

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS
18TH MARCH 2012
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – LAETARE SUNDAY**

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There were two remarkable moments in the story of the Old Testament where God saved his people; one was in the escape from Egypt – we’ll keep that for the Easter Vigil. The other was the end of their second exile, this time in Babylon, which we hear of today. Of course there was an even greater moment when God saved his people: the work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God – and we hear Jesus tell Nicodemus about that today. So today’s theme is “salvation”: but to understand “being saved”, we must ask “What from?” Saved from slavery, from exile, from human enemies – these are all clear. But the last and greatest salvation brought by Jesus is harder to understand: saved from sin and death. These threaten us as much as any other enemy, and our salvation in Jesus is as real as any other.

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 <i>Mothers' Day</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Stations of the Cross through Mary's eyes (SJ)	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Bill Kay, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Edmundson, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Elizabeth Patterson, Bernard Callaghan, Judith Oldham, Kathleen Humphreys, Betty Boyle, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, 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, Mary Keighley, Emma Turner (12yrs old), Vincent Wood, Margaret Wood, Patrick O'Donnell (new-born baby), Joan Rankin, Bernard Cummings, Guy (3yrs old), Fr Francis McCauley, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Billy Knowles, Fred Kay, Katie Littlewood, Dorothy Walker, Joan Walker, Fr Jeremiah Sheehy SCJ</p> <p>Anniversary: John French</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Billy Knowles, Kathleen Hardwick, John French, Fred Kay, Katie Littlewood (died tragically, aged 15), Dorothy Walker, Joan Walker</p> <p>Cycle of Prayer Part 3 (of 6): We pray especially for: candidates for the sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers</p>
Monday <i>St Joseph, Husband of Mary</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Churches in Harwood Lent Course (SB) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	No Stations of the Cross or Mass today 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	7.30pm Deanery Station Mass (St Joseph, Halliwell) 7.30-9pm Marriage Preparation (Kearsley) 7.30-8.30pm Youth Group (Patmos Room)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB)	
Friday	8.30am Mass in St John's School	
Saturday	10am-4pm Craft Fair at Christ's Church, Harwood 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Stations of the Cross (SJ) 2.30-4.30pm Rehearsal for Big Sing Choir (Victoria Hall)	
<p>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></p>		<p>HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY</p>
<p>Remember that throughout Lent we are invited to pray, to fast and to give alms. This Lent, any money given to CAFOD will be matched by the Government (UK Aid)</p>		

Christianity in Bolton: This exhibition is in the Up Close Gallery (First Floor, Central Library) until 26 May and St John's is one of the featured churches. Please do call into this exhibition whilst you are in town.

Baptism Preparation: The next session for parents will be on Thursday 29 March (7-8.30pm) in the Harbour Room. Please let Fr Cooke know if you will be attending.

St John's 200 Club: Annual subscriptions are now due. Please make cheques payable to St John's. Thanks for your continuing support.

Turton Tigers: Year 1 football coaching with an FA licensed coach. Thursday evenings (5-6pm) at Castle Hill Sports Hall in March and outside at St Brendan's from April. £3 a session. Contact Andy on 07742 443693

Offertory Envelopes: The new sets of envelopes (which begin on Easter Sunday) will be available next weekend.

Winter Watch: Many thanks indeed for helping our parish youth group to collect 500 litres of milk for this project. We have received a letter from the project thanking us for the milk, the lovely cakes (via the SVP) and £60 in cash, as well as the £69 from our ecumenical service in January.

BRASS: Any additional milk donated (over the 500 litres required for Winter Watch) has been donated to the Bolton Refugee and Asylum Seekers Service which our parish SVP groups are also looking to support.

CAFOD: The recent Fast Day has raised a total of £1782

Joan Walker: Her funeral will be on Tuesday 3 April

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
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Lent Activities This Week

Churches in Harwood Lent Course

Monday Evening 7.30-9pm

19 March – St Brendan's

Stations of the Cross

Sunday Afternoon 2pm at St John's

[NB: No Stations on Tuesday this week]

Deanery Station Mass

Wednesday Evening 7.30pm (Confessions from 7pm)

21 March – St Joseph, Halliwell

[Horace Street, BL1 5TX]

Friday Morning Mass

8.30am in St John's School

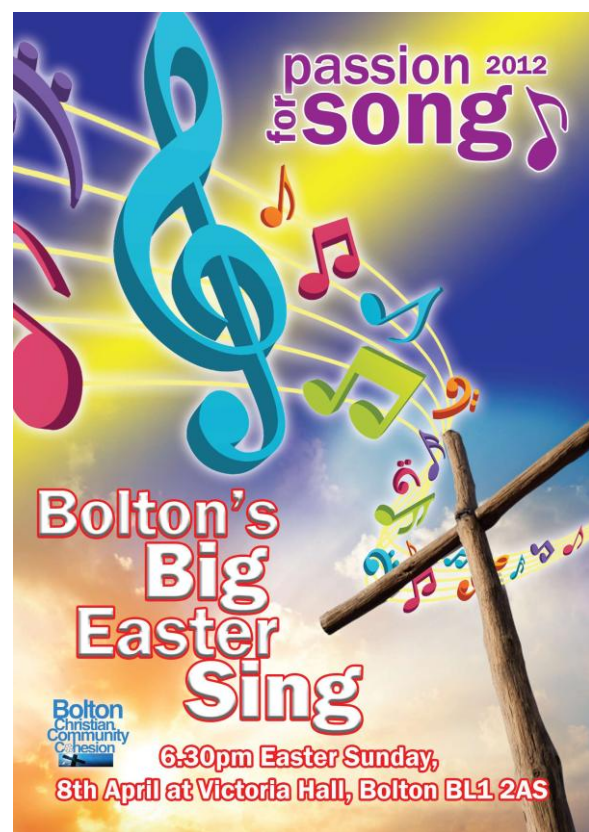
All are welcome to attend any of these activities

Coalition for Marriage

In the light of last weekend's statement from the bishops, you are asked to consider signing the Coalition for Marriage's petition at www.C4M.org.uk (accessed through our parish website) or in paper form at the back of church. After Easter there will be further information available to make more detailed individual responses to the Government consultation paper.

Think Vocations

St Paul tells us that when we were dead through our sins, God brought us to life with Christ. Through our baptism we are called to be witnesses to our faith to others. Let us make an effort to contact and encourage those we know who are of our faith but no longer practise. A simple word of encouragement backed up by prayer can sometimes lead people to rediscover the richness of God's love offered in Christ Jesus.



Can you believe it? It's nearly a whole year since the story of Easter was told in the Town Hall Square, when over 3,000 people flocked to see *Passion for Bolton*, a wonderful celebration of the Easter story.

One year on, we aim to celebrate and remember this success by holding "*Passion for Song – Bolton's Big Easter Sing 2012*".

There will be drama and lots of opportunity to sing, with a message from Bolton Wanderers Manager, Owen Coyle, to highlight the opportunities of Bolton's Year of Sport. Everyone is welcome and the event is free, but seats cannot be reserved so come early. Spread the word in your community and let's have a great turnout. Local choirs are invited to participate.

The event will take place on Easter Sunday, 8th April at 6.30 pm at Bolton's Victoria Hall on Knowsley Street in the town centre.

For more information contact Rev Philip Brooks on 0777 966 7424 or Bolton Christian Cohesion Office on 01204 546139 or email info@boltonccc.org

The finale of the Big Sing will be the Hallelujah Chorus. Anyone who wants to take part in singing that is invited to a rehearsal at Victoria Hall (2.30 to 4.30) on Sunday 25 March.