

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

22ND JANUARY 2012

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Where does Jesus begin his ministry? Where John the Baptist left off - preaching a message of repentance, of change, to welcome the new Kingdom of God. There is a simplicity about this message, which is not compromised by anything - today's Gospel has these simple words from Jesus, and then the story of his calling more disciples to follow him and share in the work of spreading this message. Repentance has had something of a bad press - we tend to think of it as an old-fashioned concept. But every age needs to hear this call: to look at what we do and say and assume, and realise that there are such things as right and wrong, and that sometimes we follow the wrong path. To follow Jesus, and to accept the Kingdom of God, demands that we make a radical choice, which might well change our lives.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 3</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, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Paul Whittle, 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 and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Joseph Rooney, Peter Broughton, Teresa Kelly, Cynthia Winstanley, Bernard Burke</p> <p>Anniversary: Kathleen & Harry Howarth, Bernard Coop, Fr Terence Aylward SDB, John Livesey, Bertu Debono, Anthony McKiernan, Philip Burtun</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Kathleen & Harry Howarth, Bernard Coop, Joseph Rooney, Chania Williams, Peter Broughton, Fr Terence Aylward SDB, Teresa Kelly, John Livesey, Bertu Debono, Anthony McKiernan</p> <p>Cycle of Prayer Part 2 (of 6): We pray especially for: peace on earth; Christian unity; the sick and those who care for them; students and teachers; the unemployed</p>	
Monday	9.30am Requiem Mass for Frank Kilfoyle (SB) 8pm SVP (SJ)		
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB) <i>St Francis de Sales</i> 7.30pm Social Committee (Patmos Room) 7.30pm Holocaust Survivor's Story (Bury) <i>[See overleaf]</i>		
Wednesday	10am Requiem Mass for Cynthia Winstanley (SB) <i>Conversion of St Paul</i> 1.30-3pm Book Club (Harbour Room) 7.30-8.30pm Youth Group (Patmos Room) <i>End of Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>		
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) <i>Ss Timothy & Titus</i>		
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Holocaust Memorial Service (Festival Hall)		
Saturday	5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i> 6.30pm Mass (SJ)		
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (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>			Baptism or Marriage <i>By appointment and with preparation</i> <i>You must give six months notice for Marriage</i> <i>See Fr Cooke to arrange</i>
Find out about our Parishes, Masses, Events, Groups and so much more: www.sbsj.org.uk			

Christian Unity: Thank you to those who attended the service at St John's on Thursday. Our retiring collection raised £69.69 for Winter Watch. The annual Octave of Prayer comes to an end on Wednesday but we still have the service for Harwood on Monday 30 January at Harwood Methodists (Longsight). Please continue to pray for Christian unity.

St Brendan's School: The choir are taking part in a concert at Manchester Arena on Tuesday evening. We wish them well.

Social Committee (SJ): Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday.

Harbour Room Book Club: Happy New Year to all our members and anyone considering joining! The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 25th 1.30pm-3pm approx with £1 charge. The designated read is *Half of a Yellow Sun* by C.N Adichie. Refreshments provided. All welcome. *Madeleine*

Congratulations: To Seamus O'Grady, our altar server at St Brendan's. *The Bolton News* on Thursday carried the front page story about his generosity in giving his savings (£16.12) to an elderly lady whose house had been ransacked. A great example to us all! Well done, Seamus!

Winter Watch: Thank you for all you support with the appeal for UHT Whole Milk and for the Cake Bake this weekend.

Christie Friends Raffle: The draw took place on Sunday 8 January in the Harbour Room. The winning ticket was number 16 bought by Adrienne Slattery. Three smaller prizes were donated and tickets 8, 41 & 125 were drawn. All have been claimed. The amount raised was £800 which will be used for the benefit of the patients and their families. Thank you for your continued support. *Kath*

Caritas Diocese of Salford: is seeking to appoint a full time Service Manager (Community Services) to lead on the management and strategic development of the Community Services and to be responsible for the development of new projects and related resources. For further information, please contact recruitment@caritassalford.org.uk or contact Rachel Birks on 0161 817 2250.

Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Closing date for applications is Monday 6 February. Full details of this post were on last weekend's newsletter and are displayed on church noticeboards.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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Think Vocations

"Follow me and I will make you into Fishers of men". Christ formed his disciples to be ready to preach the Gospel. We need to remember that those who are to serve as priests in the Church also need to be formed first. Let us pray for the priests, religious and laypeople who serve on the staff in our seminaries and houses of formation in this country and elsewhere.

Holocaust Memorial

A Survivor's Story

Tuesday 24 January (7.30-9.30pm)
St Gabriel's School, Bridge Road, Bury BL9 0TZ
Suggested donation of £5
Organised by Diocesan Department for Evangelisation

Holocaust Memorial Day Service

Friday 27 January (11am)
Festival Hall, Bolton
Free of Charge
Organised by Mayor's Office and Bolton Interfaith Council

All are welcome to attend these events

Vision Aid Overseas: Helping the world to see

Do you have any unwanted pairs of glasses? Vision Aid Overseas (registered charity in England no 1081695) can make use of them in other parts of the world.

300 million people in the developing world need spectacles to live an ordinary life, but do not have them due to poverty and lack of optical services. The World Health Organisation has acknowledged this as the leading cause of avoidable visual impairment. Many people who are functionally blind simply need spectacles to see.

Without glasses children fail at school, mothers and fathers have to stop working and elderly people are forced to live without dignity. The consequences for individuals and their communities can be devastating. There will be a box at the back of each church for the next 4 weeks. If you can donate any unwanted spectacles, these will be taken to a local optician and then forwarded to VAO.

For more information on this scheme see www.vao.org.uk

Bethlehem Art

Olive Art Inc. exists to provide an income for the few Christian families still living in Bethlehem. There are now very few pilgrims and visitors to the Holy Places and so the families have no means of selling their work.

The items produced by local craftsmen are individually carved from the wood of olive trees, particularly from around Bethlehem, some over 300 years old.

Olive woodcarving requires the patient hands of very skilled craftsmen. God has blessed the people of Bethlehem and its vicinity with a very special talent. The art has been practised for centuries, passed down from father to son.

A *Bethlehem Art* craftsman will be at our churches on the weekend of 11th & 12th February and will have a range of these beautiful wooden carvings for sale. All proceeds help Christian families in Bethlehem.