

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

**3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2013  
THIRTY - FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



There is a subversive humour in today's Gospel which turns upside down the conventions of everyday life: we see a senior tax official climbing up a tree for a glimpse of Jesus, and the faintly ridiculous scene where Jesus stops, looks into the branches of the sycamore and says, "Zacchaeus, come down!" Did Zacchaeus worry about what people thought? The rest of the story shows that he did not. It would be easy to laugh at little Zacchaeus – and people in the town probably did, in between muttering about his extortionate taxes. And yet he has understood the message of God more clearly than others: he reveals the meaning of the first reading, since he understands that God is gentle, merciful and loving. Jesus corrects him, "little by little...so that he may abstain from evil and trust in the Lord."

<b>Liturgy &amp; Activities This Week</b> <i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 3</i>		<b>Prayers Please</b>
<b>Sunday Missal:</b> page 484; Readings 489; Preface at Priest's choice		
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 (SJ)	<p><b>Sick:</b> Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Ethel Caton, Tony Winstanley, Jonathan Rimmer, Eunice Brierley, Elizabeth Patterson, Bernard Callaghan, Kathleen Humphreys, Eileen Jones, Cecilia Guest, Joseph Walton, Jean York, Caroline Vickers, Robin Tootill, Elzie Ball, Tricia Jennings, Mick Collins, Bernard &amp; Rita Holder, Michael, Baby Rose, Calum Russell, Eileen Murphy, Brendan O'Grady, Pauline Bowling, Emma Turner, Joan Rankin, Guy Ryan, Maria Stott, Fiona Preston, Kathleen Hopwood, John Barrett, Bea Gilmore, Roy Smith, Isabelle Karzynski, Fiona Oldham (nee Clappison), Stephen Tootill, Maureen Kennedy, Vera Evans, Julie Smith, Ernie Little, Mary Coyne, Anthony Axford, Mary Marshall, Joan Pearce, Joshua Almond, Jacqueline Kay, Wynn Elliot, Tom Wardle, Joan Peake (nee Hooton), Bob Taylor, Rita Margiotta, Noel Gannon, Sheila Derbyshire, David Walton, Dr Bernard Higgins and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p><b>Lately Dead:</b> Derek Barker, Catherine Crowley, George Cowley, Nicola Lamoury, Andrew Hall, George Handley, Stephen Rhodes, Esther Pope, Tony Whitehead, John Dillon,</p> <p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Mgr Joseph Mallon, Emily Connolly, Dorothy Hodget, Philip Hall</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Stephen Rhodes, Esther Pope, Tony Whitehead, George Cowley, Emily Connolly, Nicola Lamoury, In honour of Our Lady &amp; for a successful operation, Andrew Hall, Bernard Cummings and deceased members of the Ryan &amp; Cummings families, John P Dillon, Monsignor Joseph Mallon, Dorothy Hodget, Winifred Meagher, John Meagher, For the recovery of Stephen Kay, Philip Hall</p>
Monday <i>St Charles Borromeo</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 8pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday	9.15am Year 3 Mass in school (SC) 9.30am School Mass in church (SJ) - Remembrance 2pm Remembrance Week Poetry (Harbour Room) 6.30pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SC Church)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) 7pm Open Evening (St John's School) 7.30 - 8.30pm Scripture Study Course (SB)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday <i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	11am Baptism (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 5.30-6pm Reconciliation (SJ) 6.30pm Mass (SJ)	
Next Sunday <i>Remembrance Day</i>	9.15am (SJ) – with Children's Liturgy 10.15am (SC) – with Children's Liturgy 11.00am Remembrance Services (Victoria Square & Dunscar) 11.15am Mass (SB) – with Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SJ)	
<p><b>Collections &amp; Donations:</b> All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan's, St Columba's or St John's as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Mass Intentions:</b> Cheques should be made payable to St John's</p> <p><b>Gift Aid:</b> 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. Thanks</p>		

**Parish Priest and Rural Dean:** Rev Michael Cooke

**Assistant Priests:** Rev Joseph Gee & Rev Francis Parkinson

**Parish Office:** St John's Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP

**Tel:** 01204 301927 **E-mail:** office@sbsj.org.uk **Website:** www.sbsj.org.uk

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**Congratulations:** To Archie Michael Willis, Grace Elizabeth Willis and Robert Kevan Strong who were baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families will continue to grow in faith.

**Sacramental Programme:** The first meeting for parents and children from all three parishes will take place at 6.30pm this Wednesday (6 November) in St Columba's Church. This is a new idea, to launch the programme jointly across the three parishes. This helps to give a greater sense of the children being initiated into the family of the Church. This initial meeting will consist of a brief input and then a short service in which the children will be "presented" for inclusion in this year's programme. The later elements of the programme will be run separately in each of the parishes.

