

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

23RD FEBRUARY 2014 – SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Love your neighbour as yourself.” These are words we associate so clearly with the teaching of Jesus and the way of life the Gospel calls us to. But it may be a surprise to some people to hear that these words come first from the Old Testament, in the mouth of Moses himself. Moses was speaking the Lord God’s instruction for the community – the community of the people of Israel in flight from Egypt in their long sojourn in the wilderness. God’s instructions were about how that community had to work – without grudges, resentment or vengeance, but with love and forgiveness and tolerance. When Jesus comes with the message of the Kingdom of heaven, it is the same – instruction for a perfect, God-guided society, which depends on how each of us lives with others. The “wisdom of this world”, which Saint Paul mentions in the Second Reading, will not teach us this: the world will believe in vengeance and friendship only for your friends. Each of us must ask how we can embrace the apparent folly of Jesus’ teaching: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 3</i> Sunday Missal: page 238; Preface at priest’s choice		Prayers Please
Sunday	9.15am (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 10.15am Mass (SC) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB)	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Eileen Murphy, Pauline Bowling, Emma Turner, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, John Barrett, Roy Smith, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Vera Evans, Julie Smith, Ernie Little, Anthony Axford, Mary Marshall, Joan Pearce, Joshua Almond, Jacqueline Kay, Wynn Elliot, Tom Wardle, Bob Taylor, Noel Gannon, Sheila Derbyshire, David Walton, Dr Bernard Higgins, Winston Shanley, Vera Casey Shaw, Heather Goil, Joni Horton, Mary Long, Teresa Hastings and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Tony Maher, James Holden, Albert Burrows, Mary Clavin, Maisie Stanley, Anne Rule, Ivy Hamer</p> <p>Anniversaries: Samuel Cooke, Ellen Marie Roohan, Thomas Baker, Margaret Brandwood, Christopher Hailwood, George Beeching, Thomas Maguire</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Thomas Baker, Margaret Brandwood, Christopher Hailwood, Mary Clavin, Maisie Stanley, In honour of St Anthony for a special intention, Gwen McLaren (Birthday), Jacqueline Hibbert (Birthday), George Beeching, Thomas Maguire, In honour of St Anthony, St Jude & the Sacred Heart, Cynthia Winstanley, Joan Cleary (Birthday)</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7pm Becoming Catholic Meeting (SJ) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.15am School Mass in Church (SC) - Lent 9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Thursday	9.15am School Mass in Church (SB)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SB) – <i>Please note SB not SJ. There is a strong possibility (unconfirmed at time of going to print) that this may be a Requiem Mass for Ivy Hamer</i>	
Saturday	11am-12noon Adoration & Reconciliation (SJ) 2-5pm Marriage Preparation Course (Kearsley) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
<i>St David, Patron of Wales</i>		
Next Sunday	9.15am (SJ) – with Children’s Liturgy 10.15am (SC) – with Children’s Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children’s Liturgy <i>A Day of Special Prayer for the unemployed</i>	

Parish Priest and Rural Dean: Rev Michael Cooke

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Congratulations to: Logan Alexander Walker-Howarth who was baptised at St Columba's last Sunday. We pray that he and his family may continue to grow in faith.

Bob Seemark: Bob's funeral will take place at Overdale West Chapel at 1pm on Monday (24 February). May he rest in peace.

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 8 March (10.30am-12noon) in the Patmos Room at St John's. This is for parents from any of our three parishes who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Please let one of the priests know if you will be attending or email office@sbsj.org.uk.

Marriage Preparation: The first of the deanery courses for this year is taking place on Saturdays 1 & 8 March (2-5pm) at the Schoenstatt Shrine, Kearsley. Marriage Preparation is a requirement for couples planning to get married in Church, helping them to build a stronger relationship and to focus not just on the wedding day but on their future together. Please pray for the couples who will be attending this course and all those who are preparing to marry this year.

BRASS: The last collection for February takes place at St John's this weekend. The collections take place at St Brendan's during March. *Thank you for your continued support.*


DIOCESE OF SALFORD
The Department for Evangelisation

Talks for February and March:

The Power of the Parables (part 2) - Tuesday 25 February 2014 (7.30pm-9.30pm) with Fr Denis McBride at St Gabriel's RC High School, Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ. The cost is £5 per person.

Transforming Lives in Africa - Saturday 1 March 2014 (10.30am-1.30pm) with CAFOD partner Patrick Jamiru (Director of Caritas Kenema, Sierra Leone) at Our Lady of Good Counsel & Guardian Angels, Harvey Street, Elton, Bury, BL8 2RD. A simple soup and bread lunch will be served. For information contact 0161 7050605/0161 7610536

Fairtrade Fortnight: This runs from 24 February to 9 March. During this period we should make an effort to support shops that sell Fairtrade goods and perhaps encourage others to do so. There is a special emphasis this year on promoting the sale of Fairtrade bananas because the grower doesn't even get the cost of producing the bananas he sells to them – but with Fairtrade, he does! You can support the Make Bananas Fair campaign by signing the petition at <http://foncho.fairtrade.org.uk>.

Also during this fortnight, we will have the Fairtrade stall at St John's each of the three weekends.

The Joy of the Gospel: Following on from the popular and successful Scripture course before Christmas, Fr Gee is offering a short course to help parishioners reflect on the recent papal document *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*. There will be four sessions on Thursdays of Lent: 13 & 20 March, 6 & 13 April. More details to follow. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please indicate this by signing the sheet at the back of church.

Parish Forum: A reminder that the next meeting of the Forum (for all three parishes) will be on Thursday 27 March. If there is anything you would like to place on the agenda, please put the suggestion (and your contact details) in writing or e-mail office@sbsj.org.uk

Gate Lock (SB): It would be appreciated if parishioners who kindly unlock the church gates would ensure that the padlock is attached to the gates in the purpose drilled holes in the latching bolt only. Attaching the padlock elsewhere is damaging the powder coating and could result in corrosion or as recently occurred, the padlock was attached in such a manner that it proved almost impossible to remove. Thank you for your co-operation.

Chewing Gum: The parishioners who clean the church at St Brendan's have reported finding chewing gum stuck underneath benches or on the back of radiators. This is awful. Please dispose of chewing gum properly in a bin.

Food in Church: In all three churches we have regularly found sweets and other foodstuff scattered around under the benches. Please do not bring food into our churches. If your children need something to occupy them, there are the special Children's Missals through which you can help them to follow what is going on at Mass. If by any chance your child does bring food into church, then please clean up any mess they make instead of leaving it for others to do. Thanks.

Cycle of Prayer Part 2 (of 6):

We pray especially for: peace on earth; Christian unity; the sick and those who care for them; students and teachers; the unemployed

Think Vocation

“If anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him.” Going the extra mile has crept into our vocabulary to express the need to give everyone a fair chance. We should avoid hastily judging people who have wronged us or let us down. Sometimes we may have to take risks for the sake of the Kingdom which is built on love and mercy. The Lord has high standards for those whom he calls to serve him in the Church.

Lent 2014

Next weekend's newsletter will contain information about our usual range of activities for Lent:

- Ecumenical Study Group (Mondays)
- Deanery Station Masses (Wednesdays)
- Masses in St John's School (Fridays)
- Stations of the Cross (Various Days)
- Walk With Me booklets and calendars

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