

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

**27TH AUGUST 2017 – TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



There is a very simple theme to this Sunday's readings: it is the principle of authority in the community of the Church: we are introduced to the idea that God gives authority to someone in the first reading, where Shebna is dismissed by God and replaced. This is a prelude to the Gospel story of Peter being given authority: not because he is powerful or wise in the world's sense, but because he was able to profess his faith in the one sent by the Father. This is the principle of all authority in the Church: it is to spring only from God and our faith in God, professed by our way of life and rooted only in Christ, for 'to him all authority, in heaven and on earth, has been given.'

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b> <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 1</i> <b>Sunday Missal:</b> page 381; Preface at Priest's choice		<b>Prayers Please</b>
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SB)	<p><b>Sick:</b> 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 Pidcock, Irene Parkinson, Robert Morissey, Edwin Rankin, Father Francis McCauley, Margaret Patterson, Zachary Ainscough (aged 7), Mary Bagg, Mary Castle, Peggy Ainscow, Canon Dorrán, Christine Everitt, Priscilla Martin, Mark O'Brien, Sheila Derbyshire, Margaret Gibson, Kathleen &amp; Arnold Banks, Andrew Rostron and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> Herbert Walch, Maureen Canning, Thomas Rudd, Philip Derbyshire, Audrey Fletcher, Frank Maloney, Albina Doloroso Tindoc, Gerard Eastwood, Gordon Flinders, Pat Ellis, Trudie Kitts, Marie Derbyshire, Michael O'Neill, Mary Leigh, Clare Dolan, Michael Fay</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Mary Marshall, James Dowbakin</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Thomas Rudd, Bert Walch, Philip Derbyshire, Margaret Halliwell, Stanley Roberts, Audrey Fletcher</p>
Monday (28 <sup>th</sup> )  <i>St Augustine</i>	9.30am Mass (SB) <span style="float: right;"><b>Bank Holiday</b></span>	
Tuesday (29 <sup>th</sup> )  <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	2pm - 2.45pm Christian Meditation (SB, Harbour Room) 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday (30 <sup>th</sup> )	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday (31 <sup>st</sup> )  <i>St Bartholomew</i>	9.15am Mass (SB) 7.15pm – 8pm Christian Meditation (SB, Harbour Room)	
Friday (1 <sup>st</sup> September)  <i>St Edmund Arrowsmith</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	11am-12noon Adoration & Reconciliation (SJ) 2pm Baptism (SB) 5pm Mass (SC)	
Sunday (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	9.15am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (SB) 2pm Baptism (SJ)	
<p><b>Collections &amp; Donations:</b> 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><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Cheques should be made payable to St John's</p> <p><b>Gift Aid:</b> 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;"><b>Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6):</b></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>

**Parish Priest:** Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

**Assistant Priest:** Rev Francis Parkinson

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**Congratulations:** To Archie Richard Boon who was baptised at St Brendan's last Saturday. Also to Charlie Mark Preston at St John's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

**Congratulations:** To Christian Melia and Janet Diggie who were married at St Brendan's on Thursday. We pray that they will have a long, happy and fulfilling marriage.

### Names for Our New Parish

Last weekend, we published these suggestions for the name of our new parish which had been submitted with a rationale: **St Aldhelm, Our Lady Help of Christians, St Don Bosco, St Francis Xavier, The Missionary Parish of St Brendan and St John the Evangelist, The Holy Family, The Parish of the Ascension, Corpus Christi (or Blessed Sacrament)**

Some further names have been suggested with rationale:

- **Holy Trinity:** Although we will no longer have three parishes!
- **Good Shepherd:** As the Church leads us & cares for parishioners needs
- **St Christopher:** Patron saint of travellers and both St John and St Brendan travelled extensively
- **St Benedict:** Because of our connection with the Benedictines through Fr O'Brien
- **St Ambrose Barlow:** A local Manchester saint

The following names have been suggested without any rationale: Christ the King, Christ the Redeemer, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Our Lady's Chapel, Our Lady of Grace, All Saints, The Immaculate Conception, Guardian Angels, St John the Baptist, Morning Star, St Michael the Archangel

We will have a vote on the names next weekend to give some indication of what people might prefer. The final decision about a name rests with the bishop – and I know he would prefer a shortlist rather than a long list to choose from, so hopefully the voting will narrow this down.

**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.

**Urban Outreach:** Have written to thank us for the £170 raised at the recent coffee morning. They really appreciate this donation in support of their work.

**Congratulations:** To all our young people who have received their A-Level or GCSE results these past two weeks. We hope you all achieved what you wanted and wish you well for the next stage of your education or as you move on to pastures new.

**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. 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 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

The key to family life: Today's Gospel places keys at the heart of the responsibility Jesus gives Peter. In spite of his weaknesses and failings, because of his faith, he is entrusted with the 'keys' to the kingdom of God. Our married love is entrusted with the 'keys' of our family life. We are the 'rock' upon which the future of our family will be built.

### Think Vocation

Trusting in Christ's words to Peter, will help those called to follow the Lord to recognise the gift that they have been given to follow Him faithfully.

### Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for 2/3 September

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SC)	L Seals	M Hilton, J Cranshaw, M Hilton
9.15 (SJ)	L Rushton	F Smith, D Ramsden, A Gracie, P McArdle, M Cropper, T Armstrong
11.15 (SB)	K Wilkinson	K Wilkinson, P Carolan, J Murphy,

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

### **Paper 3: Considering Pastoral Provision**

One of the essential elements of the amalgamation consultation process is to determine that the proposed new parish is able to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of the people.

