

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

### 6TH AUGUST 2017 – THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD



This Feast of the Transfiguration invites us to look at the mystery of Jesus Christ, living among us. This Jesus is truly God and yet truly human. At the time of His baptism and then at the time of the Transfiguration, the Divine breaks through and a voice is heard: “This is my beloved Son.” The Baptism of Jesus is the beginning of His public ministry, but it is also a baptism into death, a baptism into our human condition, a baptism into the will of the Father. The Transfiguration echoes that baptism: it is a preparation for the death of the Lord, a preparation to see Him die in our human condition, a preparation for his complete accepting of the will of His father.

#### Liturgy & Activities This Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2*  
**Sunday Missal: Page 909; Preface: Page 914**

|  |  |
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| Sunday   | 9.15am Mass (SJ)<br>11.15am Mass (SB)                              |
| Monday (7 <sup>th</sup> )  | 9.30am Mass (SB)<br>7.45pm SVP (SJ)                                |
| Tuesday (8 <sup>th</sup> )<br><i>St Dominic</i>  | 7pm Mass (SJ)<br>7.15pm SVP (SB)                                   |
| Wednesday (9 <sup>th</sup> )<br><i>St Benedicta of the Cross,<br/>Patron of Europe</i> | 9.30am Mass (SJ)<br>7pm Parish Enabling Team meeting (Patmos Room) |
| Thursday (10 <sup>th</sup> )<br><i>St Lawrence</i>                                     | 9.15am Mass (SB)   |
| Friday (11 <sup>th</sup> )<br><i>St Clare</i>  | 9.30am Mass (SJ)   |
| Saturday (12 <sup>th</sup> )   | 2pm Baptism (SC)<br>5pm Mass (SC)                                  |
| Sunday (13 <sup>th</sup> )   | 9.15am Mass (SJ)<br>11.15am Mass (SB)<br>2pm Baptism (SC)          |

#### Prayers Please

**Sick:** Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Linda Southern, Callum Fazackerley, Elaine Jansen, Josephine Knowles, 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 McCauley, Margaret Patterson, Zachary Ainscough (aged 7), Mary Bagg, Mary Castle, Peggy Ainscow, Canon Dorran, Christine Everitt, Priscilla Martin, Mark O'Brien, Philip & Marie Derbyshire, Sheila Derbyshire and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness

**Lately Dead:** Mary Leigh, Clare Dolan

**Anniversaries:** Mary Mathen

**Mass Intentions:** Mary Leigh, Canon Dorran, Clare Dolan

#### Lourdes Pilgrimage 2017

Whilst we were in Lourdes, the parish group met together to light three large candles and to pray for each of our parishes and for the changes that we will be facing in the coming months. We also handed in an intention for a Mass to be offered in Lourdes for us all. So our prayer continues there, although we are home.

Our Lady of Lourdes. *Pray for us.* St Bernadette. *Pray for us.*

#### Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6):

We pray especially for: a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; human life; seafarers

**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

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**Congratulations:** To Emily Isabella Sweeney Ward who was baptised at St John's on Sunday 23 July. We pray that both she and her family may continue to grow in faith.

### Establishment and Naming of Our New Parish

Following on from the well-attended parish forum meeting of 25 July 2017 (see attached minutes), as part of the process of forming our new parish, we now need to consider a name for our new parish.

Our churches of St Brendan and St John the Evangelist will retain their individual names of the saints they are dedicated to. However, a new name for our new parish is required to be submitted to the bishop for his approval.

To give this important matter proper consideration, parishioners are invited to submit any proposed names together with a supporting rationale to Fr Michael Cooke by Sunday 27 August 2017. You can do so online at the parish website, by letter or by email to [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk)

**It is important that we hold another meeting, as soon as possible, after this date to discuss further the matters raised at the last meeting and make decisions for our submission to the bishop about our amalgamation. This has been arranged for Tuesday 5 September (7.30-9pm) at St John's, following on from the 7pm Mass that evening.**

There will be further information on the newsletter in the coming weeks to help us all prepare for this meeting.

**CAFOD Group:** The next CAFOD meeting will be on Thursday 17 August in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's (7pm). New members would be warmly welcomed. The CAFOD group do valuable work on behalf of the parish to aid people overseas facing dire poverty and illness caused by hostile conditions due to both internal conflict and oppressive physical conditions. Such people urgently need our help and prayers. Our parish CAFOD group are actively committed to aiding them reach a self-sustaining lifestyle. Please consider joining our group by attending the meeting.

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**Save The Date:** St John's SVP are holding a charity concert with the Eden Singers on Friday 15 September (7.30pm) at Dunscair Conservative Club. The musical evening will include a *Tribute to the Beatles* and *Decades of Pop from the 1940's up to the present day* and promises to be a very enjoyable event. Tickets priced at £8 are now on sale and will include a pasty supper. There will be a full bar facility available at the Conservative Club.

**St John's School:** This September marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the school in 1977. The first Mass of the new academic year (15 September 2017) will be dedicated to this special occasion. The school will be hosting an evening celebration "*St John's Through the Decades*" and there will of course be a celebration in school for the children (dates for the above are to be advised). All will be welcome. In the meantime, if past staff, children, parents, grandparents, governors and friends could have a look for any photographs, newspaper cuttings, extracts of information, and would be willing to allow us to use them for display purposes and to create a *Memories Book*, these would be gratefully received. The items loaned to us, should include the sender's name so that they can be returned. *Many thanks*

### Marriage Matters

Seeing you in a new light: At His Baptism and His Transfiguration, Jesus appeared to His disciples in a new light. That happens in relationships. We are all 'different'. Our background and experiences affect our responses to situations and reveal different 'sides' of our personality. Sharing thoughts and feelings about these can be painful or joyful, yet can lead us to make new and better choices.

