

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

**31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2016 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



Last week, when Jesus spoke in the synagogue, his words pleased the crowd - as we hear at the beginning of today's Gospel. How quickly the mood changes! This story shows very clearly that Jesus was not a "crowd-pleaser" - he wasn't interested in saying the right things to be popular or accepted. He was interested in the truth - which is the basic definition of a prophet - whatever the personal cost. So today, when Jesus points out that salvation is not just for the Jews, or even just the people of Nazareth, they reject the message and the messenger. Just like Jeremiah, when he was called to be a prophet (first reading), Jesus has to confront the land: they will fight with him, but not overcome him.

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b> <i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4</i> <b>Sunday Missal:</b> page 206; Readings 212; Preface at priest's choice <i>For Prayers in Latin: Number 670 in Hymn Book</i>		<b>Prayers Please</b>
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 3pm-5pm <i>Mercy Bus</i> Volunteers Training Day (Assembly Room, Salford Cathedral) <i>Special Collection for Caritas</i>	<p><b>Sick:</b> 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, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Lucy Hesford, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Winifred Coyle, Josephine Knowles, Rita Bell, Mary Cassidy, Derek Crompton, Florence Toole, Roy Shepherd, Margaret Hatchman, Tony Wright, Janet Rabbett and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> Mildred Carlin, Alan Yates, John Wilcock</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Philip Blackburn, Bernard Coop, John Hall, Lewis Brown</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> A Special Intention, Philip Blackburn, Ralph Gubbins (Birthday Remembrance), Marie Lamoury (Birthday Remembrance), In honour of St Anthony for a special intention, Bernard Coop, John Wilcock, John Hall, Lewis Brown</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cycle of Prayer Part 2 (of 6):</b> We pray especially for: peace on earth; Christian unity; the sick and those who care for them; students and teachers; the unemployed</p> <p><b>Caritas Sunday Special Collection:</b> This weekend we will pray for and have a collection for Caritas (Diocese of Salford), the organisation that helps people in need throughout our diocese.</p>
Monday (1 <sup>st</sup> )	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	6.30pm Sacramental Programme - Reconciliation (SC Church) 7pm No Mass Today (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	9.15am Yr2 Class Mass (SC) 9.30am Mass (SJ) 6.15pm Sacramental Programme - Reconciliation (SJ Church)	
Thursday (4 <sup>th</sup> )	9.15am Mass (SB) 6pm Sacramental Programme - Reconciliation (SB Church)	
Friday (5 <sup>th</sup> ) <i>St Agatha</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) – with Yr3 10am Funeral Service for Alan Yates (SC)	
Saturday (6 <sup>th</sup> ) <i>St Paul Miki &amp; Companions</i>	11am-12noon Adoration & Reconciliation (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday (7 <sup>th</sup> )	9.15am Mass (SJ) - Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB)	
<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>		

**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 Isla-Kathryn Liversidge who was baptised at St Brendan's last Saturday. And to Zachary Joel Friggieri who was baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

**Prayer Partners:** Our primary schools have asked if the Year 3 pupils (who are on the Sacramental Programme) could be linked with a *Prayer Partner* in each of our parishes. All this requires is for you to pray for a child whilst they continue on their journey of faith. If you would like to volunteer yourself for this, please contact the parish office (301927) or email [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk).

**Lourdes 2016:** A meeting for all of those parishioners who have already expressed a desire to go on this year's diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will be held on Thursday 4 February in the Harbour Room, St Brendan's at 2pm. Booking forms will be available and recommended hotels discussed. Parishioners who are still considering the pilgrimage are also welcome to attend and will be able to receive more detailed information which may help with their decisions. Would those interested parishioners, who are unable to attend, please contact Margaret Russell, Peter Carolan or myself so that they can be made aware of the meeting information. *Terry Smith.*

### Proposed Changes to Mass Times

The introduction of the 5pm Saturday evening Mass at St Columba's seems to have been welcomed, with many people availing themselves of the opportunity for this early celebration of Sunday Mass. One of the effects of that success has been a depletion in the numbers attending the 6.30pm Mass at St John's, where the average attendance now is 65. On a Sunday morning, the 9.15am and the 11.15am Masses have largely maintained their numbers but there has been a severe decline in attendance at the 10.15am Mass over the past six months or so, with the average attendance now being 50.

As a consequence of these changes in attendance, I am asking the bishop for permission to reduce the number of Sunday Masses in our parishes to one per church. These would be 5pm Saturday at St Columba's, 9.15am Sunday at St John's and 11.15am Sunday at St Brendan's. I know that we currently have three priests serving the parishes but that may not always be the case and, given the pressures elsewhere in the deanery and diocese, a change of Mass times here will free one or more of us to assist when there is a need.

It also seems opportune to review the weekday Masses in the light of some three years' experience of our current pattern and taking account of the availability of particular priests on particular days. So we would have the following pattern:

- Monday 9.30am Mass at St Brendan's
- Tuesday 7pm Mass at St John's
- Wednesday 9.15am Mass at St Columba's
- Thursday 9.15am Mass at St Brendan's
- Friday 9.30am Mass at St John's

These changes would take effect from the first weekend of Lent (i.e. Saturday 13 February).

*Canon Michael Cooke*

### Lenten Masses & Activities - 2016

#### Tuesday Morning Mass

In St Columba's Church at 8.15am from 23 February

#### Friday Morning Mass

In St John's School at 8.15am from 12 February

#### Deanery Station Masses

Wednesday Evenings 7.30pm (Confessions from 7pm)

First one: 17 February – St Ethelbert's, Deane

#### Churches in Harwood Lent Course

Monday Evenings 7.30-9pm

First one: 15 February – St Brendan's

**Harbour Room Book Club:** Thank you to all members who attended the last meeting. It was both enjoyable and informative! The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24 February to discuss *The Reader* by Bernard Schlink. Meeting starts at 1.15pm to 3pm. All welcome.

**Singin' in the Rain:** Wednesday 8 June at the Octagon. The revised price is now £15.27 per person. There are some spare seats left. We will start collecting on Sundays after 11.15am Mass at St Brendan's.. Cheques payable to **The Octagon Theatre**. Thank you. *Frank and Madeleine* 303505

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

**We reflect God's love:** Through our marriage we become a living flesh and blood sacrament of our Church! Saint Paul says 'be ambitious for the higher gifts'. Our love isn't just a warm feeling but an action; it flourishes in being given attention to and nurtured. In this way we become a Sacramental 'sign' of God's love for our children, family, friends and Church.

### Think Vocation

"I used to talk like a child, think like a child." Children are often very ambitious when they think about their future lives. As adults we should encourage children to discover their gifts as they get older but to always remember they are firstly children of God. So whatever they turn out to do with their lives, they should remember to be grateful to God.

### Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	F McDowell	K Egan, K Molyneux
6.30 (SJ)	L Rule	B Ramsden, E Clarke, M Fau-Goodwin
9.15 (SJ)	A Grundy	M Russell, A Rawlinson, A Cunliffe, M Speed, J Carroll, F Smith
10.15(SC)	V Cryer	F Ginty, T Owen
11.15(SB)	E Rankin	J Murphy, K Wilkinson, P Carolan

This Newsletter is sponsored by

### HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House  
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.  
BL1 7AL  
01204 309609



[www.lhfs.co.uk](http://www.lhfs.co.uk)