

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

14 February 2021

Sixth Week in Ordinary Time/Lent



What would you do if you saw somebody in trouble? Perhaps they had fallen, or maybe they were being bullied or just looking confused. Would you try to help them? Well, that is the human thing to do; we cannot turn away from someone in distress because there is something within that urges us to help. Perhaps those who do turn away, those who do not see or hear or feel the need to go to someone in trouble or pain are just less human. To be fully human is to be Christlike, for He never turns away when He is needed.

The Jewish authorities thought that to become perfect they need a set of laws to govern their behaviour. These laws were collected over many years and form the five Old Testament books known as the "Pentateuch". Leviticus, from which our first reading is taken, was one of these books; the Jews of that time believed that illness was caused by sin, either personal sin or by the sins of ancestors. One of the most dreaded of diseases was Leprosy, an affliction so grievous that the sufferer became almost non-human and was forced to live apart from the community. It was forbidden to shelter or even touch a leper.

Jesus came, not to change the Law but to complete it; to make it fully human. So, when He was approached by a leper asking for help, He did not turn away, He touched the man, stretching His hand over thousands of years of pain and isolation, and gave the man back his dignity. His response "Of course I want to - be cured", risked the wrath of the temple authorities but His humanity would not allow Him to turn away. Instead, after curing the man, He tells him to follow the law and show himself to a priest to prove he was cured and to be admitted back into society. Now we see the price of this act of humanity by Jesus; He now becomes the outcast: so many were coming to Him for healing that He could no longer go into the towns but needed to stay in the wilderness, cut off from society. Paul would have heard the stories about the healing ministry of Jesus; the cure of the leper would have been prominent among those stories because the message behind the act was so powerful. Paul tells us that we must do everything for the glory of God, to be "helpful at all times" and never take any advantage from our actions. His mantra "Take me for your model, as I take Christ" is the Christian way, the human way, the way we should try to follow? *David Frank*

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 2
Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46
1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1
Mark 1: 40-45

Sunday 14 February

9.30am Mass (SJ)
11am Mass (SB)

Monday 15 February

No Mass Today

Tuesday 16 February

No Mass Today

Ash Wednesday 17 February - Day of Fasting & Abstinence

9.30am Mass (SJ)
6pm Mass (SB)

Thursday 18 February

9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 19 February

Churches Closed

Saturday 20 February

11am Exposition
11.30 Mass (SJ)

Sunday 21 February - First Sunday in Lent

9.30am Mass (SJ)
11am Mass (SB)
3pm Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition & Benediction (SJ)

Thought for the Week



"We should strive to keep our hearts open to the suffering of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion."

St Vincent de Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello

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

Tel: 01204 301927 E-mail: office@sbsj.org.uk Website: www.sbsj.org.uk

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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, Anne Hurst, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Madeleine Evans, Barbara Pearl, Howard McArdle, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt

Lately Dead: Katie Rowan, Dennis Kilcommins, Noreen O'Leary, Canon Giles Goward Rector of Oscott Seminary, John Durkin, Angela Kidd, Shindo Maguire, Mike Foster, Rita McDonagh, Kathleen Roberts, Rita Prendergast

Anniversaries: Mary O'Brien

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: John Durkin, Deceased members of the O'Kane & Boardman families, Rita Prendergast, Mary O'Brien, Katie Rowan, Dennis Kilcommins, Noreen O'Leary

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 1 (of 6): We pray especially for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The sick and those who care for them; Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it; The unemployed

Hope in the Future

In our Diocese we now pray for the parishes of St John's Deanery, for its people, and clergy and for Fr Martin Collins, the Dean. Let us pray for the people of the parish of St John Paul II, Eccles, with Fr Martin Collins, their parish priest, their primary schools and St Patrick's High School May all that they do be done for the glory of God. This week let us pray for the people of the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Joseph, Salford, and the life of our Cathedral Church of St John. We pray for Bishop John, for Fr Michael Jones, the Cathedral Dean, Fr Ignatius, and Deacon Steven, and for all who share in the mission of the Cathedral, and the priests resident at Cathedral House. We pray also for the two parish primary schools and for all who work in the Cathedral Centre.