### Think Vocation

Just as the apostles saw the glory of the Lord and were strengthened to go out to the world as heralds of what they witnessed, may young men and women be moved to share their experience of Him.

### Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for 12/13 August

| Mass      | Reader   | Eucharistic Ministers   |
|-----------|----------|---|
| 5pm (SC)  | V Cryer  | M Hilton & J Cranshaw   |
| 9.15 (SJ) | G French | M Cropper, A Rawlinson, T Armstrong, A Grundy, M Russell, F Smith |
| 11.15(SB) | C Bridge | J Proctor, T Proctor, T Smith,                                    |

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JESUS  
JOHN  
SUN  
TENTS

PETER  
MOUNTAIN  
MOSES  
CLOUD

JAMES  
FACE  
ELIJAH  
SHADOW



## **Minutes of the Consultation Meeting of the Parishes of St. Brendan (SB), Harwood, St. Columba (SC), Tonge Moor and St. John the Evangelist (SJ), Bromley Cross held at SJ on 25 July 2017.**

The meeting was attended by 88 parishioners and chaired by Fr.M Cooke (FrMC), supported by Fr F Parkinson.

### Introduction

FrMC said opening prayers. He then welcomed parishioners to this important meeting to consider the next steps on the journey towards SB & SJ forming a new, single parish.

FrMC explained that SC was not part of the amalgamation process, as it had been determined that SC would merge with the parish of Holy Infants & St. Anthony. However, given the premises and associated financial matters to be discussed at this meeting the future of SC remained under discussion.

### Consultation Process – Next Steps

Since 2008 the parishes of SB & SJ have informally worked together, sharing the vision of operating as “two churches within one parish.” There has been considerable progress, with good co-operation resulting in effective day to day co-ordination, sharing of expertise, relationship building and many parish organisations such as CAFOD, SVP operating jointly and effectively across both parishes.

Since 2008, there had been a multiple and diverse range of meetings, particularly parish forums, which had given parishioners many opportunities to be consulted about and debate the wide range of issues associated with the potential amalgamation of SB & SJ.

Following Bishop John’s letter of 15 June 2017, the priests and people of SB & SJ were now invited to enact the next period of consultation regarding their specific proposed amalgamation.

FrMC explained that a formal canonical consultation procedure had now to be followed to ensure that any new arrangement served the spiritual needs of parishioners. This would include, among other things, reviewing and if necessary, re-drawing parish boundaries and determining a name for the new parish. It would be important to shape the parish to serve both present and future spiritual and practical needs.

FrMC emphasised that the amalgamation of the two parishes was not to be regarded as one taking over the other. The principle is one of ‘Extinctive Union’. SB & SJ would cease to exist as parishes and a single new parish would be established.

### Parish Boundary Review

Parish boundaries are essential in Canon Law. Following discussion of the maps circulated at the meeting and FrMC’s explanation the meeting agreed the proposed parish boundaries were both logical and practical.

### Naming the New Parish

It was noted that the churches of SB and SJ would retain their individual names. However, a new name for the new parish would be required to be submitted to the Bishop for his approval. To give this important matter proper consideration, it was agreed that parishioners be invited, both online and by the newsletter, to submit any proposed names together with a supporting rationale to FrMC by Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

## St. Columba (SC)

FrMC explained that until a decision had been made about the future of SC, parishioners could be reassured that pastoral responsibility would continue to be provided as part of their relationship with SB & SJ.

However, there were serious and pressing matters associated with the viability of SC as a parish in respect of its premises, finances and Mass attendance.

FrMC explained that historically, due to a lack of finance in the parish, the premises had not been well maintained. The fabric of the presbytery building was in a very poor state of repair and was a continuous drain on parish resources with money being expended on security measures and dealing with vandalism. This also demanded a lot of priest's and parishioner's time dealing with such.

The costs of demolition of the presbytery and new security fencing is in the order of £130K + fees + VAT. The fabric of the church also needed extensive works, the last, conservative estimate in 2013 being approx. £40k. It was not unreasonable therefore to anticipate a capital outlay of £250K being necessary to bring the church up to a reasonable standard.

FrMC circulated a financial statement report for SC which showed that the parish was in deficit by approx. £2,500 with no capital balances. Each parish is expected to be self-sufficient in financial terms.

The report also showed a year on year falling Mass attendance, with present numbers being 111 of whom between 50% and 75% were from SB, SJ or elsewhere.

Given that the overall picture was one of decline of premises; falling income; falling Mass attendance and a requirement for major capital expenditure, FrMC asked whether SC parish could commit itself to doing the proposed work & if so how might the necessary money be raised? If not, then how might we best proceed?

The meeting accepted the financial report. No firm proposals were forthcoming to raise the necessary funds, apart from the suggested sale & re-development of the site to include a small chapel / Mass centre. (Subject to there being a pastoral need to provide such). FrMC agreed to discuss the suggestion with the Diocese's property advisors. The meeting noted that such a proposal would be longer-term and would not address urgent premises or financial problems.

## Other Matters

FrMC briefly updated the meeting about the following (More information to follow in due course):-

- Parish Enabling Team - FrMC thanked the eight parishioners who had participated in the Lay Leadership Course and briefly outlined the integral part they would play in our journey towards becoming a missionary parish.
- Hope in the Future – An initiative to support the development of missionary parishes based around St. Francis's calling from God to 'Re-build my Church'.
- Eucharistic Congress – Liverpool – September 2018
- Harwood Methodists – who will be sharing SB church from September 2017 as their new premises are built on Longsight, Harwood. The meeting warmly supported this proposal.

## Next Meeting

September 2017 – Date to be announced.

**Note: This meeting is now fixed for Tuesday 5 September (7.30-9pm) at St John's**