



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

20 SEPTEMBER 2015 – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



The tone of the Gospel begins to grow darker: Jesus is now on his way to Jerusalem, where he will be arrested and killed. Despite this, both this week and next week, there is a lighter contrast in the children that Jesus welcomes and blesses. Perhaps this tells us something about Jesus and his mission: despite the gathering clouds, (and possibly even because of that) he is still the manifestation of God's love for all his children, a love that will be most clearly displayed when he faces that death for our sake. There is one quite chilling phrase which links these together, in the first reading, where the plotters against the good man say "Let us test him with cruelty and torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his." The cold calculation of this is not far removed from the plotting of those who saw in Jesus a threat to their positions - with all his purity of worship and faith, with all his "reproaches for our breaches of the law". There is indeed a storm gathering. But the last line of the first reading, though meant mockingly, will come true: "God will look after him - we have his word for it." And three days after his death he will rise again.

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle B Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 1</i>		<div style="text-align: center;"></div> <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, Mark Shorrocks and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Nuala Brolly, Annie Costello, Hannah Carson</p> <p>Anniversaries: Mary Grundy</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Rosemary Davies (sick), Joyce Knight, Mary Grundy, A Special Intention</p> <p>Cycle of Prayer Part 6 (of 6): We pray especially for: the spread of the Gospel; the harvest; the fruits of human work & the reverent use of creation; justice and peace in the world; all victims of war; young people; prisoners & their families</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: small;">This Newsletter is sponsored by</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Peel House 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton. BL1 7AL 01204 309609</p> <div style="float: right; text-align: center;">  <small>HOWARTH'S FUNERALS www.hfs.co.uk</small> </div> </div>
<i>Sunday Missal: page 423; Readings: page 426; 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 2pm Baptism (SB) 5.30pm Reignite Mass (Salford Cathedral)	
<i>Home Mission Day: A Special Collection for the Home Missions</i>		
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
<i>St Matthew</i>		
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.15am Yr5 Mass in School (SC) 9.30am Mass (SJ)	
<i>St Pius of Pietrelcina</i>		
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB)	
<i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>		
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	11am Baptism (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – Children's Liturgy 2pm SVP Outing to St Mary's Horwich	
<i>Harvest Sunday</i>		
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>		
Mass Intentions: <i>Cheques should be made payable to St John's</i>		
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>		



Congratulations: To Aron Murphy & Rachel Davies who were married at St Columba's last Saturday. We pray that they will have a long, happy and fulfilling married life.

Home Mission Sunday: Is celebrated today and is themed *PROCLAIM God's Mercy*. On this day we are encouraged to pray for the work of evangelization in England and Wales, remembering in our prayers especially those whom we know are distant from the life of faith. Please support the second collection which funds the bishops' national work of evangelization and the development of this year's Proclaim'15 - Building Missionary Parishes initiative. Commemorative prayer cards are available to take away. Please support the work of Home Mission through your prayers and generosity. For more information see www.catholicnews.org.uk/kms15.

SVP

The Destitution Project: The next collection of food items and clothing for our parishes will be during September. Below is a list of items that are desperately needed:

Tins of:- Tuna, baked beans, chopped tomatoes, pilchards, red kidney beans, chick peas, sweet corn, spinach, fruit (a real treat), corned beef or any other meat product. Cartons of concentrated apple or orange juice, vegetable oil (1ltr), long life whole milk, tea bags, coffee, sugar, small tins of sardines, long grain rice, jam, toilet rolls & tissues. Sr Barbara and the team are so grateful for everything we do to support them. Thank you.

SVP Outing (SJ): The Autumn outing for the elderly, disabled and housebound will be held on Sunday 27 September and will be to St Mary's, Horwich. Names of those who wish to go on the outing and those who are able to drive can be added to the lists available at the side doors of St John's Church, or please see any member of the SVP.



Fast Day (Friday 2 October): Here is a short story: Hamani lives in a remote village in Niger. Life is incredibly tough there. With longer and hotter dry seasons, it is becoming more and more difficult to grow crops. Just three years ago, drought destroyed much of the harvest Hamani and his neighbours were dependent on. Your generosity provided Hamani's community with enough basic food to keep them alive. But his community don't want to rely on handouts. They want to be self-sufficient. Your support this Harvest, will ensure millions of people around the world are able to grow enough food to eat. Please give what you can this Harvest to grow a brighter future for people living in the world's poorest countries.

Harbour Room Book Club: Starts again on Wednesday 30 September at the earlier time of 1pm. Under discussion will be the summer reading of all members so it should be interesting! Refreshments provided. All welcome. *Madeleine*

Becoming Catholic: You may, or may not be aware that we have previously run a programme for any adult who has an interest in becoming Catholic or simply wants to know more about the Catholic Faith. This year we are beginning another programme which will start on Tuesday 13 October (7pm) and will be held (hopefully) in St John's Church. The programme will run until Easter (6 sessions) and is for anyone in any of our parishes. If you would like more information and think that this is something you would be interested in, please contact our parish office at office@sbsj.org.uk or alternatively, please see any of our priests after Mass.

Walsingham: A celebration for the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham will be on Thursday 24 September at Our Lady of Grace, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 1AS. Rosary & Confession is at 7pm followed by Holy Mass at 7.30pm. All most welcome. Please also note that the Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham next year, will be on Saturday 7 May 2016.

Choir at St John's 9.15 Mass: Parishioners are invited to join the small choir which has started to sing at 9.15 Mass. There will be short practices after most 9.15 services. For further details or to join please approach Martin, the guitar player, after Mass or e-mail: mroe@loreto.ac.uk Instrumentalists are also needed. All ages welcome.

Marriage Matters (www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

Selfish ambition versus intimacy: The readings illustrate the struggle between peacemakers and those driven by jealousy and selfish ambition - is that us? Together, we can regulate what we do as a couple, knowing each other so intimately. Our consciences can be reinforced by the extent we are prepared to be open and honest with each other. What do we choose?

Think Vocation

We all like to be helpful and to be needed by other people. Like James and John we sometimes have a tendency to want to be noticed for the things that we do. Our Lord calls us to a life of service and humility. Whenever any credit is being dished out for something good that we have done let us try to deflect that praise away from ourselves and back to the Lord.

Quiet Prayer

Lord, I offer you today the power I have to love others. Make my love balanced and generous. Help me to be fair and honest, but also kind and forgiving in the way I express care and concern. Make this day another lesson in loving like you, with generosity, justice and mercy. *Amen*

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat: 5 (SC)	A Houghton	M Hilton & J Cranshaw
6.30 (SJ)	C Grundy	B Ramsden, E Clarke, J Cowen
Sun: 9.15 (SJ)	M Roe	J Carroll, A Gracie, M Cropper, E Rothwell, F Smith, M Russell
10.15(SC)	C Molyneux	M Hilton & J O'Connor
11.15(SB)	K Wilkinson	P Carolan