

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

1ST FEBRUARY 2015 – 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 1; Divine Office Week 4</i>		Prayers Please
Sunday Missal: <i>page 206; Readings: page 209; Preface: at priest's choice</i>		<p>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 and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Suzanne Devine, Tony Heslop, Irene Myers, Joseph Bryan, Allan Bennett, Jack Carroll, Anne Kaneen, Fr John Cribben</p> <p>Anniversaries: Bob Bowes, Henry Gillett, John Hall, Philip Blackburn, Lew Brown, Eleanor Owen, Norman Graham, Barbara Irving, Philip Burtun</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Marie Lamoury (Birthday Remembrance), Henry Gillett, Tony Heslop, Deceased members of the Russell & Weston families, John Hall, Philip Blackburn, Irene Myers, Lew Brown, Grateful thanks to St Anthony, St Jude & the Sacred Heart, In honour of Our Lady (successful job interview), Ralph Gubbins (Birthday Remembrance), Eleanor & Bill Owen, Joseph Bryan, Allan Bennett, St Joseph (for a Special Intention), Jack Carroll, Norman Graham, Barbara Irving, Suzanne Devine</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>
Sunday <i>A Day of Special Prayer for Teachers & Students</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy <i>Special Collection for the Catholic Education Service</i>	
Monday <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	6.30pm Sacramental Programme – Reconciliation (SC) No Mass Today (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 6.15pm Sacramental Programme – Reconciliation (SJ)	
Thursday <i>St Agatha</i>	9.15am Mass (SB) 6.00pm Sacramental Programme – Reconciliation (SB)	
Friday <i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	9am-3pm Annual CAFOD Supporters Day [<i>see overleaf</i>] 11am-12noon Adoration & Reconciliation (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) <i>A Special Collection for Caritas</i>	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy <i>Caritas Sunday</i>	
<p>Collections & Donations: <i>All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan's, St Columba's or St John's as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Mass Intentions: <i>Cheques should be made payable to St John's</i></p> <p>Gift Aid: <i>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>		

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Education Sunday: At our Masses this weekend we pray for all those involved in education and have a collection for the Catholic Education Service.

Caritas Sunday: At our Masses next weekend, we will be holding a collection for Caritas, our diocesan charity. Caritas continues the work of the Catholic Children's Rescue Society and Catholic Welfare Societies to help people in need throughout our diocese – from providing hot meals and warm clothing for homeless people to supporting vulnerable children and families: Caritas means something different to everyone we help. Your donation will help people at the margins of society who are so often overlooked. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

St Columba's Presbytery

There are a number of rumours circulating about the future of the church and presbytery at St Columba's. You may have seen a recent article and some planning permission applications in the Bolton News. Just to clarify matters, the following is the true situation:

We have applied for planning permission to erect a secure fence around the entire site. This is in response to increasing incidents of anti-social behaviour, including fly tipping and drug taking. This fencing will be 2.4 metres high and in the same style as that surrounding the school. So it will be wire mesh along the boundary with Howsin Avenue and Danesbury Road and wrought iron along the front elevation on Ripley Street. There will be new gates in the same style as the fencing.

We have also applied for planning permission to demolish the presbytery. This is after very careful consideration about its condition, which includes extensive wet rot. We have also been unsuccessful in finding an alternative use for the presbytery which would justify spending a significant amount of money on it. So the intention is to demolish the presbytery and then to give that portion of the site on loan to the school. This means that the site remains in our ownership but it also means that the school can make some contribution to fencing that portion of the site and adapting it for their needs.

As part of the demolition process, it will be necessary to make good parts of the building where the presbytery connects to the church. So this will call for some modification of the Sacristy area and it is hoped that as part of this work we can create a suitable meeting room for parish purposes. Removing the presbytery as a drain on future funds will enable us to concentrate on the repair and upkeep of the church on a phased programme.

So, whilst the presbytery is being demolished, there is no threat to the future of the church or the school and the work we are currently planning to do is intended to enhance the site for present and future use, whilst also providing a more secure environment.

Harbour Room Refurbishment: The installation of audio visual equipment is almost complete and there will be training offered in the near future to those who are likely to be using it.

Sacramental Programme: The children involved in the programme this year will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at services this week:

St Columba's - Tuesday 3 February (6.30pm).

St John's – Wednesday 4 February (6.15pm).

St Brendan's – Thursday 5 February (6pm).

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.

CAFOD (Diocese of Salford): Are holding their Annual Supporters' Day at the Cathedral Centre, Salford, on Saturday 7 February 2015, 9am - 3pm. Bishop John will be the keynote speaker and all are very welcome!

Cameo Group: The next two meetings are on Wednesday 11 February - *The Origin of Surnames* with Peter Watson (this should be a very interesting talk) and Wednesday 18 March - The work and aims of the HCPT (with a raffle in support of the HCPT). Both meetings will be in the Harbour Room from 2pm-4pm. Thanks to everyone for their continued support.

Ceilidh: The CAFOD group are organising a Ceilidh on the 8 May 2015 at Walmsley Parish Hall. Please save the date and come along and enjoy! Further details will be available in due course.

Think Vocation

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.

Marriage Matters

www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk

Evangelization through our Sacrament

St Paul infers a deeper spirituality is found among the unmarried, yet writing to the Ephesians (5:32), he speaks of 'the profound mystery' of marriage and compares it to the relationship between Christ and the Church. The Lord is at the heart of our love for one another, providing the grace for daily living and evangelization, through our Sacrament.

Come & Join Us!

Tea & Coffee are always served after the Sunday Masses at St John's (9.15am) and St Brendan's (11.15am)

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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