We are in the fortunate position that these two parishes have been working together for almost ten years now, with St Columba also involved for almost five years. This has given us plenty of opportunity to experiment with working as “one parish with two/three churches”. We have developed a pattern of holding specific activities and events in one church/parish, rather than repeating things in each place. The most significant expression of this has been the fact that, for the past five years, we have celebrated Maundy Thursday at St Brendan’s, Good Friday at St Columba’s and the Easter Vigil at St John’s, thus celebrating the most central feast of our Church Year as one community.

The amalgamation process asks us to consider:

- How best can the new parish be served by one priest?
- How best may preparation for baptisms, sacramental programmes, weddings and funerals be arranged?
- How best may pastoral care be provided for the bereaved, sick and housebound?
- Should parish organisations work together or remain distinct?

We have already begun to address each of these questions by the approach that we have adopted over these past ten years:

- Whilst we currently have two priests (and did have three for a while), things are arranged in such a way that one priest could cover everything. Indeed, whether we simply combine SB and SJ or include part of SC, the area and population covered by the new parish will be less than we are currently covering with the three parishes.
- Preparation for baptisms is done every two months in one place for parishioners from any of the three parishes. The sacramental programme is set each year in conjunction with the three primary schools and follows the same pattern in each place, with the initial meeting and Presentation being held in just one church. Preparation for weddings is a combination of the deanery Marriage Preparation course and each couple seeing the priest individually. Funerals are arranged through the priest meeting with the family of the deceased and we take the same approach to the celebration of funerals in any of the three churches. All of this current practice can be carried over into our new single parish.
- Pastoral care for the bereaved, sick and housebound is provided by a combination of the priests, members of the SVP and our Eucharistic ministers. Again, there will be no need to change this approach when our new parish is formed – but those involved may be asked to minister across the whole of the new parish rather than just within the confines of one current parish.
- It makes sense for parish organisations to work together and, as noted above, we have largely moved away from the duplication of activities over the past ten years. Our CAFOD groups came together quite early on in this experience and we successfully brought the separate parish forums together into one. Our SVP groups in SB and SJ have remained distinct in terms of their relationship to regional and national structures of the organisation but within our parish boundaries they have increasingly been working co-operatively which paves the way for forming one SVP group when the new parish is established. [Note: there is no active SVP group in SC]

### **Sacramental Life**

One of the decisions we will need to make early on in our amalgamation is about the pattern of Sunday and weekday Masses. For the Sundays, we will need to do this in conjunction with our neighbouring parishes so that the priests are in a position to cover for one another (particularly in an emergency).

At present we have one Sunday Mass in each of our three churches. If all three churches remain (with SC being looked after either from Holy Infant or as a separate parish linked to the new "SB & SJ" parish for the time being), then we could simply continue with this same pattern (even if we have to adjust the times a little to fit with our neighbours). If SC closes, then we will need to consider which of our two churches we should transfer the Saturday evening Mass to.

In that same circumstance, we would also have to consider whether we need to provide transport for any SC parishioners to go to Mass in either of our remaining churches (either on Saturday evening or Sunday morning). Would we need to consider buying a parish minibus or booking a taxi weekly? Or would there be sufficient parishioners able to offer lifts to those who require them?

Over the past few years, we have tried a number of different patterns for our weekday Masses and so we can consider whether the current pattern is serving our needs or should be altered.

Other aspects of sacramental life (whether preparations or celebrations) should largely be able to continue according to the patterns we have currently established (as noted above). We are awaiting new policy documents from the diocese with regard to the sacramental programme for Reconciliation and Eucharist, as well as for Confirmation at the later age of 13. Any changes that these require will be implemented when they are published.

### Schools

The new parish will have either two or three primary schools within it (depending on whether or not we take in part of the territory from SC). We will continue to serve these schools as we currently do in terms of the involvement of the priests, the provision of governors and links with the parish communities. We recognise that there will be a particular issue for SC School if there is no longer a church next door – but this is a matter that we can work round, as other schools have to do in other parts of the diocese. Bringing SC School within the boundary of our new parish has the advantage that the three primary schools can continue to build on the good working relationship that they have developed over the past five years.

### Parish Enabling Team

As part of developing our parishes across the diocese for the present and the future, Bishop John has asked that each parish should establish a "leadership" team – a group of parishioners who will oversee and co-ordinate parish activities. Here in the Bolton deanery, we have taken this request seriously and have run a "Lay Leadership" course during the past twelve months, which has formed a pilot scheme for other deaneries to take up. Each parish was asked to send three representatives to this course – one who would oversee parish administration, one who would oversee catechetical aspects and one who would oversee safeguarding. This was seen as a minimum structure for such a team.

We are fortunate that we had eight parishioners who were able to complete this course and who are now willing to serve our current parishes and our new parish in this leadership role. However, the group has decided that it prefers to be known as the Parish Enabling Team, since that rightly puts the emphasis on their roles of overseeing, co-ordinating and encouraging the involvement of many other parishioners in parish activities rather than them being the ones who lead, organise and run all (or the majority of) activities.

### Pastoral Provision

Given all that is outlined in this paper, welcoming the establishment of the Parish Enabling Team, and knowing the goodwill of so many parishioners who are already involved in many ways, I am confident that the pastoral and spiritual needs of all those within the proposed new parish can be adequately met.

Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG  
Parish Priest  
23 August 2017

You can respond to this consultation via [www.sbsj.org.uk](http://www.sbsj.org.uk) or via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NKJRHLC> or using a paper response form available in church.