

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

11TH SEPTEMBER 2016 – TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



The message of God's forgiveness is one that we are familiar with, but which the Lord still wishes to emphasise. Our human approach to forgiveness is so often flawed – we hold grudges, erect barriers, make demands and establish conditions. Jesus wants to remind his listeners – and us – that God's forgiveness is overflowing and bountiful. Saint Paul was well aware of this: he had persecuted the Church, calling himself "the greatest of sinners"; and yet, thanks to the "inexhaustible patience" of God, he can count himself a believer. We must be

open to the gift of forgiveness for ourselves, and also (as the Parable of the Elder Brother shows) open to that forgiveness offered to others whom we would condemn.

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 4</i> Sunday Missal: page 411; Readings 417; Preface at Priest's choice		Prayers Please
Sunday	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB)	<p>Sick: Mary Leigh, Joan Coles, Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Tony Winstanley, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Kennedy, Joan Pearce, Peter Cranmer, Anthony Axford, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Mary Long, Linda Southern, Rita Brooks, Callum Fazackerley, Elaine Jansen, Bernard Corri, Winifred Coyle, Josephine Knowles, Rita Bell, Mary Cassidy, Derek Crompton, Roy Shepherd, Tony Wright, Janet Rabbett, Mike Greenhalgh, Barbara Stoppard, June Dawson, Greta Barlow, Cassie Wilson, John James McLaughlin, Carrie Roscoe, Christine Hasleden, Suzanne Freeman-Hill, Josephine Gell, Jude McCann Brown, Ann Cunliffe, and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness.</p> <p>Lately Dead: Dot Waring, Joan Pietre, June Dawson, Darren Hickey, Linda Clegg, Barbara Proctor, Don Howcroft, Anna Seddon, Effie Tomlinson, David Stuart</p> <p>Anniversaries: Esther Thomas, Mary Watson,</p> <p>Mass Intentions: Darren Hickey, Joan Pietre, Effie Tomlinson, Dot Waring, Mary Watson, Leila Parker (Birthday Remembrance), Dot Waring, June Dawson, Caroline Garside & Michael Smith (Marriage)</p>
Monday (12 th)	9.30am Mass (SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)	
Tuesday (13 th) <i>St John Chrysostom</i>	7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)	
Wednesday (14 th) <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	9.15am Yr6 Class Mass (SC) 9.30am Mass (SJ) 2pm Funeral Service for Dot Waring (Overdale)	
Thursday (15 th) <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	9.15am Mass (SB) 7pm CAFOD Group Meeting (Harbour Room, SB)	
Friday (16 th)	9.30am Mass (SJ) 7.30pm Eden Singers Concert (Old Links Golf Club)	
Saturday (17 th)	11am Baptism (SB) 5pm Mass (SC) – With Children's Liturgy	
Next Sunday (18 th) <i>Home Mission Day</i>	9.15am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11.15am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy <i>A Day of Special Prayer for the Spread of the Gospel</i>	
Cycle of Prayer Part 6 (of 6): We pray especially for: the spread of the Gospel; the harvest; the fruits of human work & the reverent use of creation; justice and peace in the world; all victims of war; young people; prisoners & their families		
Collections & Donations: All cheques (even for special collections) should be made payable to St Brendan's, St Columba's or St John's as appropriate. Mass Intentions: Cheques should be made payable to St John's Gift Aid: 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		

Parish Priest: Rev Canon Michael Cooke VG

Assistant Priests: Rev Seán O'Brien & Rev Francis Parkinson

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

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Education Sunday: At our Masses today we pray for all those involved in education and have a special collection for the Catholic Education Service

Trips to the Octagon: *Educating Rita* by Willy Russell has been booked for Wednesday 8 February (2pm matinee). The cost is £14.90 (discounted). I would like this money in before Christmas please.

Talking Heads by Alan Bennett is on Wednesday 21 June (2pm matinee). The cost is £14 (discounted). I will start collecting this money in after Christmas.

If anyone wants to pay for both performances at once, that is fine. Please make all cheques payable to *The Octagon Theatre*. Seats for all performances are booking very fast and I was unfortunately unable to book 20 seats for *To Kill a Mockingbird* (smaller numbers are available if anyone would like to book for themselves). For the above two plays, please ring me on 303505 to book seats. Thank you *Madeleine*

Becoming Catholic: You may, or may not be aware that we have previously run a programme for any adult who has an interest in becoming Catholic or simply wants to know more about the Catholic Faith. This year we are beginning another programme which will start on Tuesday 18 October (7.30pm) and will be held in the Patmos Room at St John's Church. The programme will run until Easter and is for anyone in any of our parishes. If you would like more information and think that this is something that you would be interested in, please contact our parish office on 301927 or office@sbsj.org.uk.



The Caritas Charity shop at Newport Street, Bolton, desperately needs reliable volunteers who can commit to a minimum of one half day per week to support the work of Caritas projects. If you can spare a half day (or more) please ring 01204 370927 and ask for Bernadette.

CAFOD: The next meeting of the CAFOD Group will be held in the Harbour Room (St Brendan's) on Thursday 15 September at 7pm. All Welcome!