Offertory

We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Donations can be made by posting through the presbytery letter box, by post or alternatively donations can be made through Salford Diocese website, or by setting up a bank standing order. Thank you

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

Prayer Resource - For those 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 resource [can be found by clicking here.](#)

A Message from Fr Alf



This coming Wednesday we begin our Lenten journey; there will be no Masses on Monday and Tuesday this week as I will be having a couple of days break. On Wednesday there will be Mass celebrated at both Churches for Ash Wednesday (as per the newsletter) but due to the pandemic there will be **no distribution of Ashes.**

What is Lent?

Lent is the forty-day liturgical season of fasting, special prayer and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. The name "Lent" is from the Middle English "Lencten," meaning spring; its more primitive ecclesiastical name was the "forty days," "quadragesima" in Latin or "tessaracoste" in Greek. The number "forty" is first noted in the Canons of Nicaea (A.D. 325), likely in imitation of Jesus' fast in the desert before His public ministry (with Old Testament precedent in Moses and Elijah). By the fourth century, in most of the West, it referred to six days' fast per week of six weeks (Sundays were excluded).

The Sacrament of Confession in Lent

Unfortunately, due to the Pandemic our confessionals are currently out of use. The Sacrament of Confession is and always will be available, simply ask and I will always accommodate.

Lent and confession go hand in hand in two ways. Lent is a season of conversion, and Reconciliation is one of the greatest means of conversion. The Church exhorts us to go to Jesus for healing. "'Yet even now,' says the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.' Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil" (Joel 2:12-13). Second, Lent is there to build the Church up to celebrating Easter. Christ suffered and died for our sins in His Passion and then resurrected on Easter Sunday. We go to the cross in the Sacrament of confession, and rise again renewed after unloading our sins. We hope to have a Reconciliation service later in Lent.

Walk With Me Booklets and Calendars (Free of charge): Are now available at each church. Please feel free to take home and use throughout the Lenten period.

Churches in Harwood Lent Course: This year, the course will follow: #Live Lent - God's Story, Our Story. It will be via Zoom (ID787 556 9225) each Monday (22 February - 22 March) at 7.30pm. The link for the course content can be accessed at:

www.churchofengland.org/resources/livlent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story

Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land: Poems and Reflections. This is a unique spiritual prayer resource with contributors from the Holy Land drawn from the main Christian denominations. It features prayers and resources for support in this year's Lenten and Easter Journey. [The book can be found here](#)



Confirmations: Due to the Pandemic the original plans to carry out the Sacrament of Confirmation in May have been placed on hold. The Diocese have however put together an online resource for children to be catechised and prepared to receive this Sacrament in due course. Locally this course will run in the evenings (7 sessions via zoom-dates to follow after registration) with the assistance of Thornleigh College; if you know of any Catholic baptized children in year 8, who were due to be Confirmed this year and are not pupils at Thornleigh, please could you notify our Parish Office via email address please, and we will be in touch. Thank you.

A Message of Thanks: I wish to thank Fr Alf and so many others for your kind messages, cards and Masses sent for myself and my family during the illness and the loss of my beautiful daughter in law Sue Fazackerley, your love has been a great comfort. *Margaret Fazackerley.*



200 CLUB: Subscriptions will soon be due (£12 per number). It may be difficult for some to get their subscription to me, so here are a few options to help.

1. Post/deliver to the Parish Office
 2. Leave at the front of either church in the basket provided.
 3. Contact me on 01204 302912/ 07528027295.
- For options 1 and 2 please place your subscription and your details in an envelope F.A.O Ann Gracie. **All cheques made payable to Corpus Christi.** *Many Thanks, Ann.*
1st February draw winners: P Molyneux (£40)
K Grimes (£20)

Austen Ivereigh & Diocese of Salford Lent Course

LET US DREAM - Our Lenten Journey with Pope Francis, guided by Austen Ivereigh.

