

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

25TH SEPTEMBER 2016 – TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME




Following on from last week (“You cannot be the slave of both God and money”) we see a practical illustration of what this means. The division between rich and poor was very striking at the time of Jesus: popular understanding, however, said that to be rich was a blessing from God. Jesus reminds people that riches carry their own responsibility – the duty to notice the poor man, especially when he lies at your own gate. In this parable, Jesus is subtly attacking the people’s lack of acceptance of the teaching of the prophets – “They have Moses and the prophets...”, but they obviously haven’t listened to them. The twist in the last line is powerful: “...they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.” Since our world still sees a division between rich and poor, how true those words have become!

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 2</i> Sunday Missal: page 433; Readings 439; Preface at Priest’s choice		Prayers Please
Sunday <i>Harvest Sunday</i>	9.15am Harvest Festival Mass (SJ) - With Children from St John’s Primary School 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children’s Liturgy 1pm-5pm Flower Festival SB (Closing Service 4.30pm)	<p>Sick: Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Linda Southern, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Winifred Coyle, Josephine Knowles, Rita Bell, Mary Cassidy, Derek Crompton, Roy Shepherd, Tony Wright, Janet Rabbett, Mike Greenhalgh, Barbara Stoppard, June Dawson, Greta Barlow, Cassie Wilson, John James McLaughlin, Carrie Roscoe, Christine Hasleden, Suzanne Freeman-Hill, Josephine Gell, Jude McCann Brown, Ann Cunliffe, and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: David Stuart, Lisa Bracewell</p> <p>Anniversaries: Barbara Grimes, Mary Ainscough, David Greenhalgh</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Rosemary Davies (Anniversary of funeral), Graham Taylor & Sheila Smith, Lisa Bracewell, David Greenhalgh, Barbara Grimes, Mary Ainscough</p>
Monday (26 th)	No Mass today – In Memoriam flowers from the Festival can be collected today or by arrangement with Margaret Fazackerley – 01204 302320 No SVP Meeting today (SJ)	
Tuesday (27 th) <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	2-2.45pm Meditation (Harbour Room, SB) 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday (28 th)	9.15am Yr4 Class Mass in School (SC) 9.30am Mass (SJ) 1.15-3pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB) 7.30-8.15pm Meditation (Harbour Room, SB)	
Thursday (29 th) <i>St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael Archangels</i>	9.15am Mass (SB)	
Friday (30 th) <i>St Jerome</i>	9.30am Yr5 Class Mass in Church (SJ)	
Saturday (1 st October) <i>St Terese of the Child Jesus</i>	11am-12noon Adoration & Reconciliation (SJ) 2pm Baptism (SB) 5pm Mass (SC) – With Children’s Liturgy	
Next Sunday (2 nd)	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children’s Liturgy 3pm Nuptial Mass for Terry Smith & Teresa Taylor (SB)	

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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

Consultation on Parish Re-Structuring

Our meeting to discuss the Bishop’s proposal for re-structuring the parishes in the Diocese will take place on Thursday 6 October (7pm-9pm) in the Patmos Room at St John’s. This is for all three of our parishes and is your opportunity to share your views about our future parish alignment and for us to submit a joint response to the consultation.

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Congratulations: To Alana Grace Hoyle who was baptized at St Brendan's last Saturday. We pray that she and her family continue to grow in faith.

Harvest Festival Mass: At the 9.15am Mass this weekend we will be joined by children from St John's School and David O'Keefe from the Destitution Project. David will give a talk about the work of the Project and what we, as parish communities, do to help..

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 18 October (7.30pm) and will be held in the Patmos Room at St John's Church. The programme will run until Easter and is for anyone in any of our parishes. If you would like more information and think that this is something that you would be interested in, please contact our parish office on 301927 or office@sbsj.org.uk.

The Harbour Room Book Club: Begins its seventh season on Wednesday 28 September (1.15-3pm). The subject for discussion is "Why are thrillers so popular with readers?" Please bring along any one thriller you have read recently to discuss this genre. All welcome.

Theatre trip update; I am now taking money for *Educating Rita* (8 February) at the Octagon (4 places left). The price is discounted at £14.90. Please make cheques payable to **The Octagon Theatre**. It may seem that I am booking early for these shows but they are selling out very fast indeed - the June performance of *Talking Heads* was especially difficult. If anyone is interested please ring me on 303505. Thank you *Madeleine*

Lourdes 2016: Following the recent summer pilgrimage to Lourdes, please find attached an item written by two of our parishioners about their experiences.

Open Evening: At St John's School for prospective parents on Wednesday 12 October (6.30pm-7.30pm).

