

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

4 October 2020

Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time



**“It was the stone rejected by the builders
that became the keystone”**

We believe that the world was created by God for his children and that it was a place where peace and harmony would flourish, a home for all of creation. However, we know that our world has moved far from the miracle of God's creation and we are faced with a future that is filled with disharmony and our world is experiencing a climate crisis most of which is of our own doing. Pope Francis has spoken to us of this crisis in his encyclical "Laudato Si" calling upon us to rectify the harm we have afflicted on our world by our irresponsible use and abuse of the riches of our beautiful planet, our earthly home. Our readings speak to us of creation. In the first passage from Isaiah we hear the song of God's love for his vineyard, lovingly planted and prepared to produce good wine. The people however turn away for God and all that is produced is sour and useless. What is God to do in these circumstances? Does He turn away for the House of Israel and leave it in ruins? In the second reading Paul reassures the Philippians that God is on their side. He urges them to become a people of prayer. Peace will come to the one who acts in the way that Paul recommends. He asks us to keep to everything that is true, noble, good, and pure. That love and honour are prizes to strive for, that our lives should be virtuous and worthy of praise. He reminds us that God's peace is the reward for those who live this way. Contrast this passage with the bitterness of the first reading; is the harvest you are preparing sour or sweet? In the Gospel passage Jesus is slowly moving towards Jerusalem and his trial and death. The Parable of the Wicked Tenants is a warning to the rulers and religious authorities of Israel that, if they persist in treating the people of God badly then death and destruction lie ahead. How often do we persist in doing things even though we know that in the end only disaster can come of them? When will we learn that unless we begin to live in harmony with our world our future may be taken from us! The chief priests and the elders refused to give up their authority over the people; they refused to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. *The stone they reject will become the cornerstone upon which the Kingdom of God will be erected and it is those who remain faithful who will inherit the kingdom.* David Frank

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 3

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

Sunday Mass Times: 9.30am at St John's and 11am at St Brendan's. Each church is limited to attendance of 43 people (St Brendan's) and 50 (St John's) this doesn't include "bubbles". If you wish to attend please let the office know by email: office@sbsj.org.uk, or by phoning 301927, so that we can make a note of numbers. *Thank you*

Sunday 4 October

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

The Special Collection for Peter's Pence ends at Masses today. Thank you

Monday 5 October

7pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 6 October

9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 7 October - *Our Lady of the Rosary*

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 8 October

9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 9 October - CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

No Mass Today

Saturday 10 October

11am Exposition and Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

Sunday 11 October

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello

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

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We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends: Bernard Holder, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Madeleine Evans, Barbara Pearl, Howard McArdle, Terence Gillett

Lately Dead: Armando (Tom) Chung, Godfrey Mascarenhas, Lisa King, Sylvia King, May Horgan

Anniversaries: Maisie Rebello, Eve McArdle, Bishop Holland, Curt Vosper, Mary Hurst, Barbara Grimes

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Eve McArdle, Annie McGrath (Birthday Remembrance), Curt Vosper, Ellen Rothwell, Lisa & Sylvia King, A sick person, Mary Hurst, Esther Thomas (100th Birthday Remembrance), Barbara Grimes, Geoffrey Bradshaw (Birthday Remembrance), May Horgan

We continue to pray for victims of the Covid-19 virus, and for all those who are still working tirelessly to keep us safe.

Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6): We pray especially for: Students & Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; The Fruits of Human Work and the Reverent Use of Creation, Justice & Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners & Their Families

Hope in the Future

We pray for the people of the parish of St Aidan and Oswald, Royton, and for Fr Stephen Doyle, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school and for Dr Kershaw's Hospice

Offertory Envelopes

We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Currently, there are still a few offertory envelopes to be collected. If you would like these to be delivered to you, please do let us know and we can arrange this. Donations can be made by posting through the presbytery letter box, by post or alternatively donations can be made through Salford Diocese website, or alternatively by setting up a bank standing order. Again, many thanks for your continued generosity.

