


**23 AUGUST 2015 – TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**"Whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life."**



Failure, rejection and isolation: these are the themes of today's remarkable Gospel - but they are not all. In the face of them we see perseverance, fidelity and trust. Above all there is an adherence to the truth that is truly amazing. Jesus speaks the truth to all who will listen, and if they find that truth "intolerable" they are free to leave, just as they are free to believe. No one who reads this passage could accuse Jesus of being interested in fame or fortune or the simple accumulation of followers. He didn't play the 'numbers game'. Even more amazing is that when his followers seem to be down to their lowest ebb, he turns to the Twelve and gives them freedom to go as well. Peter's reply, when he speaks of their belief, is the only answer that matters; it is spirit and life that replies, not the flesh, which has nothing to offer.

<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> page 381; <b>Readings:</b> page 384; <b>Preface:</b> at priest's choice		
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB)	<p><b>Sick:</b> 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><b>Lately Dead:</b> Ivy Costello, Kathleen Horrocks</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Ivy Costello, Kathleen Horrocks, Mary Cassidy</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6)</b></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> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>This Newsletter is sponsored by  <b>HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE</b>                      Peel House                      638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.                      BL1 7AL                      01204 309609  <a href="http://www.hfs.co.uk">www.hfs.co.uk</a></p>  </div>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
<i>St Bartholomew</i>		
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB)	
<i>St Monica</i>		
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
<i>St Augustine</i>		
Saturday	5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
<i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>		
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 10.15am Mass (SC) – Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB)	

**Collections & Donations:** *All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan's, St Columba's or St John's as appropriate.*

**Mass Intentions:** *Cheques should be made payable to St John's*

**Gift Aid:** *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*

**Parish Priest:** 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

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

*Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity – 250037 Diocesan website: www.salforddiocese.net*



**Congratulations:** To Edward Ralph Bass who was baptized at St Columba's last Sunday. We pray that he and his family may continue to grow in faith.



**The Autumn Quiz:** Will be held on Friday 6 November at Dunscair 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**

**The Destitution Project:** The next collection of food items and clothing for our parishes will be during September. Sr Barbara and the team are so grateful for everything we do to support them. Thank you.

**Charity Concert:** The Eden Singers are performing excerpts from Les Miserables on Friday 11 September (7.30pm) at Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 5SU. Tickets (are limited) and cost £6. Please contact any member of the SVP to purchase them.

**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 still like a house blessing or a general visit, during 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)

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

Making decisions: being open and honest. The word 'submit' used in Ephesians today, raises many hackles in our equality sensitive society. 'Submit' does not mean obey. In fact the passage begins by saying we husbands and wives should submit ourselves to one other. In this context 'submit' is about choosing to relate openly and honestly with each other. Open, honest and trust-filled communication brings about intimacy.

**Baptism Preparation:** Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 12 September (10.30-12noon) 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).

**Think Vocation**

As the Church we are the living parts of the Body of Christ. Let us trust that the Lord Jesus who is the Head of the Church will always be faithful to his bride. Let us trust that he will continue to call people to serve in the sacred priesthood as well as the religious life.

**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. This can be done by either sending 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 by sending a letter or post card, which can be found at the back of St Brendan's and St Columba's and at the side doors in St John's.

**Quiet Prayer**

O God, to whom every heart is open, every desire known and from whom no secrets are hidden; purify the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily praise your holy name. *Amen*

P	O	T	S	A	I	R	E	T	S
S	E	W	N	J	S	E	S	W	E
F	E	N	D	E	D	H	I	R	F
J	A	V	N	A	W	T	A	S	I
M	S	T	E	H	P	O	R	P	L
A	L	R	H	I	T	M	A	D	E
D	B	E	R	E	L	E	A	R	N
E	A	S	W	A	R	E	S	A	E
R	N	E	V	A	E	H	B	W	S
B	A	D	D	E	A	H	E	N	T

- JEWES
- FATHER
- MOTHER
- DRAWN
- PROPHETS
- HEAR
- LEARN
- BELIEVES
- MANNA
- DESERT
- DEAD
- LIFE