Meditation Groups: Following some successful pilot sessions earlier this summer, 2 weekly groups will start meeting in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's. The first meetings will be this Tuesday (2pm-2.45pm) and Wednesday (7.30pm-8.15pm). For enquiries please contact Mary Durkan on 07786 033449

Mount St Joseph Former Students Association: Are having their Annual General Meeting on Saturday 1 October at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Lonsdale Road, Bolton, BL1 4PN in The Beckett Suite. The meeting will commence at 3.30pm followed by some light entertainment with Win Dawson and tea and biscuits. We will join the Parish Mass at 5pm. *All past pupils are cordially invited.*

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: This year is Friday 7 October. High up in the Andes, families are struggling to survive. With so many of our sisters and brothers around the world still not able to grow enough food this Harvest Fast Day we are inviting you to join 32-year-old Nicanora and her community in Bolivia, on their journey from poverty to abundance. At our weekend Masses on 8th/9th October we will learn more about Nicanora and about that journey and how you can help

Bolton Town Centre Chaplaincy Retail Chaplaincy Evening

Tuesday 27 September 7.30pm
Bolton Parish Church Hall,
Bolton Parish Church, Silverwell St, Bolton, BL1 1PS

Have you ever considered being a volunteer 'retail' or 'workplace' chaplain?

Are you a good listener? Have you any experience in pastoral care or counselling, or worked in the retail or leisure industry, or just got a heart for helping others and can spare a couple of hours a week?

Bolton Town Centre Chaplaincy offer a listening ear to staff in shops, food outlets and other businesses in Bolton Town Centre and we are currently looking for new volunteers to join our expanding team.

If you would like to find out more about all that's involved in workplace chaplaincy and meet our team of chaplains, then please come along to our retail chaplaincy evening. To register your interest in coming along to the evening please contact Keith Armstrong on 01204 546118/07500 928573 or e-mail tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk

SVP News

Annual Mass for the Sick & Housebound (1 October): Due to unforeseen circumstances, this Mass has now had to be cancelled. It will be re-arranged in due course.

Autumn Outing: This will be held on Sunday 23 October for the sick and housebound. More details to follow.

Destitution Project Collection: Besides the food and clothing items, there is a request for bedding, rucksacks, bars of soap, toothpaste and toilet rolls. If anyone also has any carrier bags lying around, these are also really useful. *Thank you*

Think Vocation

"You must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love." The standards asked by the Church these days of applicants to the priesthood are very high. This is fitting because it is a great privilege to be ordained and to minister as a priest. However Our Lord Jesus can sanctify an ordinary man he has called and chosen for priesthood and fill him with the graces needed

Marriage Matters (www.twoinoneflesh.org)

Beware of complacency and compensating: Today we are warned about being complacent. Too often, we think everything is fine in our lives and then we realise we've drifted apart and feel isolated from our spouse; the atmosphere is strained; it is lonely in bed. The danger is to compensate with activities outside our marriage instead of sitting down, holding hands and getting back together again.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	M Mayberry	M Hilton, J Cranshaw
9.15 (SJ)	M Parkinson	E Rothwell, M Russell, A Gracie, M Cropper, T Armstrong, F Smith
11.15(SB)	C Owen	J Proctor, T Proctor, T Taylor,

Lourdes 2016

Merciful like the Father

As first time pilgrims we were asked to give our impressions of the six days we spent in Lourdes with the Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage. We were not sure what to expect and what would be expected of us.

As we arrived we were given a comprehensive timetable of the events organised for us and where they were taking place. The organisational work that must have gone into that on behalf of the Diocese was truly remarkable.

Each day we had Mass on a different theme. Each Mass was very simple but all the more spiritual for that. Each Mass had a different celebrant starting with Bishop Terence (Bishop John was in Krakow until our third day). Each homily given by a different priest on a different aspect of our religion. The singing lead by the Choir was fantastic on every occasion.

We each of us have different highlights of the week but we have agreed on just three. There were many more.

- The Mass with the anointing of the sick. In itself the proceedings were quite moving but the sight of 200 young volunteers in Salford Diocese Blue Tee Shirts standing round the basilica holding hands during the blessing was unforgettable. It was very moving to see all the sick and disabled adults and children and the care given to them by the young people.
- The Service of Reconciliation was something special.
- How can one not include the torchlight procession? It hit home to us to be part of several thousand taking part and the Rosary said in all those languages. The most touching aspect of all was when a tiny group of pilgrims came through the throng in the almost full Rosary Square carrying the Iraqi national flag. They carried their banner to the front and were given pride of place behind the statue of Our Lady.

We realised that there was a huge advantage in being part of an organised pilgrimage and part of a smaller group of pilgrims from our own parish. Apart from the obvious advantage of being guided round Lourdes to the different venues there was also the very enjoyable experience of having a nightcap back at the hotel and exchanging stories and experiences at the end of the day.

We were delighted when Bishop John joined us to lead the pilgrimage for the last three days and seeing him spend so much time meeting all of us pilgrims.

All in all a very fulfilling and spiritual first experience of an organised pilgrimage.

Barbara & Chris Owen