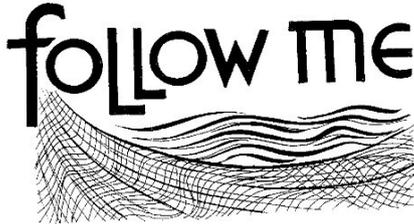


**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS
28TH AUGUST 2011
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



A quick glance at last week's Gospel reveals the interesting development of the story: last week, we heard Peter proclaiming that Jesus was the Messiah, and being given authority as a result. This week, Peter gets it wrong: he is rebuked by the Lord because he does not understand who the Messiah is. The Messiah is the one who will give everything for his people - even his own life. To be a follower of Jesus demands an understanding and acceptance of this fact, and a willingness to take up the cross as Jesus did. Our introduction to this is the prophet Jeremiah - also persecuted for doing and saying what was right. Have a look at the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, where this twinning of Jeremiah and prophecy of persecution also appears.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1; 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) 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, Elizabeth Walton, Karen West, Tommy Lenihan, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Marie Rigby, Francis Xavier Price (new-born baby), Alf Isherwood, Kathleen Smith, Bernard & Rita Houlder, Ralph Gubbins and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Stephen Jackson, Stephen Overton, Joan Hyland, Patricia Allen</p> <p>Anniversary: Kathleen Jackson, Ellen Anne Corlett</p>	
Monday <i>The Beheading of St John the Baptist</i>	9.30 Mass (SJ) Bank Holiday		
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB) 7.30-9pm Marriage Preparation Course <i>[See overleaf]</i>		
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ)		
Thursday <i>St Edmund Arrowsmith</i>	9.15am Mass (SB)		
Friday	No Mass today		
Saturday <i>St Gregory the Great</i>	6.30pm Mass (SJ)		
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB)		
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>			Mass Intentions Kathleen Jackson, Stephen Jackson, Stephen Overton, Ellen Anne Corlett
Baptism or Marriage <i>By appointment and with preparation You must give six months notice for Marriage See Fr Cooke to arrange</i>			Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6) 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 <i>These are intentions we are invited to pray for in public and privately during this period of the year.</i>
Find out about our Parishes, Masses, Events, Groups and so much more: www.sbsj.org.uk			

Joe Gee: This weekend we welcome one of our seminarians who will be with us on placement over the coming few weeks. Joe is training in Rome and is about to begin his final year, so he will be ordained deacon later this year and then priest next summer. Some of you had chance to meet him in Lourdes. Please take whatever opportunity you get to speak to him, make him welcome and support him in his preparation for priesthood.

Congratulations: To Jaicob Luhar who was baptised at St John's on Sunday 7 August. We pray that he and his family may continue to grow in faith.

Joan Hyland: I was sorry to learn of Joan's death and to miss her funeral whilst I was away at World Youth Day. Soon after I came to St John's in 2006, Joan told me that at the age of 86 she thought it was probably time to step down as the parish registrar (a position she had held since 1994). We owe her a debt of thanks for those years of service. She was also secretary to the St John's SVP for many years and, although she had recently handed that job on, she stepped in to take the minutes just two days before her death! May she rest in peace. *Fr Cooke*

Lourdes: Our parish group had a great experience of the Diocesan Pilgrimage. We hope to repeat that again next year. Many thanks to Terry Smith for promoting this.

Parish Celebration: Tickets for the concert and buffet meal at Thornleigh Salesian College on Friday 16th September are still available and are on sale at the Masses this weekend. They are £10 each.

Quiz Night: Tickets are also on sale for the annual quiz night organised by the social committee. This takes place at the Dunscair Conservative Club on Friday 23 September at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 (including refreshments). Please note that there is a maximum of 6 members per team.

CAMEO: The next meeting of the group will take place on Thursday 8 September (2-4pm) in the Harbour Room. There will be a flower arranging demonstration and refreshments will be available. All are welcome.

SVP: We are now entering into the annual "Awareness Month" which highlights aspects of the work of the SVP. A different poster will be put on the church noticeboards for each of the next four weeks.

Bromley Cross Library: The campaigners who fought to keep the library open are now asking us to *use the library*, for fear that the Council might try again to close it. There are bookmarks with the library opening times available in church. There is also a new questionnaire to complete either by collecting a form at the library or going online: www.bolton.gov.uk/libraries. Presumably the same approach is needed to ensure the future of Harwood library, though no specific information has been received.

Spirit of Bolton: This annual event, organised by the Interfaith Council to celebrate the diversity of our town community, will take place on Saturday 10 September.

New Translation of the Roman Missal

We will begin using the new Order of Mass from next weekend. Copies of the new text have been purchased for each of our churches, so we will all be able to join in fully using the new translation.

A few copies of *Understanding the Revised Mass Texts* are still available for any households that did not get them before.

[Further information: www.salfordliturgy.org.uk/romanmissal.htm]

Marriage Preparation

A reminder that, in addition to giving six months notice, couples wishing to marry in church must also attend marriage preparation. Here in the Bolton Deanery, courses are run at the Schoenstatt Shrine and Pastoral Centre, Manchester Road, Kearsley BL4 8QQ.

There is a course starting this Tuesday (30th) for the next four weeks. The course runs from 7.30pm to 9pm and is delivered by a priest and a married couple. If you wish to attend, please contact Fr Bryan Cunningham on 01204 572077 or fr.bryan@schoenstatt.org.uk and please let Fr Cooke know that you will be attending.

Think Vocations

Today's psalm is also used in Morning Prayer, part of the Divine Office of the Church faithfully prayed by millions of priests, religious and laypeople every day. We are all thirsting for God and the best way to satisfy this thirst is through a well-disciplined life of prayer.

Friday Abstinence

Abstaining from eating meat (or some other food if meat is not part of our regular diet) is the way in which Catholics throughout the world mark Friday as a day of penitence. Back in the 1980s, our Bishops' Conference decided (in accordance with their right in Canon Law) to allow us to substitute other acts of penitence but they have now decided (at their meeting in May) to restore abstinence from meat as the required act. This takes effect from Friday 16 September (the anniversary of Pope Benedict's visit to Britain last year).

Naturally, this decision has given rise to a number of questions and the Bishops' Conference has published some answers (available on the diocesan website) to assist people in understanding the purpose and practice of abstaining from meat on a Friday.

The bishops stress that the purpose of re-introducing this particular form of penitence is to enable Catholics to bear common witness to their faith through this action. As with our Lenten penances, we can link our abstinence (a form of fasting) with prayer and almsgiving, so that our efforts are part of developing our spiritual life and showing our concern for those in need.

We are urged to act prudently in situations where refusing meat on a Friday may cause offence or friction and are reminded that failure to abstain from meat on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin. The gravity of the obligation imposed by Church Law is to observe penance as a regular and necessary part of our spiritual life.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

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