

**Corpus Christi Bolton  
Second Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy Sunday  
19<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**PRAYERS PLEASE**

We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends.

Bernard Holder, Christopher Scott, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Colin Spragg, Margaret Padfield

Lately Dead: Nicole Poirier, John Cranshaw, Patricia Calvert, Frank Gordon, Emma Thomason, Eugene O'Neill, Margaret Moss

Anniversaries: Eileen Gill, Marie Lamoury (19th), Ian Fazakerley(21st), Dominic Owen

Mass Intentions: Patricia Calvert, Ian Fazakerley, Marie Lamoury, John Cranshaw, NHS and Public services, Isabelle Owen, Eileen & Victor Gill, Nicole Poirer, Margaret Moss x2

Let us also pray for the victims of this pandemic, their families and loved ones. Remembering also the key workers who are on the front-line during this current pandemic. We thank them for all they are doing and ask the Lord to keep them safe.

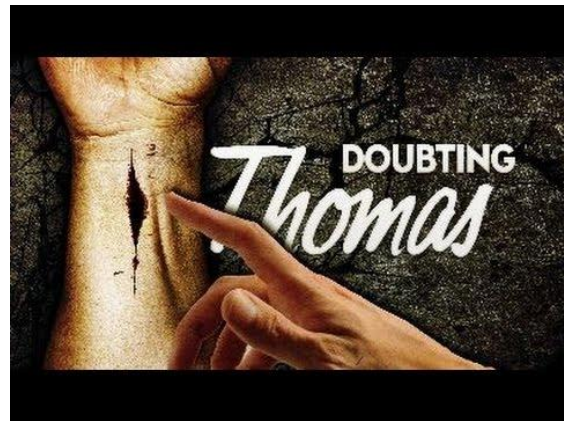
**Hope in the future**

Let us pray for the people of the parish of The Holy Family, Denton, and for Father Christopher Dawson, their priest.

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

The Octave, or eighth day, of Easter has always been considered special by the Church. Christ, after His Resurrection, revealed Himself to His disciples, but Saint Thomas was absent. He declared that he would never believe that Christ had risen from the dead until he could see Him in the flesh and probe Christ's wounds with his own hands - earning him the name "Doubting Thomas."



A week after Christ rose from the dead, He appeared once again to His disciples, and this time Thomas was there. His doubt was vanquished, and he professed His belief in Christ.

**“MY LORD AND MY  
GOD”**

Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

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**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

Peel House  
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.  
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**DIVINE MERCY**



**In 1931, Our Lord appeared to St. Faustina in a vision. She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of the Heart, from where two large rays came forth, one red and the other pale. She gazed intently at the Lord in**

**silence, her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy.**

**Divine Mercy Sunday** is a relatively new addition to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Octave of Easter (the eighth day of Easter; that is, the Sunday after Easter Sunday). Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, this feast was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina. Christ's Divine Mercy is the love that He has for mankind, despite our sins that separate us from Him.

**HANNAH THOMASSON RIP**

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Hannah Thomasson.

Hannah, sadly died on the 10th April 2020. Hannah's funeral will be on Tuesday 21st April, and there will again be a memorial Mass at St Brendan's in due course

**EUGENE O'NEILL RIP**

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Eugene, formerly a parishioner (along with his wife Mary) at St John's and also prior to that at St Aldhelm's. Eugene's funeral took place in Manchester earlier this week.

**MARGARET MOSS RIP**

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Margaret Moss. Her funeral will be held at East Lancs Crematorium on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Hopefully a mass will take place at St Brendan's in due course.

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**A Sunday Reflection with  
thanks to David Frank**

Acts 2: 42-47, Psalm 117 ,1 Peter 1: 3-9,  
John 20: 19-31

The church is going through a period of change and uncertainty as the lockdown continues and people are finding new ways to access services. The use of social media has enabled some to continue with Sunday Mass from home and in some ways has heightened the experience as, through various websites and Facebook pages, we have been able to attend Mass and other liturgies broadcast from many beautiful churches across the UK and Ireland. Unfortunately, those without broadband access and in self-isolation have been unable to take advantage of the services on offer and we somehow need to help those whose need for communication with their faith is unfulfilled. There is an initiative on Local Radio which seeks to plug this gap and, perhaps, this needs to be more widely publicised.

