
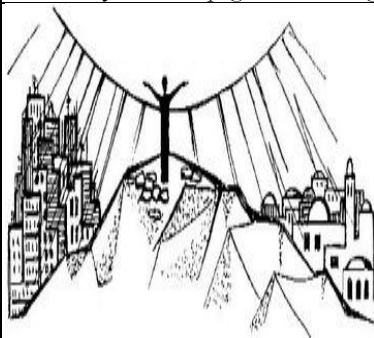


**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

<p style="text-align: center;">15TH FEBRUARY 2015 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2</i> Sunday Missal: page 227; Readings page 231; Preface at Priest's choice</p> <div style="display: flex;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>Thankfully, we do not encounter leprosy in our culture. It can therefore be difficult to enter into the real depth of today's readings. We have to understand that leprosy meant exclusion, rejection and the end of "normal" life. For your leprosy to be cured would be like being given a second chance at life.</p> <p>What is the cause of exclusion and rejection in our society – or even in the Church? Who are those who must "live apart"? And how can we put into effect in our day those most touching of the words of Jesus, when asked if he wants to cure the leper: "Of course I want to"? Contemplating exclusion and rejection in our world can be hard work: Saint Paul guides the way: the Christian path is not to work "for my own advantage, but for the advantage of everybody else".</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">22ND FEBRUARY 2015 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 1</i> Sunday Missal: page 532; Readings page 536; Preface at Priest's choice</p> <div style="display: flex;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>We begin our Lenten journey at the decisive moment of the flood, when God establishes his first Covenant with man, in the person of Noah. Noah was saved from the waters, while we (as Saint Peter points out) are saved by the waters of Baptism. This is the Covenant we live in, thanks to Christ, who came to establish this "new and eternal Covenant in his blood". He is the only one who can do this, because he is without sin, despite "having been tempted in every way that we are".</p> </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">Masses, Feasts & Activities</p> <p>Sunday Masses 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB) 2pm Baptism (SB)</p> <p>Monday 9.30am Mass (SJ)</p> <p>Tuesday 7pm Mass (SB)</p> <p>Ash Wednesday 9.30am Mass (SJ) <i>A Day of Fasting & Abstinence</i> 12noon Mass(SB) 7pm Mass (SC)</p> <p>Thursday 9.15am Mass (SB)</p> <p>Friday 9.30am Mass (SJ)</p> <p>Saturday Reconciliation 5.30pm-6pm (SJ) Masses 5pm (SC); 6.30pm (SJ)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Masses, Feasts & Activities</p> <p>Sunday Masses 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB)</p> <p>Monday 9.30am Mass (SJ) – <i>St Polycarp</i> 7.30-9pm Churches in Harwood Lent Course (SB)</p> <p>Tuesday 8.15am Lenten Mass at St Columba's School 7pm Mass (SB)</p> <p>Wednesday 9.15am Y3 Class Mass in School (SC) 9.30am Mass (SJ) 1.30-3pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB) 7.30pm Deanery Station Mass (St Ethelbert's)</p> <p>Thursday 9.15am School Mass in Church (SB)-Y3 <i>Following Jesus</i></p> <p>Friday 8.15am Lenten Mass at St John's School <i>CAFOD Lent Fast Day</i></p> <p>Saturday Reconciliation 5.30pm-6pm (SJ) Masses 5pm (SC); 6.30pm (SJ)</p> <p>Next Sunday: 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cycle of Prayer Part 2 (of 6)</p> <p>We pray especially for: peace on earth; Christian unity; the sick and those who care for them; students and teachers; the unemployed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cycle of Prayer Part 3 (of 6)</p> <p>We pray especially for: candidates for the sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Think Vocation</p> <p>St Paul tells us to model ourselves on Christ. Jesus had time for those who were pushed away by society and the authorities. There are people in the Church today who strive to ensure that no one is excluded from the Lord's love. We pray for those who work with the homeless and marginalised to feed them, shelter them and show them the love of Christ.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Think Vocation</p> <p>Temptation is a very powerful force at work in our world. It is as strong today as it ever was. Society can make us narrow minded and think only of ourselves and what we can get out of life. This can lead to destruction of the spirit of generosity needed to foster vocations within the Church. Temptation can make us closed to the promptings of the Holy Spirit that lead us closer to God. If we are tempted to despair over the future of the Church, then let us reconnect during this Holy Season of Lent with the New Covenant established in Our Lord Jesus Christ.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Marriage Matters - Keeping our love alive</p> <p>Sometimes we have a sense of being at odds and separated from each other. The question, often unasked, is 'do you love me?' The answer is the same as Jesus gave to the outcast leper 'of course I do!' From being apart, we can be one again. How often do we say to each other 'I love you'?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Marriage Matters - We hunger for closeness</p> <p>'Wilderness' can be a reality in our marriage relationship at times, a kind of 'desert experience': hungering for a gentle touch or return of the closeness in our relationship. Yet, we can look back on such times and recognise the Spirit was at work. God's grace was in our yearning, calling us to choose life and turn away from self-indulgence.</p>

Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

Assistant Priests: Rev Joseph Gee & Rev Francis Parkinson

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Prayers Please

Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Eunice Brierley, Cecilia Guest, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Dylan Crosby, Pat Hall, Linda Southern, Mary Joan Tornai, Bernard Neyland, Rosemary Davies, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Lucy Hesford, Mary Thomas and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.

