


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

**3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2015 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.**



Last week it was sheep: this week, the vine. Jesus offers us another (agricultural) image to explain the mystery of his offering of himself, and our belonging to him, our being part of him, which comes about through the sacrament of Baptism. This is, as was stated earlier, the period of Mystagogy, when the newly baptised are helped to see what life in Jesus Christ really means. Today this comes out strongly for all of us, with two of the three readings emphasising the moral aspects of life in Christ: it is not simply enough to “belong” to him: our belonging must be shown by the works we do, by the fruits we bear - while remembering of course that we cannot bear fruit except in him.

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b>		<b>Prayers Please</b>	
<i>Sunday Cycle B Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 1</i>			
<b>Sunday Missal:</b> <i>page 762; Readings page 765; Preface at priest's choice</i>			
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 1pm Schoenstatt Shrine Pilgrimage	<p><b>Sick:</b> Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Cecilia Guest, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Pat Hall, Linda Southern, Mary Joan Tornai, Rosemary Davies, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Lucy Hesford, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Andrew Hustwit and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> Eunice Brierley, Jean Fender</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Joseph Gilmartin, Ginette Monbel</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Norman Graham (Birthday Remembrance), David Gracie (Birthday Remembrance), Joseph Gilmartin, With grateful thanks to Our Lady, St Jude &amp; the English Martyrs for prayers answered and favours received, For a safe journey to my father's funeral and his burial in Jesus' name, St Jude &amp; the Blessed Virgin Mary for a Special Intention, Ginette Monbel, Len Wallwork (Birthday Remembrance) Mary Hurst (100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cycle of Prayer Part 4 (of 6):</b> We pray especially for new members of the Church; vocations; the right use of the media; the Church; human work.</p>	
Monday	No Mass Today  <i>Feast of the English Martyrs</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Bank Holiday</i></span>		
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)		
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ)		
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB)		
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)		
Saturday	10.30am-12noon Baptism Preparation (Harbour Room, SB) 2pm Baptism (SC) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) <i>Parish Day of Prayer for Vocations (SB)</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 2pm Baptism (SB) <i>Parish Day of Prayer for Vocations (SC)</i>		
<p><b>Collections &amp; Donations:</b> <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><b>Mass Intentions:</b> <i>Cheques should be made payable to St John's</i></p> <p><b>Gift Aid:</b> <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>			<p>This Newsletter is sponsored by</p> <p><b>HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE</b></p> <p>Peel House 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton. BL1 7AL 01204 309609</p>  <p style="text-align: right;"><small>www.lhfs.co.uk</small></p>

**Parish Priest:** Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

**Assistant Priests:** Rev Sean O'Brien & Rev Francis Parkinson

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

**Tel:** 01204 301927 **E-mail:** office@sbsj.org.uk **Website:** www.sbsj.org.uk

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**Fr Sean O'Brien:** We welcome Fr Sean to our parish community and we hope that he will have a happy and fruitful ministry here with us.

**CAFOD Nepal Appeal:** CAFOD has launched a £3 million emergency appeal following the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal last Saturday. An initial £100,000 has already been committed. The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), a coalition of leading aid agencies of which CAFOD is part, has also launched a joint appeal. Given the scale of the emergency in Nepal, we are holding a special collection at both this and next weekend's Masses to support CAFOD's response. Please also pray for the people of Nepal and the work of CAFOD, that they will respond with speed and compassion in support of our brothers and sisters. *Thank you*

### Prayer for Vocations

Next weekend we will have our Parish Day of Prayer for vocations for both St Brendan's (Saturday) and St Columba's (Sunday). Please take time on these days to offer a prayer.

### Ecclesiastical Education Fund

Thank you for the collection last week for the fund that is used to train our future priests. The collection remains open for a few weeks for private donations.

### Think Vocation

It is understandable how difficult the disciples found Saul's radical change of heart and direction towards Christ. Even today the Lord can invite people to radically change their way of living to serve in the Church. Let us ask St Paul's guidance and help for those who feel called to radically change the direction of their lives.

### General Election 2015

As we prepare to cast our votes next Thursday, it is worth reminding ourselves of the letter from the Bishops of England and Wales, asking us to consider a range of issues that we should bear in mind. The bishops remind us that "whom you vote for is a matter for you alone" and that "voting in a general election should seldom, if ever, be based on a single issue". They invite us to think about policies that respect life, support marriage and family life, alleviate poverty, ensure faith-based education, help to build up our communities and show care and respect for our world.

Coalition for Marriage (C4M) has produced a number of leaflets about the change to the law on marriage and has asked people to consider this as one of the key issues. We are specifically asked to bear in mind that "when Parliament voted to redefine marriage for same-sex couples, your MP for Bolton North East David Crausby (Lab) voted courageously against it".

Prior to casting our vote, the bishops have suggested that we ask ourselves the question "How, in the light of the Gospel, can my vote best serve the common good?" and that we perhaps use this prayer: "Lord, grant us wisdom that we may walk with integrity, guarding the path of justice and knowing the protection of your loving care for us all".

**Children's Liturgy (St. John's):** When the building work starts here at St John's we will attempt to continue Children's Liturgy in the meeting room behind the sacristy. Due to the position and size of the room we will only be able to accommodate school age children who are confident to attend independently. To enable us to try this out we will also need another adult per session and ask for volunteers to see Father Cooke or Joanne, Amanda or Louise (the liturgy leaders) as soon as possible, thanks.