However, we are all missing our Communities and the Eucharist and cannot wait for a return to normal. The question must be asked; How will our experience change us? Will we see a new dawn in our lives? Will the words of Peter ring true – “Your Faith will have been tested and proved like gold”?

In many ways the Early Church must have faced very similar problems to today. During the ministry of Jesus, He must have touched many people’s lives but after His death only a very few disciples can have had any knowledge of the growth of a movement in Judaism aimed at continuing the Lord’s work. We hear of groups in Jerusalem meeting

together faithfully for prayer and the breaking of bread but how did the word spread throughout Israel and among the people living in other towns and cities throughout the Mediterranean. Just as today, many would be excluded because “they had not heard” the Good News.

In Today’s Gospel one of the Apostles suffers from this same lack of information. For some reason Thomas is missing when Jesus makes His first post resurrection appearance to His followers. I often think about Thomas, he is such a remarkable character. His faith is very much in the now. He sees, he believes. He always asks awkward questions. He is the type of enquirer who is great in RCIA sessions because he always wants to know the ins and outs of a subject. I suspect the Lord loved him as well, he is so patient with him. He submits himself to the disbelief of Thomas in a very human way. Look he says, touch me, see the wounds, eat with me, see I am raised from the dead, as I promised, now go and awaken the faith of all you meet.

*David Frank*

Church Services Online: Fortunately, there are many online resources available to help you with your prayers at this time, including the daily live streaming of Holy Mass. For links regularly updated:

[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/covid-19-online-resources](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/covid-19-online-resources)

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

[www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)

<https://dioceseofsalford.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=76e219dab8653b775ba8aac4c&id=9978a69b52&e=b83d5e6119> (prayer sheet)

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**SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS**

In these sad times, let us continue to pray for all those affected by the Corona virus; may those who are affected be healed quickly and may those who are living in isolation know the support and love which surrounds them.

We pray for doctors, nurses, carers, scientists and all who are working so hard, to be given the strength and the courage they need to respond to this crisis. We pray that the spread of will soon be brought under control.

And finally let us commend to the Father, the souls of the lately departed that they may enjoy eternal rest and their families may be consoled by the Lord and, throughout this time of tribulation, grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love.

**PARISH DONATIONS - STANDING ORDER**

People have enquired how they can still donate to our Parish, in the absence of public Mass. This can easily be done by setting up a Standing Order through your Bank. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Chris Molyneux from the Parish Finance Committee, who has kindly agreed to assist with enquiries 01204 400472 or 07789816002

**POPE FRANCIS**

“The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts.

So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope.

We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives.

Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater.

Darkness and death do not have the last word.

Be strong, for with God nothing is lost!”

**Pope Francis - Easter 2020**



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**Stuck at home?**

**But fancy going on Retreat?**

Fr Alf adds: - my first placement as a student for the Priesthood was in the East end of London, in Canning Town. I stayed with the then Vicar General of Brentwood, Mgr John Armitage. (And he thought I spoke funny with my Lancashire accent).

I helped out at Anchor House, a homeless charity, although having just left the legal profession, it came to be a very useful asset there.

Anyway, Mgr John is now the Director of the Shrine to Our Lady at Walsingham and he will be running an 8-day retreat online starting on Sunday night after Compline (Night prayer) and end the following Sunday all online.

Details of the retreat are given on the shrine website: -

[www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

**CATECHESIS**

The Shrine is very grateful to Father Stephen Wang for allowing the use his Sycamore Program. The shrine shall be showing the 20 half hour videos, starting on Monday and will be shown at 10.30am and 4.00pm each day.

**Retreat Summary**

A retreat will be given by Monsignor John Armitage via the Shrine Livestream.

Starting on Sunday 19th April after Compline at 8pm until Sunday 26th April.

Talks each day will be at 10.30 and 16.00

There will be Mass each day at 12 noon.

The Divine Mercy prayers will be recited with the Rosary at 3pm daily

Morning and Evening prayer will be at 08.30 and 17.00 respectively.

[www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

Keeping you all in my prayers and praying that you are all keeping well and safe at this testing time.

God bless!

Fr Alf