

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

3RD FEBRUARY 2013 – 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Last week, when Jesus spoke in the synagogue, his words pleased the crowd - as we hear at the beginning of today's Gospel. How quickly the mood changes! This story shows very clearly that Jesus was not a "crowd-pleaser" - he wasn't interested in saying the right things to be popular or accepted. He was interested in the truth - which is the basic definition of a prophet - whatever the personal cost. So today, when Jesus points out that salvation is not just for the Jews, or even just the people of Nazareth, they reject the message and the messenger. Just like Jeremiah, when he was called to be a prophet (first reading), Jesus has to confront the land: they will fight with him, but not overcome him.

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 4</i> Sunday Missal page 206; <i>Readings 212; Preface (at priest's choice)</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, 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, Emma Jiminez (baby), Bernard Cummings, Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Vera Evans, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Denise Carolan, Leila Parker, Julie Smith and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Arthur Liddell, Pat Cody, Catherine Cooke, Michael Axford, Teresa Reid, Jane Holmes, John Welch, Fred Johonnett</p> <p>Anniversary: Philip Blackburn, Lewis Brown, Norman Graham, Josephine Mary Shackell, Eleanor Owen, Joyce Knight, Frederick Martin</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Philip Blackburn & all members of the Dunleavy family, Ralph Gubbins (Birthday Remembrance), Lewis Brown (10th Anniversary Remembrance), Teresa Reid, Michael Axford, Catherine Cooke, Joseph Gilmartin (who is ill), Norman Graham, Josephine Mary Shackell, Eleanor & Bill Owen, Joyce Knight, Catherine Cooke (from the staff & children of St John's School), Frederick Martin, John Welch</p> <p>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</p>
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 (SJ) <i>Special Collection for Caritas</i>	
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	No Mass today 7.30pm SVP (SB) <i>St Agatha</i>	
Wednesday	12.00 Requiem Mass for Michael Axford (SB) 6.15pm Sacramental Programme Reconciliation (SJ) <i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i>	
Thursday	10.00am Requiem Mass for Jane Holmes(SC) 6pm Sacramental Programme Reconciliation (SB)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday	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 (SJ) <i>Day of Special Prayer for the Unemployed</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>		

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Caritas Sunday Special Collection: This weekend we will pray for and have a collection for Caritas, the diocesan organisation that continues the traditions of the Catholic Childrens' Rescue Society and the Catholic Welfare Services to help people in need throughout our diocese. Special envelopes are available if you wish to gift-aid your donation to this charity.

Congratulations: To Maisie Ella Bradshaw who was baptised at St Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that she and her family may continue to grow in faith

Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Bill: As you will know, the Government will be imminently introducing a Bill in Parliament to redefine marriage. Many people within and beyond the Catholic community made their opposition to this clear last year when the proposal was announced. Over 600,000 people signed a petition and many contacted their MPs. Recently, over 1,000 priests signed an open letter opposing the Bill. The time has now arrived when MPs will shortly be voting on whether or not to support this fundamental change in the law. The bishops, and others, have strongly urged all political parties to offer all MPs a free vote on this matter of conscience, and this has now been agreed by the party leaders. It is therefore particularly important at this time for all MPs to be made aware of the strength of feeling on this issue among their own constituents, and the bishops have received requests from a number of laity about mobilising further action. Therefore, members of parishes are being urged to make their views known to their MPs. To assist you in responding, we have printed postcards available. You simply need to add the name of your own local MP to the address on the front of the card, and your own name and address below the text on the back. Alternatively (or in addition) you might like to phone your MP on 020 7219 3000 or e-mail via www.writetothem.com

CAFOD Education Volunteers: Do you enjoy working with children and want to bring about God's Kingdom and compassion? CAFOD is seeking Education Volunteers for a range of ages (4 to 18 years) to work in schools across the diocese. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Ged Edwards or Mary Clark at CAFOD (0161 7050605) or Salford@cafod.org.uk.

Church Cleaners: M Russell & A Cunliffe

Thank You: for all your support, Mass cards and messages of sympathy following my Mum's death. It was also a great support to see so many parishioners present at her funeral. *Fr Cooke*

Parish Priest: I have now received my official letter of appointment as Parish Priest of St Columba's, in addition to being Parish Priest of St John's and St Brendan's. This took effect from 22 January. I have been dispensed from the normal requirement to have an induction. *Fr Cooke*

Harwood Methodist Church Concert: There will be an evening of live music at the Longsight Methodist Church Hall in order to raise money for the Church Redevelopment Fund. This will take place on Saturday 2 March at 7.30pm. The performers are Luke Jackson (a young singer/songwriter) and BrightShapes (a trio band from Manchester). Tickets are available at £10 but there will be a discount for groups of 10 or more. Please ring Alison Davies (07963 255390).

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2013: The 81st annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Bishop Brain, will take place between Tuesday 30 July and Monday 5 August 2013. It is hoped that people from all over the Salford Diocese will join the bishop and priests, in this year of faith, at Our Lady's shrine at Lourdes in France. For further details please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office (0161 8172209) or visit the diocesan website at www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lourdes

Year of Faith

Diocesan talks – Winter/Spring 2013

A second series of talks, organised by the Office for Evangelisation, are taking place at St Gabriel's High School, Bury (7.30pm-9.30pm).

- Tuesday 5 February – Fr Denis McBride 'The Gospel of St John' (Part Two)
- Wednesday 20 February - Mgr Peter Fleetwood 'Restoring unity among Christians Have we been faithful to Vatican II's promise?'
- Wednesday 6 March – Dr Edward Kessler MBE 'Jewish-Christian relations in the light of Vatican II'
- Monday 22 April – Archbishop Bernard Longley 'The Synod on The New Evangelisation-where do we go from here?'

Prior registration is not essential, but helps with organisation. There is a suggested donation of £5.00 per person, per evening to help cover costs. Booking forms and further information are available from the diocesan website www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk, e-mail sharon.beech@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or from the Department for Evangelisation, Guardian Angels Parish House, Harvey Street, Bury, BL8 2RD.

Year of Faith – Catholicism: The last in the series of meetings at St James' Parish Montserrat is:

Monday 4 February – *World Without End: The Last Things.*

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

Think Vocation

"I used to talk like a child, think like a child." Children are often very ambitious when they think about their future lives. As adults we should encourage children to discover their gifts as they get older but to always remember they are firstly children of God. So whatever they turn out to do with their lives, they should remember to be grateful to God.

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