

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

**26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 1*

*Sunday Missal: page 338; Readings page 341 Preface at Priest's choice*



For the next five weeks we take our leave of Saint Mark's Gospel and read Chapter Six of Saint John's Gospel. This is the famous "Eucharistic Discourse" and begins with the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. A line of the Psalm gives the meaning of today's readings: "The eyes of all creatures look to you (O God) and you give them their food in due time." Our God is the God who provides for his people; the prosperity and fruitfulness of our earth and the mysterious cycles of nature ensures that all have what they need - and have some left over. The actions of Elisha and Jesus are in a sense prophetic: many would say that there is not enough food in this world to go round, just as the two sets of disciples complain that there is not enough for the hundred or the five thousand. But the prophetic action states that this is not true: God provides what is needed. This might prompt us to think about the unfair and unequal distribution of the fruits of the earth: the miracle is a sign of the Kingdom of God - what God wants the world to be like. Perhaps we should take the message of the miracle to heart this Sunday and think about the multitude that still sits in hunger in our world today.

**Masses, Feasts & Activities**

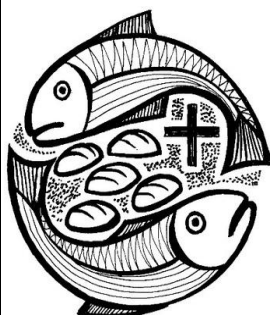
**Sunday Masses** 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB);  
2pm Baptism (SC)  
**Monday** 9.30am Mass (SJ); 7.45pm SVP (SJ)  
**Tuesday** 7pm Mass (SB); 7.30pm SVP (SB)  
**Wednesday** 9.30am Mass (SJ) – *St Martha*  
7.30pm Parish Meeting on Diocesan Consultation (SB)  
**Thursday** 9.15am Mass (SB)  
**Friday** 9.30am Mass (SJ) – *St Ignatius of Loyola*  
**Saturday** 11am-12noon Adoration & Reconciliation (SJ)  
Masses 5pm (SC); 6.30pm (SJ) – *St Alphonsus Mary Ligouri*

**2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2015**

**18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2*

*Sunday Missal: page 349 Readings page 352; Preface at Priest's choice*



We continue reading from John 6: this is the aftermath of the miracle, and we see the beginnings of a misunderstanding that will develop over the next four weeks. People have seen the miracle, but not the message: they have seen the sign, but not what it points towards. The bread that was given is a sign of the Bread of Life, which is the teaching, the words and the very person of Jesus, as the revelation of the Father. His mission is to draw people back to his Father, to found a New Covenant or relationship. As the weeks go by, we will see that the people's hunger is simply for spectacle and miracle, not for the much harder teaching of living nourished by God's word and the presence of his only Son. For us, the People of the New Covenant, these passages must make us think of how we receive the Lord in the Eucharist. Are we nourished by his presence, so that all the hunger and thirst of our lives is answered by the One who is the Bread of Life?

**Masses, Feasts & Activities**

**Sunday Masses** 9.15am (SJ); 11.15am (SB); 2pm Baptism (SJ)  
**Please note there is no 10.15am Mass this Sunday**  
**Monday** No Mass today; 7.45pm SVP (SJ)  
**Tuesday** 9.15am Mass (SB); 7.30pm SVP (SB) – *St John Mary Vianney*  
**Wednesday** 9.30am Mass (SJ)  
**Thursday** 9.15am Mass (SB) – *The Transfiguration of the Lord*  
**Friday** 9.30am Mass (SJ)  
**Saturday** Reconciliation 5.30pm-6pm (SJ)  
Masses 5pm (SC); 6.30pm (SJ) – *St Dominic*  
**Next Sunday:** 9.15am (SJ); 10.15am (SC); 11.15am (SB);  
1.30pm Wedding Service for Christopher Grady & Karen Dodds (SC)

**Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6):** 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

**Think Vocation**

The boy in the Gospel was encouraged to generously give to Jesus the little bit of food he had. Each of us has an abundance of gifts but often a reluctance to allow them to be used by the Lord for the building up of his Kingdom. Let any reluctance we have be replaced by an outpouring of trusting generosity

