

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

29TH JANUARY 2012

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Where does authority come from? Why is one man regarded as a prophet, and another as a lunatic, and a third as a hypocrite? Jesus startles the crowds with a “new teaching” today, but what amazes them so much is not the message but the authority behind it: they are convinced because what he does somehow adds credibility to what he says. It’s the old situation that we are all familiar with - we look through words to see the actions, which show us the real message. The scribes did not heal or work miracles, but simply talked about God. Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, but also shows the people what it is - a Kingdom where all that damages human happiness is abolished. The other side to this is that we must listen to a prophet or teacher when they are backed by such authority; we may not “harden our hearts” and ignore the message when we have recognised that the messenger is sent by God. This is the hard part, because it demands that we too show, by our actions, that we have heard.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4</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) 6-8pm Aspire Youth Mass (Spiritans Centre, Salford)	<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: Frank Kilfoyle, Cynthia Winstanley, Bernard Burke, Margaret Johnson</p> <p>Anniversary: James Garrett Latham, Albert Heald, Bridget Knowles, John, Mary & Richard Benbow,</p> <p>Mass Intentions: James Garrett Latham, Albert Heald, Bridget Knowles, Cynthia Winstanley & family, Special Intention, Margaret Johnson, Gertrude Cambridge, Mary Carter, Helen Carter, Ralph Gubbins (80th Birthday Remembrance), Tom Brown, John, Mary & Richard Benbow, Deceased members of the Duffy & O’Toole families</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 Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Christian Unity Service (Christ’s Church, Harwood) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	No Mass today 7.30pm SVP (SB) <i>St John Bosco</i>	
Wednesday	8.45am Mass (SJ) – Please note earlier time 7.30-8.30pm Youth Group (Patmos Room)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) – School Mass in church (Y3 – Listening) <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) <i>Caritas Day</i>	
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>		
Special Collection for Caritas (Diocese of Salford)		
Find out about our Parishes, Masses, Events, Groups and so much more: www.sbsj.org.uk		

Christian Unity: Although the Octave of Prayer came to an end last Wednesday, we still have the service for Harwood on Monday 30 January. **Please note that it will now be held at Christ's Church**, not at Harwood Methodists. This is due to the fact that Rev Ian Smart is ill following a recent trip to the project he helps to run in Nepal. Please pray for Ian's speedy recovery and please continue to pray for Christian unity.

Town Centre Chaplaincy: Unfortunately, the service at Christ's Church clashes with a service at the Parish Church in Bolton which I have to attend in my capacity as Dean. This service is to celebrate the Town Centre Chaplaincy and commission the current team of chaplains. We are fortunate to have a group of chaplains who are engaging with the shopkeepers and other business people, as well as the general public, in Bolton town centre. Please pray for the success of their work. Thanks. *Fr Cooke*

Harbour Room Book Club: All the members would like to express their deep sympathy for the family of Cynthia Winstanley who died recently. She had been a member of the Book Club from the very first meeting in September 2010. She was a part of our little community and will be sadly missed. The January meeting therefore, will be held over till January 2013. Due to the altered arrangements, would members please note that the next meeting will be on February 29th. Details to follow. *Madeleine*

Winter Watch: Thank you for your continued support with the appeal for UHT Whole Milk and for a terrific response to the Cake Bake last weekend. Our Youth Group have produced a chart – in the shape of a milk bottle of course – showing that we have so far collected about 300 litres of milk and they have set the target at 500.

Born to Sing: The Social Committee has invited *Nobow Productions* to put on this evening of entertainment at Dunscair Conservative Club on Friday 9 March at 7.30pm. Tickets are now on sale at both churches at a cost of £6 (including refreshments). Please do support this event.

Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Closing date for applications is Monday 6 February. Full details of this post are displayed on church noticeboards.

Caritas Diocese of Salford: vacancy for a Service Manager to lead on the management and strategic development of the Community Services. For further information, contact recruitment@caritassalford.org.uk or contact Rachel Birks on 0161 817 2250.

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Think Vocations

St Paul speaks today of the responsibilities in marriage. Let us thank God for those who are married and ask His blessing upon them. Healthy marriage is the foundation for a family from which a spirit of vocation to build up the Kingdom of God can be nurtured. Let us also pray for those who live the single life that their contribution to the Church may also be encouraged.

Social Committee

At the meeting on Tuesday evening, Win Dawson resigned after many years membership and chairing of the social committee at St John's. We owe her a great debt of thanks for her years of dedicated service – and especially for the annual quiz.

We also owe a debt of thanks to the remaining seven members of the committee, most of whom have been on since it started up 19 years ago. A number of them are also thinking of standing down soon, given that the youngest of them will celebrate her 70th birthday in a few weeks time!

The motivation of this group has never been money-making but always a desire to provide opportunities for parishioners to come together and have a good time. Any profits made have always been ploughed back into particular needs for the parish or the school or as donations to various charities.

At the same time, we have a small dedicated committee seeking to re-invigorate the social life of St Brendan's parish. These too are largely people who have been involved over many years.

We need to build on the legacy of these two groups as we seek to move forward.

It would be good if we could have a joint parish meeting about this, after the forthcoming *Born to Sing* event in March. In the meantime, perhaps you would be kind enough to write down any ideas you have for developing the social life of our parishes across the various age ranges and let me have that in advance of the meeting. Maybe you could also indicate in writing your willingness to help with the planning and running of social events, perhaps for a limited period of time.

Fr Cooke

Vision Aid Overseas

There will be a box at the back of each church for the next 3 weeks. If you can donate any unwanted spectacles, these will be taken to a local optician and then forwarded to VAO who can make use of them in other parts of the world. 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. Local craftsmen produce items individually carved from the wood of olive trees, particularly from around Bethlehem, some over 300 years old.

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.

Please note that this clashes with our normal Fairtrade stall, so we will probably move that to a different weekend.