

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

**2 FEBRUARY 2014 – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**



Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing of candles is included in today's liturgy. Today's first reading gives us an important insight to understand profoundly the mystery of the Lord's Presentation in the Temple by Mary and Joseph, in accordance with the canons of Mosaic Law. The text, taken from the Prophet Malachi says, 'I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord who you seek'.

| <b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b><br><i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4</i><br><b>Sunday Missal: page 851; Readings page 856; Preface page 859</b>   |   | <b>Prayers Please</b>  |
|--|---|--|
| Sunday   | 9.15am (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy<br>10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children's Liturgy<br>11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy<br>2pm Baptism (SJ)   | <p><b>Sick:</b> Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard &amp; Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Eileen Murphy, Pauline Bowling, Emma Turner, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, John Barrett, Roy Smith, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Vera Evans, Julie Smith, Ernie Little, Anthony Axford, Mary Marshall, Joan Pearce, Joshua Almond, Jacqueline Kay, Wynn Elliot, Tom Wardle, Bob Taylor, Noel Gannon, Sheila Derbyshire, David Walton, Dr Bernard Higgins, Winston Shanley, Vera Casey Shaw, Heather Goil, Anne Rule, Joni Horton and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> Gordon Leather, Veronica Keenan, Virgilio Antazo, Harry Gillett, Kathleen Russell, Mary Kerrane, Catherine Martin, Mary Doig, Joan Ratcliffe, Isabelle Karzynski, Christine Hogg, Mary Eckersley</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> John Wakes, Lew Brown, James Connolly, Joyce Knight, Philip Blackburn, Barbara Irving, Frederick Martin, James Garrett Latham, Vera Boatfield, Eleanor Owen</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cycle of Prayer Part 2 (of 6):</b><br/>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)<br>5pm <i>Hobson's Choice</i> (Octagon Theatre)<br>8pm SVP (SJ)  |  |
| Tuesday  | 6.30pm Sacramental Programme, Reconciliation (SC)<br>No Mass today<br>7.30pm SVP (SB)   |  |
| Wednesday<br><i>St Agatha</i>  | 9.15am Yr 5 Class Mass in School (SC)<br>9.30am Mass (SJ)<br>2pm-4pm Cameo Group Fun Auction (Harbour Room, SB)<br>6.15pm Sacramental Programme, Reconciliation (SJ)  |  |
| Thursday<br><i>St Paul Miki &amp; Companions</i>   | 9.15am Mass (SB)<br>6pm Sacramental Programme, Reconciliation (SB)  |  |
| Friday   | 9.30am Mass (SJ)  |  |
| Saturday   | 2pm <i>Hobson's Choice</i> (Octagon Theatre)<br>5pm Mass (SC)<br>5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ)<br>6.30pm Mass (SJ) <i>A day of Special Prayer for Victims of Trafficking &amp; those who work to combat it</i> |  |
| Next Sunday  | 9.15am (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy<br>10.15am (SC) – with Children's Liturgy<br>11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy<br>2pm Baptism (SJ)  |  |
| <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Gordon Leather (from the staff &amp; children of St John's School), Marie Lamoury (Birthday Remembrance), Vera &amp; Fred Boatfield, Veronica Keenan, Christine Hogg, In thanksgiving for the successful outcome of an operation &amp; the continuing health of Bernard Carroll, In honour of St Anthony for a Special Intention, John Wakes, Virgilio Antazo, Lew Brown, Mary Kerrane, James Connolly, Catherine Martin, Joyce Knight, Philip Blackburn, A Special Intention, Barbara Irving, Frederick Martin, Cynthia Winstanley, James Garrett Latham, Harry Gillett, Kathleen Russell, Eleanor &amp; Bill Owen</p> |   |  |

**Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Michael Cooke**

**Assistant Priests: Rev Joseph Gee & Rev Francis Parkinson**

**Parish Office: St John's Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP**

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*Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity – 250037 Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk*

**Congratulations to:** Poppy Elizabeth Carlin who was baptised at St Brendan's last weekend. We pray that she and her family will continue to grow in faith.

**St Joseph's Penny Volunteers:** Caritas is recruiting volunteer speakers to give presentations to Catholic schools & parishes who are fundraising for the 2014 St Joseph's Penny Lenten Collection. Full training will be given. To find out more and to be part of this historic collection, contact Vicky by 10 February (0161 817 2267) or [volunteering@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@caritassalford.org.uk).

