

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

17TH MAY 2015 – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Ascension is not just a feast that happens to fall in Eastertide: it is an integral part of the Easter mystery. Remember the Lord's words at the Last Supper: "I am going to prepare a place for, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me." The resurrection presumes the Lord's return to the Father. This is therefore a feast of hope: our hope in the Lord's return, as he went. Our hope that he will take us with him, when our bodies are raised as his was. Our hope that we will take our place in heaven, where he sits on the Father's right.

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle B Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 3</i> Sunday Missal: page 784; <i>Readings</i> page 785; <i>Preface</i> page 45		
Sunday <i>World Communications Day</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB) <i>A Special Collection for World Communications</i>	Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Cecilia Guest, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Pat Hall, Linda Southern, Mary Joan Tornai, Rosemary Davies, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Lucy Hesford, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Andrew Hustwit and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	Lately Dead: Reg Worthington (Ex founding parishioner of St Brendan's), Eunice Brierley, Jean Fender, Marie Donnelly, Fr Michael Lee
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	Anniversaries: John Fitzgerald, Jack Schechter, Fred Williams, Francis Riley
Wednesday	9.15am EYFS Assembly (SC School) 9.30am Mass (SJ) 10.15am-3.15pm Houghton Tower Trip	Mass Intentions: John Fitzgerald, Jack Schechter, Gerard Lamoury (Birthday Remembrance), Gordon Hollinshead (Birthday Remembrance), Fred Williams, In honour of St Anthony, St Jude & the Sacred Heart, Joyce Knight, Gerard Dobson (80 th Birthday Remembrance), Fr Michael Lee, Francis Riley, Lucy Hesford (who is very sick), Agnes & George Beeching
Thursday	9.15am School Mass in Church (SB) – Reception/Yr 1	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
Friday	10am Requiem Mass for Marie Donnelly (SJ)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: small;"> This Newsletter is sponsored by HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE Peel House 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton. BL1 7AL 01204 309609  </div>
Saturday	11am Baptism (SC) 2pm Nuptial Mass for Garry Wall and Ashleigh Halliday (SC) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday <i>Pentecost</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - with Children's Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) - with Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SC)	
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> Mass Intentions: <i>Cheques should be made payable to St John's</i> 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>		

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

Assistant Priests: Rev Seán O'Brien & Rev Francis Parkinson

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World Communications Day: There will be a second collection at today's Masses which provides the funding for the Catholic Communications Network (CCN). The CCN provides support for the bishops of England and Wales and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues. Please help the CCN by your prayers and generosity. It is also possible to donate online at: www.catholicnews.org.uk/donations.

Congratulations: To Theo Sebastian Smith who was baptised at St Columba's last Saturday and to Layla Marie Barlow who was baptized at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

CAFOD Nepal Appeal: Thank you for the huge response over the last two weekends for this appeal. The total donated to CAFOD from our three parishes was a staggering £2503.70. Thank you for your support and prayers for this on-going crisis in Nepal.

Sacrament of Confirmation: Congratulations to all children from our three primary schools and beyond who were Confirmed at the services last week. Let us continue to pray for them as they continue on their journey of faith.

Patmos Room: The work to the extension of the Patmos Room will start on Monday 18 May. The overall project, including some landscaping works, will take about five months to complete, during which time we will need to use the two side doors for access to the church. You will notice that the contractors have already "moved in" and a number of their cabins have already been placed in the church grounds. After the Masses at St John's this weekend, access to the Patmos Room will not be available, therefore a portable WC will be made available outside the left hand side door of the church.

If you wish to learn more about this building project, there is a display in the Patmos Room and the architect (Keith Hamilton) will give a short talk about it after the 9.15 Mass this Sunday. We are confident that the building work will run smoothly, and we thank you for your patience and co-operation during the next few months.

Trip to Houghton Tower: A reminder that this trip departs from outside St. Brendan's church at 10.15am on Wednesday 20 May and should be returning at 3.15pm. A guided tour lasting about an hour awaits us upon our arrival at 11am. Lunch or snacks are available in the cafe. We have one spare place if anyone is interested in going. Cost is £10 which includes entry fee and transport there and back. Let's hope the sun shines! *Madeleine*

Northern Catholic Conference: This will be held on 12-14 June at Liverpool Hope University. There will be numerous guest speakers and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate Mass on Saturday 13 June. For more information, contact Denise on 07543 800 812 (www.northerncatholicuk).

Parish Healing Mission: At St James', Montserrat on Thursday 28 May to Sunday 31 May (also at Sunday Mass at St Joseph's' on 31 May). Please see the poster on the notice boards. (Please note. The side door notice boards will be used at St John's). All are welcome.

Gift Aid at St Columba's: We are seeking to revive the Gift Aid scheme at St Columba's. Gift Aid can be claimed for any money given by standing order, by cheque, or in the offertory envelopes, provided that we keep a record of it. In order to gift aid your donations, which costs you nothing but gets an extra 25p per £1 for the church, you simply need to fill out a Gift Aid declaration once. If you are a taxpayer, please do consider signing one of these forms so that we can boost our income in this way. Even if you are not a taxpayer, you might wish to make your contributions by standing order rather than envelope or loose money. Chris Molyneux has kindly offered to be the Gift Aid Co-ordinator at St Columba's and he will be present at the back of church after the Masses this weekend with the necessary forms. Thank you.

Fairtrade Stall: Goods are on sale at St Columba's this weekend and next. Please support us!

CAFOD Group: The Ceilidh with *Francis Roe and the Riot*



Act is fast approaching! Have you got your ticket yet? Come and join us for what promises to be a fun filled social evening and help us raise funds for Myanmar. Our target is £1300 which will cover the cost of a barrier to save a community's farmland from flooding during a storm. Tickets are £10.00 and are available after Mass at all our churches.

SVP

Annual Family Sponsored Walk: This year, the sponsored walk will take place on Sunday 14 June (11am-4pm). The route is around the reservoirs of Turton and Bromley Cross and there are different routes from 3 miles up to 10 miles (maps will be provided). The event starts and finishes at St John's Primary School and refreshments will be available. If you would like to take part to raise money for local families and people in need then please take a sponsor form and come and join in. It is a great chance for families to help families!

The Destitution Project: Our next joint parish collection will be in June. All help, goods, food and clothes are much appreciated. Thank you.

Marriage Matters

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

Strive for unity: Since even before we married, we have worked to bring about unity in our love relationship. Today we are reminded that by loving one another; "God will live in us and His love will be complete in us". Let's take a moment to hold hands, look at each other and say "you are my beloved 'till the end of time".

Think Vocation

"Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation". We all have a responsibility to proclaim the Gospel – we are called to be witnesses to the importance of the Lord in our lives. Responding openly to the Lord's command will enable us to journey towards our eternal home in Heaven