Readers' Rota: The new rota is now available for St Brendan's and St John's. Please take a copy for reference.

Flower Festival

Friday 23 - Sunday 25 September
at St Brendan's Church, Harwood

Tickets £3

(Accompanied children free of charge)

We still need promises of cakes for the three days, if you are able to help with this, please give your name in after each of the Sunday Masses.

The Festival will open with a short service and preview on Thursday 22 September at 7pm. This is a ticket only event (£5) and they will be on sale after Sunday Masses.

SVP News

September is SVP Awareness Month. For more details please see the attached item

Annual Mass for the Sick & Housebound: This will be celebrated on Saturday 1 October (11am) at St John's. Everybody is welcome and refreshments will be available after the Mass. If you require transport to attend, please contact any member of the SVP.

Destitution Project: Our collection of items continues during September. Both the volunteers and those who receive your donations are enormously grateful for everything our parishes do to help.

Besides the food and clothing items, there is a request for bars of soap, toothpaste and toilet rolls. If anyone also has any carrier bags lying around, these are also really useful.

Thank you for all your continued generosity!

Magic of the Musicals

A Charity Concert with the Eden Singers

**On Friday 16 September at 7.30pm
at Old Links Golf Club, Chorley Old Road,
Bolton, BL1 5SU**

Tickets (£7) are available from any member of the SVP, Peter Carolan (SB) or Frank McDowell (SC) after weekend Masses

All proceeds are in aid of the SVP

Think Vocation

"Jesus Christ... found me faithful enough to call me into his service." Many people make mistakes in their younger years but later experience some sort of conversion or maturing in their faith. This can lead to all sorts of possibilities for them, including a vocation to serve within the Church. In this Year of Faith let us pray that all young people may become the person the Lord wants them to become.

Marriage Matters – twainoneflesh.org

Driving together on the way to heaven: The readings contain a sense of hope. His forgiveness seems never ending and His mercy shows no limits. He never stops 'rescuing' us as the lost sheep of His flock, or 'finding' us, like the widow's mite, when we feel lost within our marriage. God's way of working is like a 'SATNAV', with the destination set as eternal life.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Next Weekend

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5.00 (SC)	J O'Connor	F Ginty, C Molyneux
9.15 (SJ)	J Carroll	P McArdle, T Armstrong, F Smith, J Carroll, M Cropper, A Gracie
11.15 (SB)	C Bridge	T Proctor, T Taylor, J Proctor,

September - SVP Awareness Month



The St Vincent de Paul Society (or as it is often known - the SVP) is an international Christian voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those in need. The Society is a lay organization initially formed in Paris in 1833 by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and his companions, and has been active in England & Wales since 1844. Placed under the Patronage of St Vincent de Paul, it is inspired by his thinking and works. It seeks, in the spirit of justice and charity, to help those who are suffering poverty in whatever form.

The SVP is non-discriminatory, helping those in need regardless of their faith, colour, race, status or sexual orientation. It is non-judgmental and does not make value judgments about those asking for assistance. In short, the Society will aim to help anyone in need if it is within the local membership's capability.

Our SVP Conferences have members who are unpaid volunteers that meet together weekly and carry out the work of the SVP in their own time. Here are some examples of the kinds of people we help: Socially isolated, Homeless, Families in need and Asylum seekers

"The knowledge of social well-being and of reform can be learned not from books, nor from the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor person's garret, sitting by their bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces them, sharing the secrets of their lonely hearts and troubled minds." Blessed Frederic Ozanam - the Society's Founder



Visiting those in need and sitting side by side with them remains the core work of the Society. Regular visiting and building relationships based on trust and friendship are what gives the SVP its unique character. Visits are made to individuals and families, to the sick at home or in hospitals, to residential homes. Loneliness, especially among the elderly is growing, so members spend a lot of time visiting housebound people to prevent them from feeling isolated. Many appreciate a friendly face and enjoy a chat, knowing that someone cares.

In the parishes of St Brendan's, St Columba's and St John's we are lucky to have two SVP conferences that help those in our own communities. Over the last twelve months we have made many visits to the sick and the housebound, raised money from a sponsored walk and a charity concert (helping 24 families which included 35 children at Christmas time with hampers and gift vouchers). We also continue to support the volunteers at the Destitution Project and with your generous help we have sent many food and clothing parcels to desperate people in Bolton. We also organize two special Masses per year; one for the sick and housebound and one for the lately deceased in our parishes. As well as this, the elderly and housebound are taken out to visit another church in the diocese for Benediction and afternoon tea. In the summer we held our own afternoon tea in the Patmos Room, which was enjoyed by everyone. If you have any time to spare (no matter how much) and you feel that the SVP is something that would be of interest, please contact Arthur Rawlinson (St John's) on 418204 or Catherine Bridge (St Brendan's) on 396749 or any member of the SVP. For more information, please visit the SVP website: www.svp.org.uk. Thank you!

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SINNERS
SHEEP
WILDERNESS
SHOULDERS
REJOICE
WOMAN
DRACHMAS
SONS
ESTATE
DEBAUCHERY
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