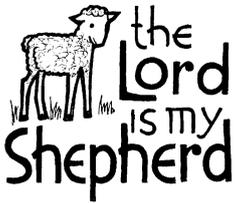


**NEWSLETTER FOR ST BRENDAN, HARWOOD, ST COLUMBA, TONGE MOOR
& ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BROMLEY CROSS**

26TH APRIL 2015 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Good Shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.



Today is traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday because of the Gospel narratives (from John 10) read each year, in which Jesus talks of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his flock. A general theme to the Scriptures is the person of Jesus and what he has achieved by the Paschal Mystery (his dying and rising): the first reading talks of his name, and the power of the name of Jesus to save: one of the results of the power of this name is that in him we are all God's children, and are promised an eternal reward. All this is summed up in the Gospel, in which Jesus talks of himself as the real shepherd, who is prepared to do anything for his flock, even to the point of giving his life. This he said before his passion, but in Eastertide we read it with the benefit of hindsight. His words are true, and by his dying and rising he has truly saved his flock.

Liturgy & Activities This Week		Prayers Please
<i>Sunday Cycle B Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 4</i>		
Sunday Missal: <i>page 752; Readings page 755; Preface at priest's choice</i>		
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 1pm SVP trip to Clitheroe <i>Special Collection for the Diocesan Ecclesiastical Education Fund</i>	<p>Sick: Gladys Hall, Kevan Dunleavy, Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Eunice Brierley, Cecilia Guest, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Pat Hall, Linda Southern, Mary Joan Tornai, Rosemary Davies, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Lucy Hesford, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Andrew Hustwit and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Jean-Francois Bonnay, John Wedgewood, Andrew Munro, Gerard Winstanley, Margaret Hajda, Lynne Cryer</p> <p>Anniversaries: Gerard Murphy, Monica Shuker, Bill Jerstice, Jack Jordan, Joan Plumbley</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Jane (seriously ill in the Hospice), Gerard Murphy, Monica Shuker, For Special Intentions of the Cunliffe family, Bill Jerstice, Jean-Francois Bonnay, Intention of members of the McArdle family (grateful thanks for support and prayers), Jack Jordan (Birthday Remembrance), John Wedgewood, Joan Plumbley, Andrew Munro, In thanksgiving for a successful operation, Joyce Knight, Gerard Winstanley.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p>
Monday	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday	6.30pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SC School) 7pm Mass (SB) 7.30pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	9.30am Mass (SJ) 1.30pm-3pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB) 6.15pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SJ School)	
Thursday	9.15am Mass (SB) 6pm Sacramental Programme Meeting (SB School)	
Friday	9.30am Mass (SJ)	
Saturday <i>St Athanasius</i>	11am-12noon Adoration & Reconciliation (SJ) 5pm Mass (SC) 6.30pm Mass (SJ) Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham	
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 1pm Schoenstatt Shrine Pilgrimage	

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

Assistant Priests: Rev Joseph Gee & Rev Francis Parkinson

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A Day of Special Prayer for Vocations

Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, is chosen as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. 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. This year, the days of prayer for our own parishes are: 9 May (St Brendan's), 10 May (St Columba's) and 14 June (St John's).

Ecclesiastical Education Fund

At our Masses this weekend, we will have a special collection for the fund that is used to train future priests. This year there are six students currently in seminary, including one who will be ordained priest this year.

Vocation Enquiries

Have you ever thought about being a priest or joining a religious order? Why not have a word with a priest you know or make contact with the Diocesan Vocations Promoter (Fr Featherstone) on 0161 748 2328) or the National Office for Vocations (0207 901 4809)

Think Vocation

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.

Sacramental Programme Meetings: A reminder that these will take place in our primary schools this week:
Tuesday 28 April – St Columba's (6.30pm)
Wednesday 29 April – St John's (6.15pm)
Thursday 30 April – St Brendan's (6pm)

Northern Catholic Conference: The theme of this year's conference is *'You did not choose me...I chose you.'* This is a conference for all ages and will be held on 12-14 June at Liverpool Hope University. There will be numerous guest speakers and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate Mass on Saturday 13 June. To register, or for more information, contact Denise on 07543 800 812 (www.northernatholicuk). See poster on the notice boards.

The Dream of Gerontius: Bolton Catholic Musical and Choral Society, with Bolton Symphony Orchestra, will perform The Dream of Gerontius, an oratorio for full choir and orchestra, based on the poem by Cardinal John Newman. It relates the journey of a pious man's soul from his deathbed to his judgment before God. Often considered Elgar's finest work - and perhaps the greatest of all oratorios - Elgar dedicated The Dream of Gerontius "AMDG" - To the greater glory of God. The concert is at the Victoria Hall on Saturday 16 May at 7.30pm. Tickets £10, call 07958459423.

Harbour Room Book Club: The next Book Club meeting will be on Wednesday 29 April (1.30-3pm). The book under discussion is *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. Would members please note that any monies still owing for the trip to Hoghton Tower can be brought to the meeting. Also, further training for those who wish to be updated for the use of the projector system in the Harbour Room will be given on one of two Saturday mornings in May (date to be decided soon). All welcome.

Schoenstatt Shrine: There will be a pilgrimage to the Shrine on May Day (Sunday 3 May) starting at 1pm and finishing at 4.30pm. There will be a talk by Fr Duncan about the Mission and how it is reflected in the Mosaic, Holy Mass with pilgrimage to the Shrine and refreshments will be available before and after the event. All welcome!

CAFOD Group: The CAFOD Group invite you to a Ceilidh, with *Francis Roe and the Riot Act* at Walmsley Parish Hall on Friday, 29 May 2015 (7.30pm - 11.00pm). Tickets are £10.00 each, including supper and are now available.



Thanksgiving Mass: Sr Monica is organising the annual visit to the Church of St Anne and Blessed Dominic, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3ZD on Saturday 9 May 2015 for Mass in honour of Elizabeth Prout CP. If you would like to attend this event, please give your name to Sr Monica (01204 655714) as soon as possible. The coach will leave at 1pm from Wigan Road/Melbourne Road, Bolton and return at 6pm approx. The charge will be £11. See poster for further details.

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 9 May (10.30am-12noon) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan'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.

SVP

SVP Outing (SJ): The Spring outing for the elderly, disabled and housebound will be held this Sunday (26 April) to Our Lady of the Valley, Clitheroe.

The Destitution Project: Please note our next joint parish collection will be in June. Sister Barbara has carried on running the destitution project at Victoria Hall, despite BRASS splitting off and moving. About 100 people attend the project which is run by two sisters with several volunteers distributing the food and others teaching English. It is also a drop in centre offering friendship. She would like the parishes to know that their help is needed more than ever especially with the tragedies occurring at sea at the moment. All help, goods, food and clothes are much appreciated. Thank you for all your generosity.

Marriage Matters

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

We lay down our lives, we go beyond...

Couples can relate to the notion of 'shepherding' with regards to their children: *"I know my own and my own know me"*. Even in crowds, our children will recognise our voices and we theirs. Also, just as Jesus spoke today of *'laying down His life'*, when marrying, we made a solemn vow to lay down our lives for one another.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

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