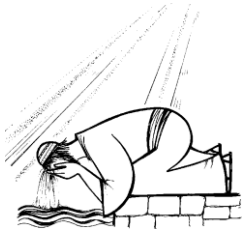


**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

**26TH MARCH 2017 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
LAETARE SUNDAY**



When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was “neophyte”, which means “newly enlightened.” There is a subtle link between the readings this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path – ‘no evil would I fear’ as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light, it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being ‘anointed’ with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 4</i> Sunday Missal: page 568; Preface page 580		Prayers Please
Sunday Mothering Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy <i>A Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	<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, Callum Fazackerley, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Josephine Knowles, Rita Bell, Mary Cassidy, 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, Margaret Riley and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Rita Brooks, Derek Crompton, Bill Berry, Ian Rostron, Father Geoffrey Hilton</p> <p>Anniversaries: Bernard Ramsden, Daniel Evans, Veronica Evans, Thomas & Evelyn Rabbitt</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Bernard Ramsden, Tyler O'Dowd (critically ill), Father Geoffrey Hilton, Daniel Evans, Veronica Evans, Rita Brooks, Suzanne Freeman-Hill (prayers for continued stroke recovery), Jessie Carter (sick), Thomas & Evelyn Rabbitt</p>
Monday (27 th)	9.30am Mass (SB) 7.30pm Churches in Harwood Lent Course (St Brendan's) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday (28 th)	8.15am Mass (St Columba's) 6.30pm Stations of The Cross (SJ) 7pm Mass followed by Reconciliation (St John's)	
Wednesday (29 th)	1.15-3pm Harbour Room Book Club (St Brendan's) 7.30pm Deanery Station Mass (St William of York) 7.30pm Churches Together in Tonge Moor Lent Studies (St Andrew's - Exploring Prayer)	
Thursday (30 th)	10am Requiem Mass for Rita Brooks (SJ)	
Friday (31 st)	8.15am Mass (St John's School)	
Saturday (1 st April)	No Adoration and Reconciliation today 5pm Mass (SC)	
Sunday (2 nd)	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy 3pm Reconciliation Service (SC)	
 <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Mothers' Day</p> <p>A Happy Mothers' Day to all mothers. Today is a chance to remember our mothers, living or deceased, and to thank God for the love shown to us through them.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Cycle of Prayer Part 3 (of 6):</p> <p>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



Lent Fast Day Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated to our recent collection. The total came to just over £2000!

CAFOD has also launched an Emergency Appeal for the crisis in Somalia,

Rather than hold another collection, if anyone would like to donate to the Emergency Fund, please speak to any member of the CAFOD Group or hand in your donation in an envelope marked "CAFOD Appeal"

Easter Flower Demonstration

Saturday 8 April (2pm) in the Patmos Room (St John's)

Tickets £5 including a Cream Tea

Arrangements are to be raffled and all proceeds are in aid of CAFOD and tickets will be on sale after Weekend Masses.

The next CAFOD meeting is on Thursday 6 April (7pm) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's. All welcome.



Congratulations: To Barbara and Chris Owen (St Brendan's parish) who are celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary today. We send them our prayers and best wishes.

Destitution Project: The collection continues at our three churches until Easter. Food items are greatly in need. *Thank you for your continued support.*

Invitation to an Open Rehearsal with the Salford Cathedral Choir:

The Choir of St John's Cathedral, Salford invite you to an open rehearsal on Wednesday 29 March 2017, 7.30 -9.45 pm. Anyone who loves singing in church is welcome to join them for the evening, to sample how they work and the music they sing. **Tickets are free.**

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Wednesday 29 March at 1.15-3pm. The book to be discussed is *The Sunrise* by Victoria Hislop. All welcome.

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. 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.*

Palm Sunday Youth Celebration: Come and celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Young People on Saturday 8 April 1-5pm, including Mass at 4pm with Bishop John Arnold. See the poster on the notice boards for more details.

Facebook: The Diocese now has a page on Facebook, which will be used to promote events and highlight important news from the Diocesan family! Check it out and please follow us!

Offertory Envelopes: The new envelopes will be available for you to collect next weekend.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham: On Saturday 6 May 'Walking the way of the Martyrs' led by Bishop John Arnold. Please contact Mary Hall (07478 765010) for more details.

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 – 27 March; Longsight Methodist – 3 April; Christ's Church - 10 April.

Deanery Station Masses

Wednesday Evenings 7.30pm (Confessions from 7pm)

29th March – St William of York

5th April – Our Lady of Lourdes, Farnworth

All are welcome to attend

School Lenten Masses: Early Masses will be held in St Columba's Church at 8.15am every Tuesday and every Friday Morning in St John's School at 8.15am. All welcome!

Reconciliation Service

Sunday 2 April – 3pm (St Columba's)

Palm Sunday Walk of Witness in Harwood (9 April)

Starts at Christ's Church (2pm), stops off at St Brendan's and finishes at Longsight Methodist. All welcome.

Churches in Tonge Moor – Holy Week Service

Wednesday 12 April

7.30pm at St Augustine's.

Think Vocation

Today Jesus helps a man who has never seen with his eyes to be able to see what many people miss. He gave the man the gift of his sight but also allowed the man to gradually and steadily grow in his faith. May all of us treasure the gift of our sight but also treasure the gift of our faith.

Marriage Matters (www.twoinoneflesh)

Stop and see, be aware: God was aware of David's adultery with Bethsheba, Uriah's wife, and how he arranged Uriah's murder to cover his sin. Amid political and business 'cover ups' in today's world, it's important to 'stop and see' – the beauty of nature, the beauty and goodness of your spouse. Don't be too busy to recall the joys you have brought to each other.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend (1/2 April)

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	N Villa	F Ginty, C Molyneux, J O'Connor
9.15 (SJ)	A Gracie	E Rothwell, D Ramsden, A Gracie, A Grundy, M Speed, M Cropper
11.15(SB)	T Regan	T Smith, J Proctor, T Proctor

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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