**Final Audio Visual (AV) System Training Session:** The recent training session was well received and the final AV training will take place on Saturday 16 May (10am-12noon) in the Harbour Room (SB). As only trained & authorised parishioners will be able to use the system, interested parishioners are encouraged to attend. Parishioners from SC and SJ are especially welcome given that the Patmos Room will soon be out of use due to building works. Please bring your laptop with you. If you have not already registered your interest please inform the parish office preferably by email to [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk) ASAP.

**Harbour Room Book Club:** Thank you to all members who attended the last lively book club meeting. We all learned a great deal! The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 May to discuss *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. All welcome. *Madeleine*

**March for Life UK (Birmingham 16th May):** The UK's biggest annual Pro-Life Rally. Coaches going from St. Kentigern's Church, Fallowfield at 8am, and St. Margaret's Church, Altrincham at 8.30am. Any queries contact Michael 07810 791032.

**Northern Catholic Conference:** The theme of this year's conference is 'You did not choose me...I chose you.' This is a conference for all ages and will be held on 12-14 June at Liverpool Hope University. There will be numerous guest speakers and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate Mass on Saturday 13 June. To register, or for more information, contact Denise on 07543 800 812 ([www.northerncatholicuk](http://www.northerncatholicuk)). See poster on the notice boards.

**The Dream of Gerontius:** Bolton Catholic Musical and Choral Society, with Bolton Symphony Orchestra, will perform *The Dream of Gerontius*, an oratorio for full choir and orchestra, based on the poem by Cardinal John Newman. It relates the journey of a pious man's soul from his deathbed to his judgment before God. Often considered Elgar's finest work - and perhaps the greatest of all oratorios - Elgar dedicated *The Dream of Gerontius* "AMDG" - To the greater glory of God. The concert is at the Victoria Hall on Saturday 16 May at 7.30pm. Tickets £10, call 07958459423.

**CAFOD Group:** The Ceilidh with *Francis Roe and the Riot*



*Act* is fast approaching! Have you got your ticket yet? Come and join us for what promises to be a fun filled social evening and help us raise funds for Myanmar. Our target is £1300 which will cover the cost of a barrier to save a community's farmland from flooding during a storm. Tickets are £10.00 and are available after Mass at all our churches.

**Taizé:** To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Brother Roger's birth there will be prayers held at Manchester Cathedral on Tuesday, 12 May 2015, at 7pm. Everyone is most welcome to join in this event! Please see the poster on the notice boards.

**Thanksgiving Mass:** Sr Monica is organising the annual visit to the Church of St Anne and Blessed Dominic, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3ZD on Saturday 9 May 2015 for Mass in honour of Elizabeth Prout CP. If you would like to attend, please contact Sr Monica (01204 655714).

**Baptism Preparation:** Our next preparation session will take place next Saturday, 9 May (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](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk).

### SVP

**Annual Family Sponsored Walk:** This year, the sponsored walk will take place on Sunday 14 June (11am-4pm). The route is around the reservoirs of Turton and Bromley Cross and there are different routes from 3 miles up to 10 miles (maps will be provided). The event starts and finishes at St John's Primary School and refreshments will be available. If you would like to take part to raise money for local families and people in need then please take a sponsor form and come and join in. It is a great chance for families to help families!

**The Destitution Project:** Please note our next joint parish collection will be in June. Sr Barbara would like the parishes to know that their help is needed more than ever especially with the tragedies occurring at sea at the moment. All help, goods, food and clothes are much appreciated. Thank you for all your generosity.

### Marriage Matters

[www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

**Listening and discerning together:** Jesus says: "Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty." Listening to Our Lord is essential for our fruitfulness. This can depend on how well we make the time to listen to each other, to discern together. Often God speaks to us through our spouse; some say 'the closer we are to each other, the closer we are to God'.

### Children's/ Youth Work Co-Ordinator Farnworth and Worsley Methodist Circuit

An exciting opportunity exists to develop the Children's & Youth work across the Circuit including established schools links, the Unite Cross Circuit Youth & Worship groups and the church young people's work. The role will co-ordinate the activities of the lay workers as part of a collaborative Leadership Team in partnership with the Ministers, Lay Workers and Circuit Stewards enabling the Circuit's vision for children and young people to be fully engaged as disciples of Jesus Christ.

You will be a committed Christian who has the ability to:

- Relate effectively with people of all ages
- Develop, support and initiate children's and youth work
- Adapt to changing priorities and circumstances
- Co-ordinate a team of children's and youth work volunteers.

You will be part of an ecumenical team of ordained and lay members of staff who work across 8 churches; the circuit has strong links with local faith and community schools.

**Hours:** up to 37½ max (full time) to be worked flexibly, including evenings and weekends.

**Salary:** £16,000 to £21,000 per annum (pro- rata)

The Farnworth and Worsley Circuit is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. We are an equal opportunities employer.

*It is a genuine occupational requirement that the successful applicant be a committed Christian. The post is exempt from Religion Legislation under paragraph 7 of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003.*

For details and Application Form contact:

Revd. Stephen Radford 0161 790 3555.

Email: [fandwcircuit@live.co.uk](mailto:fandwcircuit@live.co.uk)

Or, Mrs Kathryn Ogden 0161 790 2125

**Closing Date: 17 May 2015**

**Interviews: 12 June 2015**

**Preferred Start Date: July 2015 or 1st September 2015**

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