by school parties). The price is £18 (dearer on a Saturday) and I have booked the rear rows we prefer. Also, I have booked 6 seats for the front row with a ground floor entrance, (no stairs, no lift) to make access easier. If you would like to book seats for this event please ring me on 303505. I will not be collecting any money until September. *Madeleine*

Christian Meditation Group: The group will meet in the Harbour room at St Brendan's on the following dates: Tuesday 25th July (2-2.45pm) and Thursday 20th and 27th July (7.15-8pm). All are most welcome!

Parish Forum: Will be discussing the forthcoming amalgamation of St John's and St Brendan's, and the continuing partnership with St Columba's, on Tuesday 25 July (7.30pm-9pm) in the Patmos Room. This is an important meeting about our future. All welcome.

Colouring Social Group: The group will hold its next (and last) get together on Thursday 20 July. Thank you to everyone who has supported the group over the last few months.

Vacancy: Site Manager

The Diocese of Salford is seeking to recruit an experienced individual to the post of Site Manager for the Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist and the Cathedral House. For more information about this position, please see the poster on the notice boards, email: personnel@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or telephone: 0161-817 2222.

Marriage Matters

Listen to the person behind the words: The stony ground is when we are too engrossed in the telly, reading or working on the computer to listen to our partner. The thorny ground is where we disengage with such but not wanting real involvement, suggest a cuppa as a diversion. We are called to be fertile ground by real listening – hold hands, look in each other's eyes

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

St Brendan's and St John's Conferences - Report 2016 -2017

The aim of the society is to find, help and befriend anyone in need regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender or status. The essence of our work is person to person contact. Spending time with people is perhaps our greatest gift. Each of our Conferences meets weekly for approximately one hour. The main part of our work is to visit elderly or isolated people in their own homes, care homes or hospitals.

Our Membership and activities are detailed as follows:

St Brendan's has 8 members; St John's has 13 members plus 1 auxiliary member.

During the year we have made a total of 884 visits (St Brendan's 284; St John's 600)

During the year you have generously supported our fundraising by:

- Sponsoring or taking part in our annual sponsored walk which raised £1,647.00
- Attending the Eden Singers Concert which raised £851.00
- Giving to our annual Maundy Thursday collection £304.46.
- Personal Donations through our weekly secret collection £300.00
- Supporting Coffee Mornings and jam/marmalade sales £200.00

We have used this money in the following ways:

- Supported 16 needy families at Christmas providing hampers, gift tokens and selection boxes to help make a difference to these struggling families.
- Held a party at St Brendan's for parishioners.
- Provided afternoon tea at St John's for our visitees.
- Donated to the Sudan Baby Feeding project and the Haiti Disaster fund.
- Provided support to Sister Barbara's Destitution project by augmenting the quarterly Parish Gather in
- Provided support to families for school outings and holiday activities.
- Helped with furniture and clothing to two families in distress.
- Organising twice-yearly outings for our elderly and housebound parishioners.
- Supporting our twinned Conference in Kerala (India) through the SVP Twinnage Scheme.

We cannot stress enough how your continued support helps those in dire need, particularly families who suddenly need emergency help. For this we thank you. We would also like to thank both Canon Cooke and Father Parkinson for their continued help and support. If anyone would like to know more about our work or knows of anyone who would welcome our visits, please contact either: Arthur Rawlinson (St John's SVP), Catherine Bridge (St Brendan's SVP) or Catherine Grundy at the Parish Office. Contact details are displayed on the notice boards at each of our churches.

Think Vocation

We pray that the call to serve Christ and his Church in the priesthood and consecrated life, will fall on the rich soil of hearts prepared by prayer, hard work and generous service to others.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for 22/23 July

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SC)	L Seals	M Hilton, J Cranshaw
9.15 (SJ)	M Russell	E Rothwell, D Ramsden, A Gracie, P McArdle, M Cropper, T Armstrong
11.15(SB)	C Owen	P Brennan, M Durkan, C Owen