

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

11TH NOVEMBER 2012

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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“God does not have favourites”, Saint Paul tells us, but God always makes a special place for the poor, and those whom society would push into second place. In the traditions of Israel, God invited the people to have special care for the “widows and orphans” - so the story we hear in today’s Gospel would have a particular resonance. The paradox of Christian faith is this: in giving, we receive. Christ gave everything, sacrificing his very life, and in return received a new and unending life. The widow in the first reading gave her last food for the prophet Elijah, and in return received an endless supply. This is a challenge to us in our turn: what are we invited or asked to give, and in what spirit will we do so, and what will be our reward?

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4 Patmos Room - St John's (SJ); Harbour Room - St Brendan's (SB)</i>		<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Edmundson, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Elizabeth Patterson, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Betty Boyle, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, George Cowley, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Karen West, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Margaret Edge, Frank Brazel, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O’Grady, Pauline Bowling, Paul Buckley, Margaret Walsh, Joan Plumbley, Emma Turner, Vincent Wood, Margaret Wood, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, Catherine Crowley, John Barrett, Bea Gilmore, Tara Vinden, Roy Smith, Isabelle Karzynski, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Amanda Calcutt, Leila Parker, Emma Jiminez (baby), Bernard Cummings, Stephen Tootill and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Trevor Gee, Canon Joe Carter, John Doherty</p> <p>Anniversary: Philip Marshall, Gordon Holt, Simone Littaye, Dorothy Hodget, Victor Gill, Marie Rigby, Robert Neil Potter</p> <p>Mass Intentions: John Donoghue, Philip Marshall, Vera Carter, Gordon Holt, Simone Littaye, In honour of St Anthony, Daniel (sick baby grandson), Deceased members of Bolton Catenian Association, Dorothy Hodget, Eileen & Victor Gill, Deceased members & friends of the Owen family, Special Intentions, John Doherty, Robert Neil Potter</p>
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 11am Remembrance Services (Victoria Square & Dunscair) 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy & Cake Bake	
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>		
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
<i>St Josaphat</i>		
Tuesday	No Mass today 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Churches in Harwood Meeting (Methodist Manse)	
Thursday	No Mass today	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	11am Annual Mass for the Deceased (SJ) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ)	
<i>Prisoners’ Day</i>	<i>Special Collection for the Bishop’s Administration</i>	
Collections, Donations, Gift Aid		Cycle of Prayer Part 6 (of 6)
<i>All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan’s or St John’s as appropriate. 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>		We pray especially for: ...justice and peace in the world; all victims of war; young people; prisoners & their families

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Remembrance Sunday: Today is Remembrance Sunday when we remember and give thanks for the sacrifice made by so many in warfare that we might live in peace. A wreath will be placed at the Dunscair War Memorial on behalf of the parish.

Mass for the Deceased: Our annual Mass, organised by the SVP, for all who have died in the past year will take place at St John's at 11am on Saturday 17 November.

Congratulations: To Daniel James Tonge and Isla Faith Webb who were baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation session will take place on Monday 19 November (7 to 8.30pm) at St Brendan's. This is for parents from either parish wishing to have a child baptised in the coming months. If you will be attending this session, please let Fr Cooke or Fr Gee know.

Survive MIVA: We have had a letter of thanks for the £554.18 raised at St Brendan's and the £527.46 at St John's from the appeal made by Kathleen Denton in July.

New Parish E-mail: We now have a new e-mail address for all general parish enquiries and correspondence – office@sbsj.org.uk.

Christmas Draw (SJ): Tickets for this annual raffle are on sale.

St John's 200 Club: The November winners are:

- £50 K Whittleston (49)
- £30 A Maguire (274)
- £20 P Rowson (83)



Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28 November and the designated read is *We Need to Talk about Kevin* by Lionel Shriver. All welcome. *Madeleine*

Year of Faith – Catholicism: St James' Parish Montserrat is running a series of meetings using the *Word on Fire* material by Fr Robert Barron:

- Monday 19 November – *Amazed & Afraid*: The Revelation of God Become Man.
- Monday 26 November – *Happy are We*: The Teachings of Jesus.
- Monday 3 December – *The Ineffable Mystery of God*: That Than Which Nothing Greater can be Thought.
- Monday 10 December – *Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast*: Mary, the Mother of God.
- Monday 17 December – *The Indispensable Men*: Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure.

Each session begins at 7.30pm and lasts about an hour. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

St Osmund's: We have been asked to advertise a number of forthcoming events in our neighbouring parish:

- Parish Christmas Fair. Sunday 25 November at 12.30pm. Adult admission 20p; children free.
- Phoenix Knights of Harmony. Sunday 9 December (4pm to 6pm) in the Parish Hall. Tickets (£3.50) include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Admission by ticket only. Telephone 01204 533118

Heart Gives Unto Heart (HGUH): This Catholic Internet Radio station is now broadcasting. Tune in at www.hguh.co.uk.

CAFOD World Gifts: Catalogues for these are now available at the back of each of our churches. You may wish to make use of these gifts as an alternative to traditional Christmas presents.

Bishop's Administration: The collection next weekend helps the Bishop in the running of his office.

This Newsletter is sponsored by
HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE
 Peel House
 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
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Think Vocation

Jesus is impressed by the generosity of the Widow because she gave to God all she had to live on. We are also called to show complete faith and trust in God. In the Rite of Ordination the candidate prostrates himself on the floor of the Church while the people pray the Litany of Saints. This posture of vulnerability speaks of the trust we place in God.

