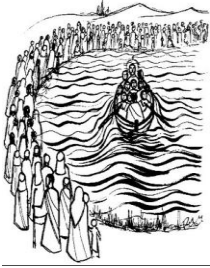


**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

19 JULY 2015 – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"They were like sheep without a shepherd."




"Sheep without a shepherd." This is the simple theme of today's readings. It is interesting that Jesus' reaction to the crowd is one of pity – as he sees their great thirst for his teachings. This is, in a sense, a clear fulfilment of the prophecy we hear in the first reading, where God promises a true shepherd who will care for the people of Israel. Shepherding is a particularly suitable image of God's love and care. The dependency of the sheep on their shepherd, their wandering and drifting without someone to guide them, is also a suitable image of the people God loves. Our own age also displays sheep without shepherds - a great wandering crowd, seeking something, but not knowing what they are seeking. It is to this flock that the present day followers of Jesus are sent as shepherds.

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please	
<i>Sunday Cycle B Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 4</i>			
Sunday Missal: page 328; Readings: page 331; Preface: at priest's choice			
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy (last one before the summer break)	<p>Sick: 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, Linda Southern, Mary Joan Tornai, Rosemary Davies, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Lucy Hesford, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Sheila Darbishire, Winifred Coyle, Josephine Knowles, Rita Bell and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Sylvia Glover, Harold Whittaker, Kathryn Holly, Kathryn Ramsahoye, Monsignor Terence Dodgeon</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Kathryn Holly and family, In honour of St Anthony, Agnes & George Beeching, Lucy Hesford (very poorly), A Special Intention, Kathryn Ramsahoye</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6)</p> <p>We pray especially for: a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; human life; seafarers</p>	
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)		
Tuesday	9.30am Seeds & Gardener's Mass (SJ) 7.30pm SVP (SB)		
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 1.30pm Parish Lourdes Group Meeting (SB) 6.30pm Yr6 Leaver's Mass in School (SJ) 7.30pm Churches in Harwood Meeting (33 Ryeburn Drive)		
Thursday	10am Requiem Mass for Michael Hayes (SJ) <i>Fr Parkinson's 32 years Ordination to the Priesthood</i>		
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)		
Saturday	2pm Baptism (SC) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) <i>A Special Collection for</i>		
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) <i>a Day for Life</i> 10.15am Mass (SC) – Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SC) 5.30pm Lourdes Mass (Salford Cathedral)		
<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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Congratulations: To Blake Xavier Morgan who was baptized at St John's last Sunday. We pray that he and his family may continue to grow in faith.

Parliamentary Bill to Legalise Assisted Suicide: On Friday 11 September the House of Commons will debate and vote on a Bill to legalise assisted suicide. This will put the most vulnerable people in our society at risk. Please contact your MP, urging them to attend the debate and vote against the Bill. You can send an e-mail to your MP via the Catholic Bishops' Conference website (www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide) or send a letter by post, a draft of which can be found at the back of St Brendan's and St Columba's and at the side doors in St John's

Preparing the Way Consultation 2015: As promised, in the recent Pastoral Letter from Bishop John, the diocesan consultation is now ready and will remain open for several weeks at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Salford2015> where responses can be entered directly onto the electronic form. This is the best way to complete the questionnaire, since the system will also do the analysis of responses. For those who do not have access to a computer, paper copies of the questionnaire can be obtained from any of the priests or from the parish office. As well as your individual responses, we have been asked to provide a collective response from the parish and so we will have a parish meeting for this purpose on Wednesday 29 July (7.30pm) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's. All are welcome to attend. Please submit all responses by the deadline of Friday 7 August 2015.

Reader's Rota: The new Rota is now available for St John's and St Brendan's. Attached to it, for information, are the guidance notes that came from the training day held on the 4 July. The guidance notes are also available for readers at St Columba's.



Summer Holidays: Our schools have now finished or will be finishing for the summer holidays. It is a time to thank all members of staff for all their professional dedication and hard work during the last academic year. We pray for all our Yr 6 pupils, Yr 11 pupils and our Sixth Form students who are moving on. We ask that they may be given guidance and encouragement as they continue on their journeys.

Many of you will also be setting off on holiday over the coming weeks. Whether you are staying in this country, or travelling overseas, we wish you a safe journey and we hope that the sun will shine!

Home Visits: If any parishioners from our three churches would like a house blessing or a general visit, during July and August, Fr O'Brien will make arrangements to come to see you. Please contact the Parish office on 01204 301927 or email: office@sbsj.org.uk.

Lourdes Group 'Get Together': Just a reminder to all those, from our 3 parishes, who are attending this year's Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage that we will be having a short group meeting in the Harbour Room, St Brendan's on Wednesday 22 July starting 1.30pm. *Terry Smith*

Urban Outreach: Attached to the newsletter is the *Summer Lunches* information sheet which includes all the details of how to become involved in this year's project.

Marriage Matters (www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)

Walking alongside or away? Jesus, the Good Shepherd, experienced rejection: many "walked with him no longer". This offers us some consolation, when despite doing our best to pass on our faith in Jesus and His Church to our children, we, their 'shepherds', experience them drifting away from the faith. God loves our children unconditionally, and we need to continually 'hold them' in our love.

Think Vocation

In the Gospel the crowds are longing for the hope and encouragement that comes from the lips of Our Lord. Could we spend more time acquainting ourselves with the Word of God in the Sacred Scriptures? Do we try to take at least one word or phrase from the homily, prayers and readings from the Sunday Mass to nourish us in the week ahead?

Quiet Prayer

Loving Father, You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in him and have eternal life. May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim" our faith with confidence. Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel by our words and actions. Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary, so that you may be known and loved by all people. We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

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APOSTLES
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LARGE
SHEEP

PLACE
TOWN
REST
SHEPHERD

BOAT
ASHORE
CROWD
TEACH