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

Prayer Resource - Lord's Day at Home

For those still at home, and not able to attend Mass, the Liturgy Office has prepared a service called "The Lord's Day at Home", based on the Sunday Scriptures, that you can pray on your own or with your family. It is particularly aimed at those not able to follow a Mass on the internet. This week's Lord's Day at Home prayer sheet [can be found by clicking here.](#)

Dear Parishioners, I hope you are well, as we continue our battle with this virus. Just when we had thought we had turned the right corner we find ourselves facing a local lockdown and second wave.

It is important that we continue to look out for one another in these testing times, and make sure no one is lonely as we journey through the winter months.

We have now been open for Mass for a number of weeks now and the attendances are promising but limited due to restrictions.

This last Sunday we had 49 at 9.30am Mass and nearly 60 at 11am Mass. (the number we can accommodate varies depending on bubbles and people able to sit together)

Please note please book for Sunday Mass. Windows and doors have to remain open for Mass to allow ventilation (until we are advised otherwise), so bring a blanket/ rug maybe advisable to stave off the cold.

Keeping you all in my prayers. God bless, Fr Alf



Survive, Rebuild and Heal

This week (Friday 9 October) our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease - let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of the envelopes (at the back of each church). You can also give easily via text: **Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10.** [Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODINFO to 70085. For more information please see our privacy policy: cafod.co.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice]

There are many resources available online through the CAFOD website, <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day> but in particular there is a link to **Prayer and Reflection** with Bishop John Arnold on Sunday 11 October (7pm). He will talk about Pope Francis' Catechesis *Healing the World* as well as the new encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*.

A Message from The Diocese of Salford:

A new digital document called 'Rebuild my Church' has been published by the Department of Formation which is full of resources to help us through this period of reflection. [You can click here to view that document.](#)

On Sunday 4 October, Bishop John will lead a Holy Hour from Salford Cathedral [which will be livestreamed on ChurchServices.tv at 3pm.](#)

The theme of the Holy Hour will be *Hope in Difficult Times* and we hope it will provide parishioners around our diocese with an opportunity to take stock of the last few months. The focus is not on moving to stage four but rather reflecting on the presence of the Lord all through lockdown and as we continue on our journey. The Lord has, in a very real sense, answered our prayer and stayed with us on our journey. We need to pause, draw breath, grieve where we need to grieve but also be grateful where we can be and allow ourselves to be renewed. *Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey*

Covid-19 Bereavement Support Group:

Responding to a specific need, Caritas is now able to offer bereavement support to individuals &/or families who have experienced the death of a loved one due to Covid-19. This support is unique because it will enable those participating to share their story in their own way with others who have "walked in their shoes", not only in terms of their loss but in sharing the added pain of not having been able to follow the rites and rituals of the Catholic Church in the usual way, which is such an important expression of Faith and brings so much comfort to the dying and their families. Meetings will initially be offered via video conferencing whilst social distancing restrictions remain in place and will be professionally and sensitively facilitated by Bernadette O'Neal, a qualified psychologist and bereavement counsellor with a deep understanding of the Catholic Faith. Please direct any enquiries to

M.Wiggin@caritassalford.org.uk or
k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk



Virtual Marian Procession:

This year a virtual Marian Procession will take place on 1 October from 10am. The virtual procession will be livestreamed via Facebook and Youtube.

[Further Details can be found on the attached poster by clicking here.](#)

Centenary Mass - 4th October

This year Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is celebrating 100 years of its support to seafarers, fishers, and their families. To mark the beginning of our centenary year we will be holding a live-streamed Mass celebrated by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia of Glasgow. Please join us online to share in this very special celebration on Sunday 4 October at 3pm. The Mass will be streamed live at www.stellamaris.org.uk/centenarymass

The Bishops Conference of England and Wales have decided to postpone Sea Sunday this year. This is because, due to the coronavirus pandemic, most parish churches were not able to open in July when the annual collection normally happens. It will now take place on 20 December 2020.



