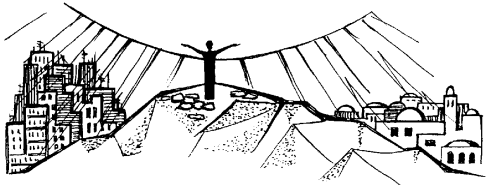


NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR & ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS

5TH MARCH 2017 – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.



In the Cycle of Sunday Readings, the oldest are those of Year A in Lent – these Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realise why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter (something which has been reintroduced to the Church by RCIA): those already baptised used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is

the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin? We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus' own temptations, something he shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation.

Liturgy & Activities This Week

Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 1

Sunday Missal: page 532 Preface page 541

Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 2.30pm Rite of Election (Salford Cathedral) <i>A Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prayers Please</p> <p>Sick: Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, 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, Tony Wright, Janet Rabbett, Mike Greenhalgh, June Dawson, Greta Barlow, Cassie Wilson, Christine Hasleden, Suzanne Freeman-Hill, Jude McCann Brown, Ann Cunliffe, John Pryor, Maureen Woodward, Rose Adams, Valerie Piddock, Irene Parkinson, Robert Morissey, Edwin Rankin, Father Francis McAuley, Margaret Patterson, Jessie Carter and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Canon Harry Jones, Brian Harrison, Ray Bailey, Melinda Barone</p> <p>Anniversaries: Ian Walsh, Vincent Heron</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Canon Harry Jones, Brian Harrison, Ray Bailey, Melinda Barone, Ian Walsh, Vincent Heron, Denis O'Toole (Birthday Remembrance), Cliff Morris (A Special Intention)</p>
Monday (6 th)	9.30am Mass (SB) 7.30pm Churches in Harwood Lent Course (St Brendan's) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday (7 th)	8.15am Mass (St Columba's) 6.30pm Stations of The Cross (SJ) 7pm Mass followed by Reconciliation (St John's) 7.15pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday (8 th)	No Morning Mass Today 7.30pm Deanery Station Mass (Holy Family, New Springs) 7.30pm Churches Together in Tonge Moor Lent Studies (Church at the Centre)	
Thursday (9 th)	9.15am Mass (SB)	
Friday (10 th) CAFOD Lent Fast Day	8.15am Mass (St John's School) 10am Church Cleaning (SJ) – Team 2 <i>A Day of Special Prayer for the Needy & Hungry of the World</i>	
Saturday (11 th)	5pm Mass (SC)	
Sunday (12 th)	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy – Fair trade goods on sale before and after Mass 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy	
<p>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></p> <p>Mass Intentions: <i>Cheques should be made payable to St John's</i></p> <p>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></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Cycle of Prayer Part 3 (of 6):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We pray especially for: candidates for the sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers</p>

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

Assistant Priest: 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.ne



Congratulations: To Elias John Newman who was baptised on Sunday 19 February at St Columba's. To Archie Dempsey-Cuff who was baptised at St John's last Saturday, and to Olivia Margaret Illsley and Charlotte Paige Giller who were baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families continue to grow in faith.



Lent Fast Day – Friday 10 March

This Lent we hear from Florence who lives in Zambia. Florence worked every hour she could, yet still struggled to provide for her family. CAFOD's partner, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, provided Florence with some tiny fish, tools and trained her in fish farming. Florence set up a small business selling the fish, and her life was transformed. But she didn't stop there, Florence wanted her neighbours to benefit too and so she shared all her new skills and knowledge. Thanks to your support and Florence's determination, something as small as the size of your thumb - a tiny tilapia fish - became something amazing: a future for her children. The Fast Day envelopes (attached) will be collected at Masses next weekend. Please give what you can to help transform other lives like that of Florence. Thank you.

Rite of Election Service: This Sunday, we are pleased to present two candidates to the Diocese of Salford, at the Cathedral, who wish to become Catholics. Please keep Anita Rate and Mandy Friggieri in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith.

Fr Seán O'Brien: We have had news from Fr Seán! He is very well and has settled in at Ampleforth; he sends you all his very best wishes. It looks like he will be entering his Novitiate slightly earlier than planned, so please continue to keep him in your prayers, as he is with us.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2017: Continues to Sunday 12 March. For all things Fairtrade in Bolton [facebook.com/fairtradebolton](https://www.facebook.com/fairtradebolton), twitter@fairforbolton or www.boltonfairtrade.org.uk.

Destitution Project: The next collections take place at our three churches during March. *Thank you for your continued support.*

St John the Evangelist School presents the "Passion of Christ" Tuesday 11th April (afternoon)

During Holy Week, we would like to invite you on a tour around the school for a retelling of the "Passion of Christ." It will convey the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, suffering and finally his crucifixion. We will start off with an introduction in the hall and then you will be guided through different classrooms where each class will re-enact one of the Stations of the Cross. Tea and coffee will be provided. **Please note**, as we can only accommodate 10-15 people maximum in any one group, it is important that you telephone school to book a place. *Thank you.*

St John's 200 Club: All monies are now due for the next 12 months. Frances Smith will be at all Masses next weekend (11/12 March). There are still numbers spare if anyone would like to join.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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



Lenten Activities

Churches together in Harwood: Lenten Course entitled *Eat, Pray, Share* will be held every Monday in Lent (7.30-9.00pm):

St Brendan – 6 March & 27 March; Longsight Methodist – 13 March & 3 April; Christ's Church - 20 March & 10 April.

Deanery Station Masses

Wednesday Evenings 7.30pm (Confessions from 7pm)

8th March – Holy Family, New Springs

15th March – St John, Bromley Cross

22nd March – St Thomas of Canterbury, Heaton

29th March – St William of York

5th April – Our Lady of Lourdes, Farnworth

All are welcome to attend

Book Club Spring Outing: This year, on Wednesday 10 May, we are hoping to visit Dewlay's Cheese Factory (outside Garstang) for a guided tour, refreshments, talk and cheese tasting. After that, we go on to Barton Grange Garden Centre which is nearby for lunch. This is a large centre with both a cafe and a restaurant. The trip, including admission etc, is £14. We have booked a 32-seater coach to collect us outside St. Brendan's at 9.15am and return us for 3.15pm. You do not have to be a member of the Book Club to go on one of our parish outings. You can bring friends etc. If you would like to reserve a place, please contact Pauline on 383138 or Madeleine on 303505. All welcome.

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 18 March (10.30-12noon) in the Patmos Room at St John's. This is for parents from any of our three parishes who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Please phone 301927 or email office@sbsj.org.uk if you wish to attend.

Think Vocation

Today, at the Cathedral, the Bishop will accept catechumens and candidates to become new Catholics at Easter. We all have a part to play in spreading the faith. May we ask ourselves each day of Lent what it is that we need to do to ensure that our lives fully radiate the loving warmth of Christ so that others may be drawn to the Lord and his Church through our witness

Marriage Matters (www.twoinoneflesh)

Avoid Independence: Today, both Eve and Jesus are tempted to become independent, to turn away from the love of God. In marriage, we can think we have a right to fulfil our own desires without considering our partner, but we need to share these deepest hopes and dreams, and be prepared to hear the impact on our loved one and our relationship.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend (11/12 March)

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	C Molyneux	F Ginty, C Molyneux, J O'Connor
9.15 (SJ)	P French	M Russell, M Speed, A Rawlinson, M Fau-Goodwin, J Carroll, M Cropper
11.15 (SB)	T Proctor	C Owen, P Brennan, M Durkan