**Remembrance Week Tribute - War Poetry:** This is a *one-off* event to pay tribute to all the poetry that has been written about War. It begins at 2pm on Wednesday 6 November (Harbour Room, St Brendan's) and finishes about 3.15pm. It will consist of a short talk, readings of selected poems and discussion. Poems and refreshments will be provided and any donations will be paid to the British Legion or Help for Heroes. This event is open to everyone in all three churches. Bring along any photos or memorabilia you have. If you are willing to read a poem you will be doubly welcome!

**Primary School Admissions:** The closing date for applications to Reception Class 2014 is 15 January 2014. If you would like to visit any of our parish primary schools prior to submitting your application, please contact the appropriate school office: St Brendan's - 333133; St Columba's - 333421; St John's - 333440.

**Open Evening at St John the Evangelist RC Primary School:** All prospective parents of children seeking admission to Reception class next year are warmly welcome to attend an Open Evening on **Thursday 7 November at 7pm**. We will show you round the school and we will tell you about the many advantages of a Catholic School and the many successes we have enjoyed.

**Hobson's Choice and Brassed Off:** Bookings and payments for these two plays will be taken in the Harbour Room after 11.15 am. Mass on Sunday. The price is £9.50 per ticket. We need to book quickly as these seats are booking up at the Octagon. Please ring Frank/Madeleine for further details (303505).

**Harbour Room Book Club:** Thank you to all members who attended the October meeting of the Book Club which was lively and interesting! A special welcome also to our new members. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 November to discuss *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon, a Spanish classic. All welcome.

**Revised Recycling Arrangements (SB):** The common recycling bin in the Harbour Room has been removed. Recycling bins are now provided by the church gates. Parishioners are asked to recycle items and waste directly into the correct bins when they leave. Please don't leave waste for others to deal with. Guidance on recycling is displayed in the Harbour Room. Thank you.

**Deaf People:** There are some leaflets available in each of our churches about the work which Fr Parkinson is involved in with St Joseph's Mission to Deaf People. Please take one.

**CAMEO Group:** The next meeting is on Wednesday 13 November (2-4pm) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's about "Safety in the Home". All welcome.

**3 Parish Social Group:** There will be a Christmas Lunch (11.45am for 12 noon) on Tuesday 10 December 2013 at the Ainsworth Arms, Radcliffe. To book, please see Edwin Rankin in the Harbour Room (SB) after Mass or e-mail him on [er@edwinrankin.plus.com](mailto:er@edwinrankin.plus.com)

**St Columba's Christmas Fayre (8 December):** Once again it's that time of year when we're asking for your generous donations (e.g. chocolates, bottles, brick-a-brack, toys) - anything that will sell to fetch funds in for the church. Thank you from The Friends of St Columba's.

**St John's Christmas Draw 2013:** Tickets will be available at Masses this weekend. This year the organisers are making changes to the prize list - we will have three main prizes and instead of the many bottles and gifts, which are kindly donated by our generous parishioners, we will be asking for gift vouchers of any value which will be more useful to families. Thank you for your kind donations over the past years, and for buying and selling tickets. *Vince & Danny*

**Maranatha Lecture:** Sir Peter Fahy, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police Force, will present a talk about the challenges of being a Police Officer and a Christian, on Wednesday 13 November (7.30pm) at the Weston Theatre, Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street, Manchester M1 3BB. Tickets (£5) from Kevin McKenna (01612825523) or [lecture@maranathacommunity.org.uk](mailto:lecture@maranathacommunity.org.uk)

**Cornerstone Church, Bromley Cross, Bolton:** Are looking for a part-time, casual worker - £10.00 per hour (up to 10 hours per week) to establish and deliver a performing arts ministry with children and young people in the local community of Bromley Cross. For further details please contact: Cornerstone Church, Lord's Stile Lane, Bromley Cross, Bolton, BL7 9JL or telephone Pastor Lee Banfield on 01204 535790

#### Think Vocation

St Paul tells us to "pray continually that Our God will make you worthy of his call". As we can see from today's Gospel we can all change our ways no matter how embedded we are in a particular way of life. The call to conversion of heart is a daily discipline. It is never too late to change direction in life and to strive to be more perfect in the way we live out the Gospel. May we dare to encourage those whom we feel may need to receive an invitation from the Lord to enter into a deeper friendship with him.

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Peel House  
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.  
BL1 7AL  
01204 309609