Caritas Harvest Appeal

Caritas (Diocese of Salford) front line services have remained open throughout the pandemic, albeit with a slightly adapted offering in order to maintain distance and keep everyone safe. Every week, across our services over 500 take away meals are being served, plus over 300 food and essential item parcels are given out. We will continue to offer these food and welfare packs to those who are most in need, however, we do need your ongoing support please to keep our pantry stocked up.

[Here is a wish list poster of items required across all of our services.](#)

We recognise that, for many people, it is not as easy to go shopping or for groups to meet who would normally collect and deliver food donations for our services, especially at harvest time. That is why we are offering, along with the wish list, the option of donating the amount of money that you would usually spend to buy that item/s on the list.

Donations can be made online via our website www.caritassalford.org.uk/donate/ or by sending a cheque to Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford M3 6DP. Cheques can be made payable to Caritas Salford or to the name of the specific service you would like to support.

We have also set up a Text Giving Campaign. You can text the word **HARVEST** followed by the amount you want to donate to 70480, for example HARVEST 3 to donate £3. Texts cost £3 plus one standard rate message. Thank you for your continued support enabling us to put Caritas in action

Diocese of Salford

Vacancy - Bookshop Manager

Appointment Type: Full-time, permanent
Working hours: 35 hours per week, usually 8.30am-4.30pm. However, some flexible working will be required including regular Saturday working on rotation.

Location: Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

Salary, pension and benefits: £22,000-£25,000 per annum depending upon skills and experience, 25 holidays plus bank holidays and 5 Diocesan closure days, employer's pension scheme.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated team leader who will establish and maintain effective relationships with a wide and diverse range of internal and external customers. The successful individual will maintain a good working knowledge of the Society's bookshop stock and product lines to fully inform and advise customers. The post-holder will be able to contribute and deploy new ideas and programmes to develop the work of the Bookshop and Catholic Truth Society. They will possess proven commercial judgment and be committed to building and developing a host of customer bases and work creatively and determinedly to maximise sales opportunities and provide excellent customer service.
Closing date for applications: 12 noon on Friday 16 October 2020

Find out more and download an application pack on our website:

www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/

SVP Sponsored Walk: The annual sponsored walk) will be held on Sunday 11 October 2020. This event helps to raise vital funds for the SVP to support families in our parish at Christmas time.

Members of the SVP will be taking part in this beautiful walk. If you have any further queries, please contact any member of the SVP: Julie Burton (304732), Arthur Rawlinson (418204), Mary Cropper (596439), or Peter Barnes (301263). This year, a *just giving* Crowdfunding page has been created for sponsorship. This can be found by visiting: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/svp-walk-2020>

We are still some way off our target, so if you are able to contribute, we would be so grateful. As well as of making use of *just giving*, you may of course prefer to contact one of the SVP members direct to sponsor them. Thank you!

Destitution Project: The Destitution Project, here in Bolton, are always in desperate need of food items. If you are able to donate, the usual items are: Tins of fish, tomatoes, chick peas, red kidney beans, sweet corn, corned beef, fruit. Also, Cartons of apple or orange juice, Rice, Long-life milk, tea bags, coffee and vegetable oil. Items can be left at each church, and members of the SVP will take them to the centre. Thank you, as always, for all your help and support

Online Laudato Si Weekend Retreat - Your Parish and Your Planet (16 - 19 October):

To attend, please email Sr Margaret Atkins on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk.

The God who Speaks - Online Talks

Wednesday 7 October: *The God who speaks in Letters* by Father James Crampsey, SJ, Jesuit priest at the Holy Name Church,

Wednesday 28 October: *The God who speaks to us today: Contemporary Challenges through a Biblical Lens*, by Father Joe Evans.

Wednesday 25 November: *The God who speaks in the Gospel of John*, by Fr Michael Winstanley, SDB, Salesian priest and Scripture Scholar, based at the Salesian community in Bolton. Each evening begins at 7pm. To book a place

please email formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk indicating which evening (or all four) you wish to participate in.



A Thought for the Week...

"May we help people to discover the joy of Jesus' message."
Pope Francis

This Newsletter is sponsored by

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