

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

20TH AUGUST 2017 – TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Today is one of those occasions when, even though the second reading is not chosen to correspond to the theme of the Gospel and first reading, it does in fact fit very well. Indeed, much of the letter to the Romans is explained in this Sunday's Liturgy of the Word: the whole theme is summed up in this: the Messiah came first of all to the people of Israel, to whom the promises were made in the past - but it could not remain there. The good news had to be taken to the ends of the earth, so that all peoples, indeed the whole of creation could welcome the Messiah and take a place in the Kingdom of God. All nations are welcome on God's holy mountain: "Let all the peoples praise you, O God!"

Liturgy & Activities This Week

Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 4
Sunday Missal: page 371; Preface at Priest's choice

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please	
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SJ)	<p>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 Morrissey, 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 Derbyshire, Sheila Derbyshire, Margaret Gibson, Kathleen & Arnold Banks, Andrew Rostron and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness</p> <p>Lately Dead: Herbert Walch, Maureen Canning, Frank Maloney, Albina Doloroso Tindoc, Gerard Eastwood, Gordon Flinders, Pat Ellis, Trudie Kitts, Marie Derbyshire, Michael O'Neill, Mary Leigh, Clare Dolan</p> <p>Anniversaries: Andrew Hayes, Mary Carter, Rose Allen, Mary Marshall</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Mary Carter, In thanksgiving for favours received, Intentions of Mike & Phil Foster, Frank Maloney, Special Intention, Albina Doloroso Tindoc, Margaret Gibson (speedy recovery), Rose Allen, Mary Marshall</p>	
Monday (21 st)	11am Requiem Mass for Maureen Canning (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)		
Tuesday (22 nd)	2pm - 2.45pm Christian Meditation (SB, Harbour Room) 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)		
Wednesday (23 rd)	9.30am Mass (SJ)		
Thursday (24 th)	9.15am Mass (SB) 1pm Wedding Service for Christian Melia & Janet Diggie (SB) 7.15pm – 8pm Christian Meditation (SB, Harbour Room)		
Friday (25 th)	9.30am Mass (SJ)		
Saturday (26 th)	5pm Mass (SC)		
Sunday (27 th)	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SB)		
<p>Collections & Donations: All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan's, St Columba's or St John's as appropriate.</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Cheques should be made payable to St John's</p> <p>Gift Aid: 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</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6):</p> <p>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</p>

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Assistant Priest: Rev Francis Parkinson

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Congratulations: To Seth Patrick Smith who was baptised at St Columba's last Saturday. Also to Jack Thomas Murphy at St Columba's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

Names for Our New Parish

Thank you to those who have already submitted suggestions for the name of our new parish. Ones received so far are:

St Aldhelm: This harks back to the original parish in this area of Bolton (founded in 1890) and is of particular significance to the people of Edgworth/Chapelton.

Our Lady Help of Christians or St Don Bosco: These are suggested because of the Salesian connection with our parishes, both through our local high school (Thornleigh) and particularly the long-standing involvement of Fr Ivor Netto who died recently.

St Francis Xavier: He was the first Jesuit missionary, so this would be in honour of our Pope (a Jesuit) and all he is asking us to do as missionary parishes.

The Missionary Parish of St Brendan and St John the Evangelist: This again reflects the emphasis from Pope Francis on our need to be missionary disciples for the present age and future generations.

The Holy Family: This suggests a bond between our churches which will retain their separate names.

The Parish of the Ascension: suggesting a new start and recalling the commission given to the Church at that time.

Corpus Christi (or Blessed Sacrament): These reflect the centrality of the Eucharist – but the Latin title also reminds us that we, the Church, are the Body of Christ.

Twelve other names suggested were given without any rationale. Some of them reflect names of parishes already present within the deanery or those of our near neighbours.

There is still time to submit further suggestions and we will have a vote on the names at the beginning of September.

Francis House: Francis House cares for over 420 sick children, teenagers and young adults with a short life expectancy. Providing support and friendship for the whole family. They need over £4.2 million in charitable donations each year to continue to provide services. In the first week of September Chris Speed (husband of Maureen) will be braving the windswept Eastern coast of Iceland covering about 10 miles a day for 5 days. As part of his commitment he's agreed to raise money for this very worthwhile cause which does so much to ease the pain of families and children with terminal illnesses. Any donations in support of his trip will be gratefully received via this website: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chris-speed2>
Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity. Thanks.

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 40th 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. This will be followed by a celebration in school for the children. The school will be hosting an evening celebration "*St John's Through the Decades*" on Friday 29 September from 6.30pm. 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*

Christian Meditation: The next set of dates for the Christian Meditation are:

Tuesday 22 August 2pm - 2.45pm

Thursday 24 August 7.15pm - 8pm

Tuesday 29 August 2pm - 2.45 pm

Thursday 31 August 7.15pm - 8pm

Tuesday 5 September 2pm - 2.45pm

Thursday 7 September 7pm - 7.45pm

These will be held in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's.