S	S	S	E	B	I	R	C	S	E
R	E	Q	W	T	E	K	R	A	M
E	B	U	Q	O	U	E	B	Q	E
Y	O	A	G	G	D	A	U	S	R
A	R	R	E	O	N	I	E	P	A
R	S	E	O	Q	G	O	W	E	W
P	E	S	U	O	U	A	L	N	E
E	A	E	N	U	P	Q	N	N	B
R	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	Y	U
S	S	Q	U	E	R	E	V	E	S

BEWARE
SCRIBES
SYNAGOGUES
MARKET
BANQUETS
LONG
SEVERE
PRAYERS
POOR
TREASURY
WIDOW
PENNY

Sharing the Load

This is an issue that we have addressed several times at the Parish Forum meetings and in our recent consultation. As we said in that consultation: “*There are a considerable number of roles that parishioners could and should take on in order to “share the load” both with the priest and with one another.*”

We really need to draw in a significant number of helpers in various aspects of parish life. It is not intended that we lighten the load for the priests by simply burdening a few willing parishioners with everything!

So, I would invite you to give serious thought to whether or not you could help with any of the following. If so, please jot down your contact details and the role(s) you would be interested in and let me have them by the end of November. If you wish to e-mail them, please do so using our new parish e-mail address office@sbsj.org.uk

We already have some people involved in this range of responsibilities and I am grateful for all that they already do. However, both they and I look forward to us expanding the pool of people who will help to keep our parishes flourishing in the present and the future. Thanks.

Father Michael Cooke

10 November 2012

Caretakers/Key-holders

Main tasks:

- Opening up the churches or our meeting facilities for Masses and other activities
- Preparing the church or meeting rooms for the particular activity
- Welcoming people and, if required, serving the refreshments
- Tidying up and locking up after the Mass/activity is over

Points to note:

- Whilst there are some regular times (e.g. opening up for the weekend Masses) there will be other occasions that crop up from time to time (e.g. a funeral)
- Some of our regular activities are already covered; someone involved in that activity will already have a key
- It is often the mid-week and evening activities which can currently be difficult to cover
- This role could be combined with that of sacristan [*see below*]

Sacristans

Main tasks:

- Preparing the Altar (and the church generally) for celebrations of Mass and other services (especially baptisms and funerals)
- Making sure Altar Servers are properly attired and have assigned roles for the service
- Clearing things up and locking them away after the Mass/service is over

Points to note:

- St Brendan’s is currently well-served in this regard for Sunday Mass but St John’s really depends on the priests getting everything ready
- Both churches currently have people who help at weekday Masses but they can’t always be there and so further volunteers would be very welcome
- Given that sacristans may have contact with children, anyone helping in this role at the weekend Masses would require a CRB check
- This role could be combined with that of caretaker/key-holder [*see above*]

Readers

- We have a good number of readers for the 9.15 Mass but a much shorter rota for the other two weekend Masses. It would be good to have more

- If you attend weekday Mass and would like to read, please let us know
- I am grateful that we now have someone who organises the Readers' Rota for us

Eucharistic Ministers

- We need more ministers to help with the distribution of Holy Communion, especially so that we can introduce Communion under both kinds at St Brendan's; more frequently now, there are times when we are short of ministers at St John's weekend Masses
- We also have a bit of difficulty with Communion under one kind if there are no ministers available for Masses when the schoolchildren are present (both parishes)
- There are an increasing number of sick and housebound parishioners who would welcome Communion on a regular basis – either on a Sunday or during the week; this latter role would require a CRB check because you would be visiting vulnerable adults
- Once we have gathered some new volunteers, we will have a preparation/training session (which will also be a refresher for existing ministers)
- I already have a volunteer to co-ordinate the Eucharistic ministers at St John's, once we get more names. Would anyone like to volunteer to do the same for St Brendan's?

Altar Servers

- There are times (both at weekends and on weekdays) when our regular servers are not available and so we have no server. Would any adults be willing to learn, so that you can either take a turn or step in as need arises?

Catechists

- We have Children's Liturgy at both Sunday morning Masses. This depends on a small number of volunteers. Would anyone else care to help? This role would require a CRB check, unless you are just helping someone who already has clearance
- There are a couple of parishioners who run the RCIA group – for those thinking of joining the Church; it would be good to have some parishioners involved in preparing parents for the baptism of their children (currently done by the priest)

Other Activities

Although not all strictly "sharing the load", this is an appropriate opportunity to remind you of other existing parish groups/activities that you might be interested in joining or helping with:

- CAFOD (a joint group) & monthly Fairtrade stall (both churches)
- CAMEO group (monthly social meeting)
- Harbour Room Book Club
- Music ministry (we have an organist, folk group or choir at all Sunday Masses)
- Parish Social Committee (in need of revival)
- Piety stall (both churches)
- St Vincent de Paul Society (a group in each parish)
- Sunday morning coffee (both churches) & monthly coffee morning (St John's)

Looking further ahead...

At the last Parish Forum meeting, it was agreed that we should initially seek to recruit more volunteers for the existing roles (as detailed above). However, the consultation also raised suggestions for future development, including:

- a welcoming group for new parishioners
- a group to help with bereavement
- a befriending group to perhaps chat with lapsed parishioners
- a reflection group for parishioners who want to discuss and understand their faith on a deeper level

If anyone is interested in helping to develop any of these ideas (or indeed has other ideas to add) then please also let me know and we can pick these up at a future date.