

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


7TH FEBRUARY 2016 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



We hear the call of another prophet this week - Isaiah. This introduces the Gospel, where we see Jesus calling his first disciples to follow him. Notice that the initiative is Jesus'; there is no application process or interview procedure! Notice also the way that Jesus calls his disciples in this account - not with words, but with a miracle that is also a parable. It is, in a way, a miraculous "job description": if the disciple trusts completely in the one who calls, then the result will be truly amazing - a huge catch of men and women hungry for God. Simon's simple words "if you say so" give us an example of Christian discipleship: we should leave our own concerns behind, and simply follow the Lord with great trust.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 1</i>		Prayers Please
Sunday Missal: page 217; Readings 222; Preface at priest's choice <i>For Prayers in Latin: Number 670 in Hymn Book</i>		<p>Sick: 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>Lately Dead: Mildred Carlin, Alan Yates, John Wilcock, Stanley Werner Lewin, Mrs Woodman-Sheldon, Teresa Kelly, Graham Eccles</p> <p>Anniversaries: Joyce Knight, Norman Graham, Bob Bowes, Mary Thomas, Betty Finn, Barbara Irving</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Norman Graham, Alan Yates, Bob Bowes, Mildred Carlin, Stanley Werner Lewin, Mary Thomas, Betty Finn, Mrs Woodman-Sheldon, Barbara Irving, John Wilcock, A Birthday Remembrance, A Special Intention, Teresa Kelly, Rita Brooks, Graham Eccles, Joyce Knight</p>
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)	
Monday (8 th)	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday (9 th)	7pm Becoming Catholic Meeting (SJ) 7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday (10 th) Ash Wednesday	9.15am Mass (SC) – School in attendance 9.30am Mass (SJ) – School in attendance 10.45am Mass (SB) - School in attendance 7pm Mass (SJ) Day of fasting and abstinence	
Thursday (11 th) <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	9.15am Mass (SB) <i>Day of special prayer for the sick and those who care for them</i>	
Friday (12 th)	8.15am Lenten Mass (SJ) in School	
Saturday (13 th)	11am-4pm Mercy Bus in Bolton Town Centre 2pm Mass for Engaged Couples (Salford Cathedral) 5pm Mass (SC) No Reconciliation today	
Next Sunday <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – Children's Liturgy 2.30pm Rite of Election – Salford Cathedral	

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Following on from last week's Pastoral Letter: This week Bishop John held two meetings with all the priests of the diocese to begin a process of consultation regarding the future of parishes within the diocese. The bishop and priests have agreed on an initial proposal to reduce the number of parishes in the diocese from 150 to 75, recognising that some of these parishes may contain more than one church. Following these meetings, the second stage of the consultation will now be to ask the priests of each deanery - and the people in each deanery - to determine how we may best be missionary in our parishes and an evangelising people. In the coming months, the priests of each deanery will meet to discuss this and to come up with proposals for the way forward in re-aligning the number of parishes in their deanery, so that the overall reduction in parishes across the diocese may be made. Consultation on these proposals, with the people of each deanery, will then take place before any final decisions are made. Resources will be available to assist parishes when the agreed changes are to be implemented. In all these discussions and considerations, we ask the Lord to stay with us on our journey. *Bishop John Arnold*

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Congratulations: To twins Patrick Thomas and William Michael Foster who were baptised at St John's last Saturday. We pray that they and their family may continue to grow in faith.

Sacramental Programme: Congratulations to the children from St Brendan's, St Columba's and St John's who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they go on now to prepare for First Holy Communion.

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.

Changes to Mass Times: The bishop has now confirmed the proposed changes to the Sunday and weekday Masses in our parishes. From next weekend (13 February) these will be 5pm Saturday (St Columba's), 9.15am Sunday (St John's) and 11.15am Sunday (St Brendan's). The weekday Masses are as follows: 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

Papal Blessing of the Mercy Bus: As reported in the *Catholic Universe*, Pope Francis has given his blessing to the Salford Diocese's Mercy Bus after Fr Frankie Mulgrew (assistant priest of Holy Family and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Blackburn) travelled to Rome to inform him about the project. The full article can be seen on our notices boards. Next Saturday (13 February) the Mercy Bus will come to Bolton Town Centre (on the Deansgate side of the Town Hall) from 11am-4pm. On board the specially decorated double-decker bus, will be priests available for confession, to give a blessing or to chat and give advice. Young adult volunteers will play live music and invite people onto the bus. Please come along and bring someone you know who may have not been to Church in a while, and may benefit from the Mercy Bus.

Caritas (Salford) Welcoming Communities: There will be a conference held on Wednesday 10 February (10am-4pm) at the Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP for all those concerned about the plight of refugees and asylum seekers. There is a cost of £10 which covers conference fees and lunch. More details can be found on the posters on the notice boards or by contacting Katy Flowers (0161 817 2267), Cathedral Centre k.flowers@caritassalford.org.uk.



Sunday Coffee (SB): During 2015, the Sunday Coffee at St Brendan's raised £1228.29 for CAFOD. Many thanks to everyone! It would be lovely to see more parishioners in the Harbour Room after Mass, enjoying coffee/tea/biscuits and a pleasant chat with friends.

St John's 200 Club: Please note that money will be due on 28 February. Frances Smith will be at the 5pm Mass (St Columba's), 9.15am (St John's) and the 11.15am Mass (St Brendan's). Please note that the annual payment is £12 per number

Save The Date: The SVP Sponsored Walk will be held on Sunday 12 June 2016. This is an opportunity to walk round our beautiful countryside and at the same time raise funds to help those in our parish communities who are in need. This year a small group plan to run the distance (approximately 12 miles) so if you are a keen runner and would like to join in, please contact the parish office: office@sbsj.org.uk. More details to follow.

Singin' in the Rain: Wednesday 8 June at the Octagon. (£15.27) per person. There are some spare seats left. Cheques payable to **The Octagon Theatre**. Thank you. *Frank and Madeleine* 303505

Lenten Masses & Activities - 2016

Walk With Me
Please take a special booklet and calendar to help with prayer and reflection over the Lenten season.

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

Rite of Election – Salford Cathedral
Sunday 14 February (2.30pm)

Marriage Matters (twinoneness.org.uk)

Follow your dream: *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.* Isaiah was sustained by his vision of God in glory; Paul by his vision of Jesus. On our wedding days we had a dream for our future together. The grace of God has sustained that vision through many struggles. Let's always seek to follow our dream.

Think Vocation

“From now on, it is men you will catch.” Perhaps Jesus chose a number of fishermen as his disciples because fishermen need to be strong, trusting and courageous. Despite their weaknesses they all proved themselves to be up to the task eventually. The Lord continues to call men to be his priests today: they also need to be tough and resilient. In this Year of Mercy let us pray that the priests of our Diocese have the courage and strength they need to lead the Church and preach the Gospel.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	A Houghton	M Hilton, J Cranshaw
9.15 (SJ)	E Rothwell	E Rothwell, T Armstrong, A Grundy, D Ramsden, M Cropper, A Gracie
11.15(SB)	T Proctor	K Wilkinson, P Carolan, J Murphy