**Harbour Room Book Club:** Thank you to all the members of the Book Club who attended the last meeting. It was an especially lively and educational session! The next meeting will be on Wednesday February 26th to discuss *The White Pearl* by Kate Furnivall. All welcome.

**Harbour Room Teapot Time:** My apologies; the date for the first Teapot Time is Thursday 20 February *not* the 21! If anyone has any current magazines (that have been read) and you would like to pass them on to us, we would be grateful. Thanks. *Ursula*.

**St Columba's APF-Mill Hill Collection:** The total amount raised by the recent collection from the Red Mission Boxes was £583.12. Thank you to all promoters, box holders, and donors for your generosity. In his message for World Mission Day last year, Pope Francis stated that the strength of our faith, at a personal and community level, can be measured by "the ability to communicate it to others, to spread and live it in charity, to witness to it before those we meet and those who share the path of life with us." Holding a Red Box is one simple, but very effective, way of proclaiming and witnessing to your faith. If you would like to become one of the 200,000 or so box holders in this country whose small change has the potential to bring about big changes in the lives of those living in 1069 missionary dioceses throughout the world, please see Kevin Egan or go to [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk).

**BRASS:** St John's SVP have received a letter of thanks from Malcolm Nguala, the General Manager of BRASS. He would like to express his gratitude to all our parishes for all the kind donations of food items. The collections continue at St John's throughout February. *Thank you for your continued support.*

**Theatre Trips:** The two trips to see *Hobson's Choice* at the Octagon will be on Monday 3 February (5pm) and Saturday 8 February (2pm).

DIocese of  SALFORD

**Holy Infant & St Anthony RCP School**  
Mitre St, Bolton, BL1 6QU.

**HEADTEACHER**

**Required for September 2014**

**Going for Good**

This is an exciting opportunity for an existing Headteacher who is looking for a new challenge or an exceptional Deputy or Assistant Headteacher. Holy Infant & St Anthony is a warm and welcoming school with a strong Catholic ethos.

Informal visits to the school are welcomed and can be arranged by contacting Colette Seddon, School Business Manager (01204 33311) or by email: [office@holy-infants.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:office@holy-infants.bolton.sch.uk)

For further details and an application pack, please contact Gill Forrest by email [gill.forrest@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:gill.forrest@bolton.gov.uk) or telephone 01204 332124.

**Closing date: 12noon 5 February 2014**

**Short listing: 12 February 2014**

**Assessment Centre: 27 February 2014**

**Interviews: 28 February 2014**

**CAMEO GROUP:** The next meeting (a *Fun Auction* held by Kathleen Denton) will be on 5 February in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's (2pm - 4pm). All proceeds will be for St Brendan's SVP. Refreshments will be available and all welcome. Please try to bring along an item for selling. Thank You.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

Peel House  
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.  
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### **The Presentation of the Lord**

The second of February is the Feast of the Presentation or the Feast of Purification. It marks the day when Mary and Joseph observed the Jewish custom of taking their new born son, Jesus, to the temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish Law required that every first-born male child be consecrated to the Lord and a sacrifice of two turtle-doves (or young pigeons) be offered.

In the temple that day, Mary and Joseph encountered the holy man Simeon who spoke of Jesus as the light of the nations. He praised God for letting him live long enough to encounter Christ and uttered those words used every day in the Night Prayer of the Church "Now, Master, you can let your servant depart in peace". Simeon could surrender himself to death because he knew that, in Christ, salvation had come to the world.

The Feast of Purification or Presentation is also known as Candlemas because it is customary to bless the candles that will be used in a church during the coming year. Nowadays many people use candles as a regular thing within their homes, either to create a special atmosphere in a room or when they are sat around the table for a meal. Some of us will have had experience of power cuts when we had to depend on candles to be able to see. In those different contexts we can come to appreciate how powerful candlelight is. The candles that we use during our times of prayer are a specific reminder to us that Christ is the light of the world and he will guide us, especially in the darker moments of our lives. Today, let us pray for his guiding light to be with us, our families and our friends.

*Father Michael Cooke* (Broadcast on Bolton FM, 2 February 2012)