

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

St John, the Evangelist, Bromley Cross, St Columba's, Tonge Moor
and St Brendan's, Harwood

25 February 2024

The Second Sunday of Lent



There is always something special about a gift. It flows from the heart of the giver to the one who receives it. Gifts are special blessings. Today's readings remind us of the importance of gifts in our lives.

Abraham and Sarah received a special gift from God, although they were old, they received the gift of a son, Isaac. But now God tests Abraham's faith, he asks him to sacrifice his only son. Abraham had a tremendous faith in God and did as he was asked. He took Isaac to the mountain to sacrifice him and God, seeing his faith, rescinded his command and the child lived. In return Abraham receives a promise, his descendants will be as many as the stars of heaven, he will be known as our father in faith.

Paul speaks to the Romans, and, in our day, he speaks to us. His words are filled with reassurance "With God on our side who can be against us". God the Father, in his love for us, has sacrificed His only son so that our sins can be forgiven for "nothing can separate us from the love of God". We receive a tremendous gift from God for now His son, through His death and resurrection, has become our advocate in heaven standing "at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us."

Peter, James, and John receive a gift on behalf of the whole human family when they journey with Jesus to Mount Tabor. On that mountain they are given a glimpse of heaven. We cannot know what heaven is like no matter how we speculate upon it. What we do know is that, in heaven, we will be held in the loving arms of God for eternity. Moses and Elijah, appear on the mountain, for Mark they symbolise the whole of the Law and the Prophets, he draws a direct line from the old covenant to the new, made manifest in Jesus the Christ. The transformation of Jesus is followed by the voice of God calling on us to "listen to Him". The Apostles struggle to understand what is happening to them, they are witnesses, but they cannot speak. Jesus assures them that all will be revealed when the Son of Man rises from the dead. Let us pray that, through the blessings of Lent and Easter, we too will experience a transformation through the Gift of love expressed in the death and resurrection of Our Lord.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2
Divine Office Week 2; Roman Missal: p 543
Readings: p546. Preface: At priests choice

Sunday 25 February

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*
11am Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*
3pm Stations of the Cross followed by short Adoration & Benediction (SB)

Monday 26 February

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 27 February

10am Mass (SB) - With Year 6
10am Requiem Mass for Vincent Hopkinson (SJ)
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)
7.30pm Churches in Harwood Lenten Course (St Brendan's)

Wednesday 28 February

9.30am Mass (SJ) with Yr 1,3 &5 Children
10am SVP Coffee Morning (SJ)
10am Requiem Mass for Philip Birtwistle (SB)

Thursday 29 February

9.15am Lenten Mass (St Columba's School)
10am Mass (SB)
6pm Reconciliation Service for St Brendan's (SB)

Friday 1 March - St David

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 2 March

10.45am Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*

Sunday 3 March - Fourth Sunday in Lent

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*
11am Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*
3pm Stations of the Cross followed by short Adoration & Benediction (SJ)
3.30pm Mass for the Sri Lankan Community (SB)

Parish Contact Details

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends: Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Kathryn Browning, Fr Leo Heakin, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Joyce Strickleton, Christine Gardner, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Dr Allan Needham, Margaret Roberts, John O'Connor, Margaret O'Brien

Lately Dead: Vincent Hopkinson, Julie Green, Philip Birtwistle, Mike Noglik, John Rebbitt, Helen Dawson

Anniversaries: William Hodget

Mass Intentions: Vincent Hopkinson, Philip Birtwistle, Mike Noglik, William Hodget, For someone who is sick, John Rebbitt, Harry Dawson (Birthday Remembrance)

During ordinary time (winter), we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers.

We pray for healing, a peaceful solution and restoration in the Middle East.

We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine.

Offertory: We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially.

Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you

Confirmation Course: The next session for children receiving this Sacrament, will be held at 6pm on Thursday 29 February in St John's Patmos Room.

World Day of Prayer: A special service will be held on Friday 1 March at Harwood Methodist Church. This year the Christian women of Palestine have written the service. Starting at 12noon with a soup lunch followed by a service at 1pm. All welcome.

Destitution Project Lenten Gathering: The SVP have again set a target to collect 40 items of each the following for the Destitution Project: Tins of Chickpeas, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, long-life whole milk, long-life orange/apple juice, dried pasta (incl spaghetti), vegetable oil, sardines/tuna in oil, bags of sugar, carrier bags, & toilet rolls. The Destitution Project is always so grateful for the support we give them. Thank you.

200 Club Subscriptions: Are now due (£15 per number). Here are some options for handing them in: 1. Post or deliver to the Parish Office; 2. Leave in the basket provided at each church; 3. Contact me on 07528027295. For option 1 & 2 please place your subscription and contact details in an envelope FAO Ann Gracie. Please make cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you, Ann.

Lenten Activities

Lent resources: During Lent, the diocese will be sharing a range of resources to accompany people in prayer over the coming weeks. The resources have been created to support our journey throughout this Year of Prayer as we prepare for the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee in 2025. For more information, please visit the website at

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lent-2024-rediscovering-prayer/>

Walk of Witness: Will be held, as usual, on Palm Sunday 24 March. The walk begins with a short service at Christ's Church, Harwood followed by a short period of reflection at St Brendan's, finishing at Harwood Methodist Church for a hot drink and hot cross bun.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The first service for children receiving this Sacrament takes place at 6pm on Thursday 29 February at St Brendan's. Parishioners are welcome to join for Reconciliation as part of our Lenten preparation for the feast of Easter.

Stations of the Cross at the Laudato Si' Centre

Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team on Saturday 16 March for a special Stations of the Cross in the midst of nature. Experience a reflective journey through the Stations, contemplating the Passion of Christ in the serene setting of the Centre's beautiful woodlands. All are welcome to join us at one of our three sessions. For more information and to book, please visit

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lsc-stations-2024/>

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting is a 1pm on Wednesday 28 February to discuss *The Maid* by Nita Prose. All welcome.

Diocese of Salford's Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham: There are still places available for this year's diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham, taking place on Saturday 4th May, for both overnight and day options. Please fill out a booking form, available at:

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/walsingham-2024> or you can get in touch by calling 0161 817 2214 or emailing: walsingham@pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Readers For 2/3 March 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Drabble	P Barnes	P Brennan
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 3 March		
A Gracie & M Cropper		