

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

21ST APRIL 2013

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



This is traditionally known as “Good Shepherd” Sunday, and is part of the continuing journey of Easter – remember that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who both gives his life for his sheep and takes it up again. His relationship with us, after the resurrection, is closer than we can imagine: through his dying and rising, Jesus fulfils the promise he makes in today’s Gospel: “I give them eternal life, and they will never be lost.” This Sunday is another opportunity for us to consider the consequences of the Resurrection – how we live the Easter Story.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 4</i> Sunday Missal: page 752; Readings 758; Preface (at priest's choice)		Prayers Please
Sunday <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</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 & SC) 2.30pm (SB) – SVP Party (in school) <i>Special collection for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund</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, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, George Cowley, Alice Coyne, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard & Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O’Grady, Pauline Bowling, Paul Buckley, Margaret Walsh, Joan Plumbley, Emma Turner, 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), Emma Jiminez (baby), Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Vera Evans, Denise Carolan, Julie Smith, Ernie Little, Mary Coyne and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Bernard Cummings, Marian Noon, Monica Ramsden, Leo Toole, Josephine Siney, Eileen Pace</p> <p>Anniversaries: Fr Graham Turner, Jack Jordan, Elias Thomas, Ian Fazackerley, Joseph Walmsley, Monica Shuker</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Jack Jordan (Anniversary & Birthday Remembrance), Bernard Cummings, In honour of St Anthony for a Special Intention, Bernard Cummings & his family, Mass of Thanksgiving, Cynthia Winstanley, Leo Toole, Elias Thomas (20th Anniversary), Mary Coyne (sick), Ian Fazackerley, Joseph Walmsley, Monica Shuker, Josephine Siney, Eileen Pace</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday <i>St George, Patron of England</i>	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 1.30pm Harbour Room Book Club	
Thursday <i>St Mark</i>	9.15am Mass (SB) 7-9pm Eucharistic Minister Preparation and Commissioning (Harbour Room, SB)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	1pm Nuptial Mass (SB) – Robert Nix & Phillippa Shorrock 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6pm Mass (SC) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday	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 & SJ) <i>A Day of Special Prayer for New Members of the Church</i>	
Collections, Donations, Gift Aid <i>All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan’s, St Columba’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>		Cycle of Prayer Part 4 (of 6) We pray especially for: new members of the Church; vocations; the right use of the media; the Church; human work.

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Congratulations: To Finley Daniel Marsh and Rocco Martin who were baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families may continue to grow in faith.

St Brendan's SVP: The party for the sick & housebound will be held this Sunday (21 April) at 2.30pm in the school.

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24 April at 1.30pm. The book under discussion is *The Thread* by Victoria Hislop. All welcome. *Madeleine.*

Eucharistic Ministers: There will be a preparation session and commissioning of ministers on Thursday 25 April (7-9pm) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's. This is for new and existing Eucharistic Ministers who were unable to attend the session in February. If anyone else is interested in being a Eucharistic Minister, please have a word with Fr Cooke before April 25.

Church Organist (SJ): After many years of devoted service at St John's (and previously at St Brendan's), Kath Madden has now retired as organist. We thank her for her dedication to providing music not only for our Masses and special parish occasions but also for countless weddings and funerals.

It is good to have the option of organ music as well as our two guitar groups at St John's, so I am grateful that a couple of people have already volunteered to provide this on an occasional basis. If there are any other parishioners who would be willing to play the organ, you would be most welcome. Please have a word with me or with Martin Roe who organises the musicians' rota. Thanks. *Fr Cooke*

BRASS

(Befriending Refugees and Asylum Seekers)

Sister Barbara's Destitution Appeal

Without the support and generosity of our Parish Community, Sr Barbara would have experienced a far greater struggle in undertaking her work. With this in mind, the SVP are hoping to develop a more co-ordinated and consistent approach across the community of our churches. From the beginning of May, we will, with your support, be having collections of food items on a rota basis from each of our three churches.

St John's – May, August & November
St Brendan's – June, September & December
St Columba's – July, October & January

The items will be taken weekly to the BRASS base at Victoria Hall, and any of the following items will be welcome:

Cartons of orange juice, vegetable oil, tinned fruit, chick peas, kidney beans, tinned tomatoes, coffee, jam, biscuits and sugar.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
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"Sharing the Load" – Sacristans (SB): Thank you to those parishioners who attended last week's induction session. As we had a full attendance, the session planned for Tuesday 23 April will no longer take place. If anyone else is interested in being a Sacristan, please have a word with Father Cooke or Tony Proctor.

Premises Update (SB): The presbytery modernisation is progressing well. New central heating and UPVC fascias, soffits, doors and windows have been fitted last week. A new kitchen and bathrooms will be installed over the next two weeks. It is hoped to complete all of the works during May. The drainage scheme is also well underway. The grassed areas will be reseeded on completion.

A Day of Special Prayer for Vocations

Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, is the day chosen as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. In the message for Vocations Sunday, the Holy Father focused on "Vocations as a sign of hope founded in faith" and reminded us of the importance of prayer in sustaining vocations. Please pray for all people who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, those who are preparing for ordination or religious profession and for all priests and consecrated men and women.

Ecclesiastical Education Fund

Today, we also have the annual collection for the fund that is used to train our future priests. The collection will remain open for four weeks for private donations. This year, in the Diocese, we look forward to two ordinations to the priesthood; Rev Nathan Horne and Rev Frank Mulgrew: as well as two ordinations to the diaconate: Laurence Gambella and Alfred Rebello. Please hold them in your prayers as well as other students who are continuing their journey in formation: Micheal Deas and Richard Howard at the VEC in Rome, Kevin Murphy at the Beda in Rome, Gavin Landers and Callum Brown at Oscott in Birmingham.

Vocations Enquiries

Have you ever thought about being a priest or joining a religious order? Why not have a word with a priest that you know or make contact with the Diocesan Vocations Promoter (Fr Featherstone) on 0161 681 1410 or the National Office for Vocations (020 7901 4809).

Also promoting vocations within the Diocese is the forthcoming Invocation in the North Festival. This year it will be held at Ampleforth, North Yorkshire (14-16 June). For anyone interested in taking part, please contact Fr Featherstone (0161 681 1410) who is arranging return transport from the Diocese to Ampleforth.

Think Vocation

One of the images being used for the Year of Faith shows the Risen Christ holding a lamb in his arms. May we put our trust in Jesus the Good Shepherd to provide dedicated and loyal men to serve the Church of today in the sacred priesthood.