

**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS
29TH APRIL 2012
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

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This is traditionally called “Good Shepherd Sunday” because of the Gospel narratives (from John 10) read each year, in which Jesus talks of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his flock. A general “theme” to the Scriptures is the person of Jesus and what he has achieved by the Paschal Mystery (his dying and rising): the first reading talks of his name, and the power of the name of Jesus to save: one of the results of the “power of this name” is that in him we are all God’s children, and are promised an eternal reward. All this is summed up in the Gospel, in which Jesus talks of himself as the real shepherd, who is prepared to do anything for his flock, even to the point of giving his life. This he said before his passion, but in Eastertide we read it with the benefit of hindsight. His words are true, and by his dying and rising he has truly saved his flock.

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4 Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations Collection for Ecclesiastical Education Fund</i>	<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, Jane Dent, 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, Kathleen Hopwood, Fabrice Muamba, Trevor Gee and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Latently Dead: Fr Graham Turner, Fr John Murphy, Lawrence Udall, Rhoda Hall, Evelyn Rabbitt, Thomas Rabbitt, Mary Latham, Joan Schofield</p> <p>Anniversary: Gerard Murphy, Theresa Durkin, Harold Edge</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Lawrence Udall, Gerard Murphy, Joyce Knight, Rhoda Hall, Evelyn Rabbitt, Thomas Rabbitt, Mary Latham, In honour of Our Blessed Lady for a Special Intention, Joan Schofield, Fr Graham Turner, Norman Graham (Birthday Remembrance), Theresa Durkin, Harold Edge, For a dying friend</p> <p>Cycle of Prayer Part 4 (of 6): We pray especially for: new members of the Church; vocations; the right use of the media; the Church; human work</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 10am Church Visit from Eagley Junior School (SJ) 6pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SB School) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 6.15pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SJ School) 7.30-8.30pm Youth Group (Patmos Room) <i>St Athanasius</i>	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) <i>Ss Philip & James</i>	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ) <i>English Martyrs</i>	
Saturday	5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SB)	
<p>Collections, Donations, Gift Aid</p> <p><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>		

Joe Gee: When Joe was with us last summer, his father (Trevor) was being treated for cancer. He is seriously ill at the moment, so please keep him and the family in your prayers, especially as Joe's ordination is approaching.

Father Graham Turner RIP: Thank you to all who attended Graham's Requiem Mass at St Brendan's last Monday. It was a great support to the family and to Cardinal O'Brien. That Mass and the Requiem Mass in Edinburgh on Tuesday were a very fitting celebration of Graham's life and ministry. Please continue to remember Graham, his family, the Beda College, and the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh in your prayers at this time.

Congratulations: To Elsie Milly Bannister and Jude Alfie Lees who were baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

Congratulations: To Carol Holmes, a parishioner of St John's, who was recently presented with an Oxford University Inspirational Teacher Award. She was nominated for this by a former pupil whom she supported through the application process when he might otherwise have given up hope of achieving a place there.

Congratulations: To Lydia Wolstenholme, an 11-year-old pupil at Thornleigh Salesian College, who has been elected as Bolton's youngest youth MP.

Sacramental Programme: There are meetings this week for the children and parents involved in this year's programme of preparation: Monday (6pm) for St Brendan's and Wednesday (6.15pm) for St John's.

SVP: Many thanks for the Maundy Thursday collections, raising £161.92 at St Brendan's and £273.27 at St John's

Harbour Room Book Club: Many thanks to all members who attended the Marie Lamoury Anniversary meeting last Wednesday. It turned out to be a highly successful meeting with plenty of lively discussion. A very special thanks to Marie's daughter Lisa who donated a magnificent chocolate cake for the occasion. We all enjoyed it enormously! I also want to take this opportunity to thank the many unsung heroines who help to tidy up, wash up, brew up, clear up, straighten up and generally help all meetings to go smoothly. *Madeleine*

Gift Aid: Please let us know if you have changed address in the past three years, so we can update our records.

Bromley Cross Fayre: Saturday 12 May at Last Drop

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Vocations

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. We are asked to pray but we are also asked to reflect on how we can develop a climate of vocation and encourage everyone to pursue their calling from God.

Ecclesiastical Education Fund

Today we also have the annual collection for the fund that is used to train our future priests. That collection remains open for four weeks for private donations.

Think Vocations

Let us ask ourselves how much we value the Eucharist and then sincerely pray that others may respond to the Lord's invitation to become priests. Remember how the Good Shepherd yearns to feed his sheep with the Eucharist – for that we need the sacred priesthood.

Vocations Enquiries

Have you ever thought about being a priest or joining a religious order? Why not have a word with a priest that you know or make contact with the Diocesan Vocations Promoter (Fr Featherstone) on 0161 681 1410 or the National Office for Vocations (020 7901 4809).

Government Consultation on Marriage

Attached to this newsletter is a briefing paper from the Bishops' Conference urging us all to respond to this government consultation. I was speaking to David Crausby MP last weekend and he is already receiving a lot of letters on this subject, so do please write to him and make sure our Catholic voice is heard on this matter. I should add that he is supportive of retaining the current definition of marriage, so our letters will be received favourably and will be evidence that he can use in arguing or voting for things to stay as they are.

Coalition for Marriage: Please sign the petition at www.C4M.org.uk or in paper form at the back of church.

CAFOD

Today we have special Bidding Prayers to celebrate and give thanks for the work of CAFOD.

"Give it Up" Collection Boxes: Don't forget to bring your box in if you haven't done so already. Thanks.

Campaign: *Thirst for Change* cards are still available if you have not yet had chance to join in with this campaign.

UK Aid: If you are thinking of making any further contributions, please do so in the next 3 weeks so that CAFOD gets the benefit of the extra funding from the Government matching donations £ for £. Thanks.

Special Collections 2012

A parishioner asked last week if I would give details of the special collections throughout the year:

Mandatory Diocesan/National Collections for: Caritas Diocese of Salford (5 Feb), Shrines of Palestine (6 April – Good Friday), Ecclesiastical Education Fund (29 April), Peter's Pence (1 July), Retired Clergy Fund (23 September), World Mission Sunday (21 October), Bishop's Administration (18 November)

Optional National Collections: Catholic Education Service (12 Feb), World Communications Day (20 May), Apostleship of the Sea (8 July), Day for Life (29 July), Catholic Association for Racial Justice (9 September), CAFOD Fast Days (March & October)

In addition, we have an annual appeal from a Missionary Order and other occasional appeals