**Think Vocation**

Every time we come to Mass and receive Our Lord in Holy Communion we have an opportunity to dedicate our Communion for a particular intention. Perhaps this week we could offer this intention for vocations to the priesthood and Religious Life

**Marriage Matters**

**Selflessness in giving:** The readings recount God's continuing faithfulness to His people, and their response. Elisha's story is the forerunner to Jesus feeding at least five thousand on a few loaves and fishes. Such providence reminds us of our faithful God who gives, and gives, and then gives again. Do I do this, do we, to each other? In His strength, we can.

**Marriage Matters**

**Jesus will give us courage and strength:** The readings today focus very much on God's love and care for each of us. Our relationship at times can be challenged by something like a serious physical or mental illness, making it very hard to communicate. At such times, if we dig deep, we will find the trust we have in Jesus. This can pull us through together.

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

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

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

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## Prayers Please

**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.

**Lately Dead:** Denise Franquet, Joseph Maloney

**Anniversaries:** Ellen Day

**Mass Intentions:** Special Intention, Gladys Hall, For a grieving family, Linda Meagher (Sick), Veronica Evans (90<sup>th</sup> Birthday), Denise Franquet, Ethel Connolly (Birthday), Margaret Barrett, Geoffrey Shovelton (Sick), Josephine Knowles, For the safe delivery of twins (to Mark & Carys), Ellen Day, Joseph Maloney



**Congratulations:** To Lottie Patricia Owen who was baptised at St Brendan's last Saturday. And to Layton Luke & Tyler-James Leonard Marsh who were baptised at St Columba's last Saturday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

**Day For Life:** This weekend (25/26 July) we celebrate the annual day in the Church's year dedicated to celebrating the dignity of life. This year's theme focuses on cherishing life and accepting death. It provides an opportunity for people to think about the mysteries of life and death, as well as the Church's teaching on appropriate treatment at the end of life. It also highlights the prayer to St Joseph for a good death. This year's theme is particularly appropriate given the current debate on legalising assisted suicide (see below).

There will be a special collection at our Masses for life related activities supported by the Church (including the work of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre). For more information visit: [www.dayforlife.org](http://www.dayforlife.org).

**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](http://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:** The diocesan consultation remains open for a further two 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.

**Lourdes:** The annual diocesan pilgrimage departs on Friday (31 July) and returns the following Thursday. Please pray for all the pilgrims. There is a group going from our parishes and we will remember you all in our prayers there, especially at the grotto.

**Masses on Sunday 2 August:** Please note that since Father O'Brien will be on his own next weekend, there will not be a 10.15am Mass at St Columba's. The other weekend Masses are not affected.

**Congratulations:** to Veronica (Vera) Evans, a parishioner of St Brendan's, who celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 2 August.



**The Autumn Quiz:** Will be held on Friday 6 November at Dunsar Conservative Club. Please put the date in your diaries and remember...this ever popular event is usually a sell out across our parishes so once the tickets go on sale, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible!

**SVP Outing:** The Autumn outing for the elderly, disabled and housebound will be held on Sunday 27 September and will be to St Mary's, Horwich

**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](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk).

**Buildings Update:** The good news is that, following an initial hold-up due to unforeseen problems with the ground quality, requiring a re-design of the foundations, work on the building of the new Patmos Room at St John's is now back in progress and we are hoping for a completion date towards the end of October.

The bad news is that we are continuing to experience problems on the St Columba's site, whilst we await the work to make it more secure. This week the presbytery has again been broken into and a lot of copper pipes, together with two copper water tanks, have been stolen. If anyone hears anything about this, please let us know so that the police can be informed. Thank you.

**Urban Outreach:** Any help you can give with the BL15 lunches will be gratefully received. Please contact Hannah at [LWP@urbanoutreach.co.uk](mailto:LWP@urbanoutreach.co.uk) or on 01204 385848

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