Marriage Matters

Trust in each other: When we married, we promised 'to love one another until death do us part'. In this promise we are called to put all our trust in each other, to persevere, no matter what life brings. This theme of trust is evident in the way the Canaanite woman believed that, if she persevered, Jesus would cure her daughter. He did!

Think Vocation

We pray that more men & women will have the faith to hear God's call in their lives and respond with hope in His promise and love for the Saviour by following His example.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for 26/27 August

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SC)	J O'Connor	F Ginty, C Molyneux, J O'Connor
9.15 (SJ)	M Isherwood	M Russell, M Speed, A Rawlinson, T Armstrong, J Carroll, M Cropper
11.15 (SB)	J Proctor	J Murphy, K Wilkinson, P Carolan

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Stay with us, Lord, on our journey

Parish Amalgamation Consultation St Brendan, Harwood and St John the Evangelist, Bromley Cross

Paper 2: Considering Parish Boundaries

The diocesan proposal (published in January 2017) put forward two amalgamations that affect our three parishes: (1) St Brendan and St John; (2) St Columba and Holy Infant

Descriptions of these proposed parishes, together with maps, are given on an interactive site for all diocesan boundaries (<https://boundaries.stjosephsmanchester.co.uk/>) where you need to select “St Joseph – Bolton” deanery.

The amalgamation of two or more parishes to form a new parish normally means that the existing boundaries of the parishes are simply combined into one new overall boundary. However, part of the consultation process regarding amalgamation requires us to ask the questions:

- Are the new boundaries the most appropriate?
- Are there any particular boundary issues arising from the proposal or that precede it?
- Do the boundaries of the new amalgamated parish still raise any pastoral issues?
- In the light of local knowledge, are any future amendments to be suggested or noted at this time?
- Are there other boundaries which need to be considered? (Topographical, LEA, etc.)
- Are there any significant changes in population you can envisage for the next five to ten years?
- Do you anticipate any future changes arising from the “*Strengthening our Presence as Church: A Journey in Hope*” planning process that will impact further on your new boundaries?

So the amalgamation process gives us the opportunity to make either minor or major adjustments to the proposed boundaries of our new parish, so that we can best address the pastoral and spiritual needs of the people in this area.

Minor Adjustments

For some time now I have been concerned that, whenever amalgamation was to occur, we should seek to resolve a small issue regarding the boundary between St John and Holy Infant. This relates to a small area down Eagley Way. At present, Eagley Brook forms the boundary between our parishes but this results in two issues. First of all, vehicular access to that part of Eagley which is in St John’s parish is only possible by travelling via Holy Infant’s parish. At the same time, the small area down there which is in Holy Infant (i.e. Threadfold Way) can only be accessed by crossing the brook twice (i.e. into and back out of St John’s). It therefore makes sense to propose a minor adjustment of the boundary as follows:

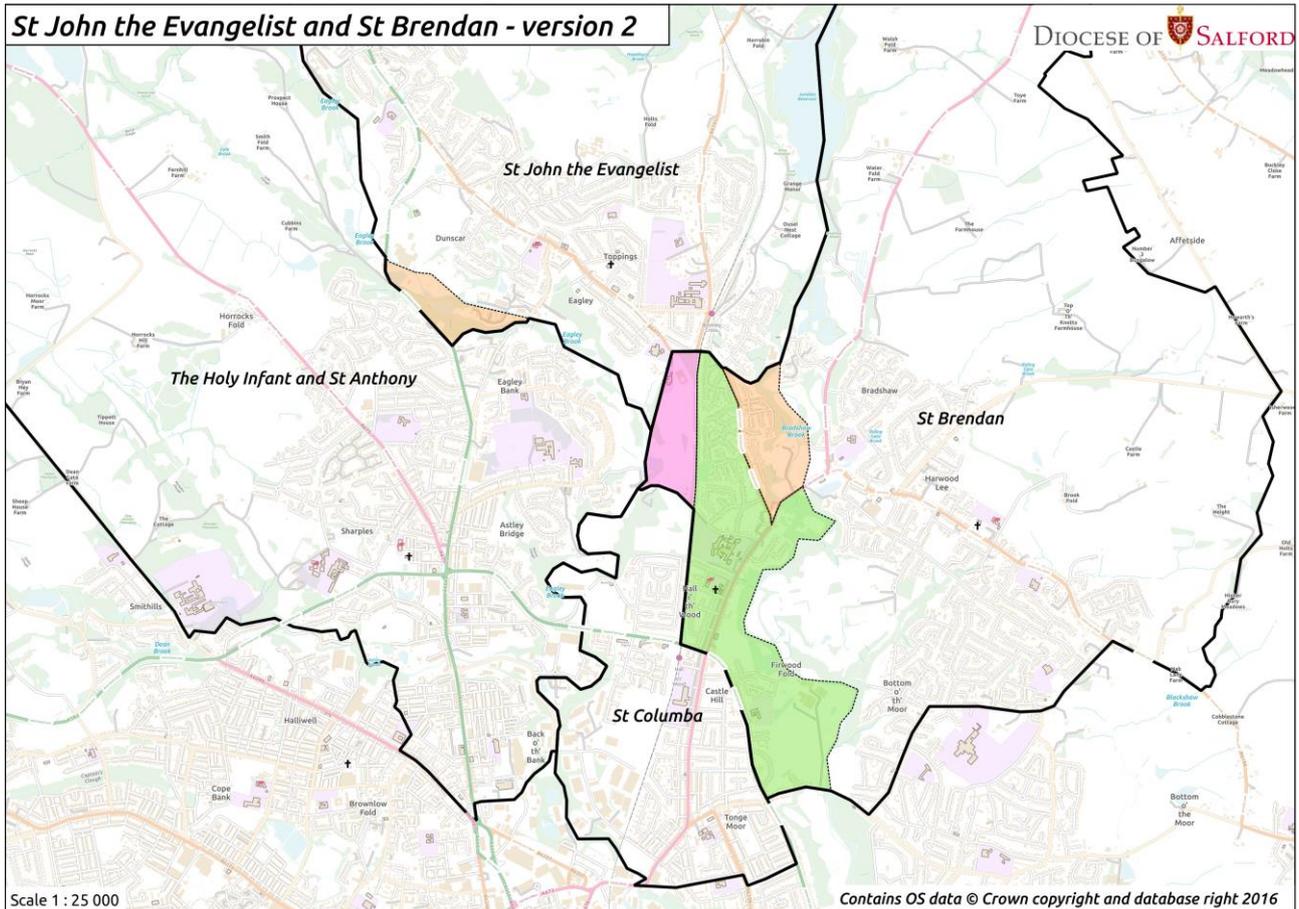
- Instead of simply following Eagley Brook, follow Eagley Brook to Eagley Way, then Eagley Way and Blackburn Road (A666) to the point where Eagley Brook crosses it at Dunscur (where we then pick up the existing boundaries)

This proposal is shown as an orange shaded area on the left side of the map (overleaf).

A second minor adjustment suggests itself at the point where St John, St Columba and St Brendan meet. This would, of course, not have been an issue if all three parishes were amalgamating (as we originally hoped and requested). The issue arises now because to travel between the two churches (St John and St Brendan) it is necessary to pass through St Columba parish. Whilst that is not an impossible situation to live with, it might just be a bit of a tidier arrangement if the boundary was moved slightly so that there is a vehicular route between the two churches within that boundary (even is only when going one way). The current boundary is Bradshaw Brook, running from Bradshaw Bridge up to Printers Lane. The proposed adjustment would be:

- From Bradshaw Bridge continue along Bolton Road and then north up Turton Road to the current boundary with St John at Printers Lane

This proposal is shown as an orange shaded area on the right side of the map (overleaf).



Major Adjustment

The green and pink areas are more radical and proposed on the basis that we might now close St Columba church and divide the parish territory between this new parish and Holy Infant:

- The green shading is a basic division using the railway line and main road (A58)
- The pink bit takes account of the westerly part of Oaks Lane which (if we just took the green bit) would be isolated (and, although in Holy Infant, only accessible via this new parish)

These suggestions are incorporated in the following written description which gives the overall boundary of the new proposed parish with this major adjustment included:

From the point where Broadhead Road crosses Twitchels Brook, S along Blackburn – Rossendale District boundary, Blackburn - Bury District boundary and Bolton - Bury District boundary to and NW along Arthur Lane, Stitch-Mi-Lane, New Lane, Blair Lane, Thicketford Road to Crompton Way (A58) to intersection with railway line at Hall-i-th-Wood and N along the railway line to its crossing with Oaks Lane and then W along Oaks Lane to the River Croal and N along the River Croal to Eagley Brook. N by Eagley Brook, Eagley Way, Blackburn Road (A666), Dewhurst Clough, Delph Brook and by Blackburn – Bolton District boundary to Blackburn Road (A666). N by Blackburn Road to Cadshaw Brook and along northern boundary of North Turton civil parish to the crossing of Broadhead Road and Twitchels Brook.

Considerations

Obviously we can only go for the major adjustment if the decision is made to close St Columba church. If that is the decision, then it makes more sense to divide the parish territory as described here, rather than the whole of the parish going with Holy Infant. Making that decision now, rather than at a future date, means that we can begin the life of our new parish with all the potential territory included (rather than having to redefine boundaries at some future date). It would also mean that Holy Infant could simply take in part of St Columba parish without having to undergo a full amalgamation process and without having to change its name.

Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG
Parish Priest
18 August 2017

You can respond to this consultation via www.sbsj.org.uk or via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/797FSP3> or using a paper response form available in church.