Lately Dead: Andrew Shaw, Brother Boniface (Mount Mellory), Solène Pouget, Walter Yankiwskskj, Edmund Daly, Fred Longley
Anniversaries: Ethel Leach, Terry Brooks, Mary Rowson, Kathleen Prendergast, Geraldine Hegarty, Tess McSherry, Thomas Baker, Margaret Brandwood, William Hodget, Samuel Cooke

Mass Intentions: Ethel Leach, Terry Brookes, Mary Rowson, Vincent Sheriden (90th Birthday on 24 February), Walter Yankiwskskj, Kathleen Prendergast, George Cowley (Birthday Remembrance), Andrew Shaw, Brother Boniface, Geraldine Hegarty, Tess McSherry, Solène Pouget, Rita Brooks, A Special Intention, Thomas Baker

Congratulations: To Eddie Lee Morley who was baptised at St Columba's last Sunday. We pray that he and his family may continue to grow in faith

Congratulations To: Daran Makin & Michaela Fox who were married at St Brendan's on Friday. We pray that they will have a long, happy and fulfilling married life.

Fairtrade Stall: Fairtrade goods will be available after the weekend Masses at both St John's and St Columba's. Do support the stalls and help to make a difference to overseas producers. Thankyou!

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 14 March (10.30am-12noon) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's. This is for parents from any of our three parishes who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Please let one of the priests know if you will be attending or email office@sbsj.org.uk.

New Vicar General

I just want to share with you the news that our new Bishop has appointed me as a Vicar General.

For those not familiar with this term, a Vicar General assists the Bishop in the governance of the diocese and has the same executive powers as the Bishop throughout the whole of the diocese.

I will be working in partnership with the existing Vicar General (Monsignor Anthony Kay). In his letter announcing my appointment, the Bishop wrote: "I believe that the appointment of an additional Vicar General will allow for more effective delegation of responsibilities and be of great assistance to me in planning for the future, in consultation with the whole Diocese."

So, the Bishop, Mgr Kay and myself will be working very closely together across a whole range of responsibilities in service of the diocese.

Thankfully, I will not have to move house and will remain as parish priest. I will, however, need to give up my role as Rural Dean and a whole host of other things that I am currently involved in here in Bolton. I have taken up my new role immediately and will withdraw from these other aspects of work on a phased basis over the coming weeks and months.

I ask for your prayers as I take on this new role and hope that you will be patient and accommodating with any changes that this requires in terms of my work in these parishes.

Father Michael

Lenten Activities 2015

Walk with Me

Please take the special booklets and calendars to help you through the Lenten season

Tuesday Morning Mass

In St Columba's School at 8.15am from 24 February

Friday Morning Mass

In St John's School at 8.15am from 27 February

Deanery Station Masses - *Family Fully Alive*

Wednesday Evenings 7.30pm (Confessions from 7pm)

25 February - St Ethelbert, Deane

Family - Created for Love

Churches in Harwood Lent Course

(Based on *Les Miserables*)

Monday Evenings 7.30-9pm

23 February - St Brendan's

Schoenstatt Centre - Love is Our Mission

Continuing with the theme of *Family Fully Alive* there will be Lenten sessions starting on Tuesday 24 February (for 5 Tuesdays during Lent) 7.30pm at St John Fisher's, Kearsley, Bolton. Discover the importance of family, affirm the dignity of every woman and man and value the gift of family. See poster on the notice boards for more details.

Bolton Dementia Support Group Memory Cafe: These Cafes offer a friendly, relaxed and welcoming setting where people living with dementia, their families and carers can drop in to access information, support and activities. There is now a Wednesday meeting (2-4pm) at Bar Lane Bowling Club, Ivy Bank Road, Astley Bridge. Contact 01204 386696 for more information.

SVP Outing: The Spring outing for the elderly, disabled and housebound will be held on Sunday 26 April and will be to Our Lady of the Valley, Clitheroe.

Calls & Queries (SB): Please refer all calls and queries about premises & general matters to the Parish Office on 01204 301927 or by email to office@sbsj.org.uk. Thank you.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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