Over the Wednesdays of Lent we will explore Pope Francis' book, *Let us Dream*, with the assistance of Austen Ivereigh, who worked closely with Pope Francis on the book. This is the first book by a pope in response to a specific crisis, and offers us Pope Francis's spiritual guidance for humanity in the throes of the Covid crisis, helping us to seize the opportunity for conversion and change. The course begins on Wednesday 24 February at 7pm. Every Wednesday (2nd March until 31st March) we will meet 7pm-8.30pm, to explore the book in five sections, share our thoughts, ask questions and deepen our understanding of the Lord's call to us, to our Church and world through the teaching of Pope Francis. The Bishop and Diocese are very grateful to Austen Ivereigh for making this possible.

To sign up, please email

[:formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lentcourse/>

Cathedral Vacancy Cathedral Sacristan

Appointment Type: Full-time, permanent
Working hours: 30 hours per week, to be worked over 5 days per week including every Sunday and some Saturdays. Some evening working may also be required.

Location: Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist, 250 Chapel Street, Salford, M3 5LE

Salary and benefits: £14,820 per annum (actual), 25 holidays plus bank holidays (subject to pro-rata) and 5 Diocesan closure days, employers pension scheme.

We are looking for a reliable person who can work well independently as well as within a team to coordinate the work of the Cathedral Sacristy supporting the smooth running of the liturgical and sacramental life of the church.

The successful candidate will have good communication skills and be able to work with sensitivity in a Catholic environment. They will maintain high standards of cleanliness, health and safety and safeguarding.

For more information and to apply, please visit: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>

Closing date for applications is 12pm on Friday 5th March

The Global Catholic Movement invites you to “Global Healing.” In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si’*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting you to join us for a series of reflective evenings, using the film-based resource *Global Healing*. These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis’ call to *Care for Our Common Home*. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action. **When?** Six Thursdays from 18 February - 25 March, (7.30pm - 8.30pm) or **email** jane@catholicclimatemovement.global.

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience...Truly, much can be done!” (Laudato Si’, 217, 180)

Talks from the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst

The Drama Displayed: A Journey of Salvation: A free series of online talks at 7.30pm every second Thursday, up to 25 March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

Set Free Summit: A set of six, online sessions to young adults on relationships and sexuality based on John Paul II’s teaching. At 4pm on Sundays up to to 14 March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/set-free>

This Newsletter is sponsored by

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Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
BL1 7AL
01204 309609



(COVID-19)

GUIDELINES FOR PARISHIONERS WHEN ATTENDING HOLY MASS

Before you decide to come to church, please read this guidance carefully. The obligation to attend Holy Mass is suspended at this time of pandemic. If you have any symptoms of coronavirus or have been in contact with someone who has symptoms, please stay at home.

- The church will open approximately 30mins before the scheduled Mass time.
- External doors will be open at all times, so wear suitable clothing in case it’s cold.
- You must wear a face covering in church. Please bring your own.
- The toilet is closed at all times, except for emergency use.
- As you enter church, a steward will greet you and ask you to sanitise your hands.
- A steward will direct you to an allocated seat. You cannot choose where to sit.
- Social distancing of 2 metres will be observed. Those living in the same household or sharing the same social bubble may sit together.
- Remain in your place once seated and refrain from talking to others.
- Singing during the Mass is not permitted. Mass sheets and books are not available.
- You are not allowed to enter the sacristy area, nor speak to the priest in the sacristy.
- The stewards will have a basket at the back of church for any offerings you wish to give.
- At Holy Communion, please follow the instructions given by the priest and the directions given by the stewards. Wait in your seat before you are asked to move forward.
- After you have received Holy Communion, you can return to your seat in the pews.
- After Mass has ended, the congregation departs in an orderly and distanced manner.
- Sanitise your hands as you exit.
- Refrain from talking and mingling with others outside the church.