

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**14 March 2021**

## Fourth Sunday in Lent – Laetare Sunday



Nicodemus was a very influential member of the Sanhedrin and a prominent Pharisee, he was also a “seeker after the truth”; he had heard about Jesus and His teaching and he came secretly, at night, to speak to Him and to gain an understanding of His message. He was aware that there were many false messiahs, who appeared from time to time in Israel, and who vanished just as quickly but he also realised that Jesus was different from these others and so he took the great risk of contacting Jesus and arranging the meeting.

This was a pivotal event in the ministry of Christ, an opportunity to engage with a powerful figure in Judaism and to discuss His ministry with him. Jesus begins this passage with an important symbol from Israel's past, “the serpent in the desert”. In today's first reading we hear of the sins and transgressions of the people as they turned away from God and the subsequent devastation of their nation and slavery in Babylon. This is just one example of how they broke their covenant with God, another occasion occurred in the Exodus from Egypt when again the Israelites grumbled to Moses about the Manna, the gift from God that saved them from starvation. God's punishment for this transgression was a plague of fiery serpents which was only relieved when Moses had made a bronze figure of a serpent on a stick which he raised in sight of the people and those afflicted were healed.

Jesus speaks of the “Son of Man” who is “lifted up”, “so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him”. He then speaks of the God “who loved the world so much that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost”. We cannot know the effect of this discussion on Nicodemus; we can only put ourselves in his place and wonder at this prophesy and how it touches us. Please read this passage slowly to yourself and try to absorb the message. It is one of great love, great sacrifice; a message that has touched the hearts of millions throughout the ages and it is written for you today. The sacrifice of Calvary is to come, the light of Christ shines through His church and in the hearts of all who follow Him. It will defeat the darkness of sin and we will be known as people “who live by the truth”. The message he received brought Nicodemus to the foot of the cross and the body of Our Saviour into his hands, that same message is for us today. *David Frank*

### Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1*  
*Divine Office Week 4*  
Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23  
Ephesians 2: 4-10  
John 3: 14-21

#### Sunday 14 March - *Mothering Sunday*

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

#### Monday 15 March

7pm Mass (SJ)

#### Tuesday 16 March

9.30am Mass (SB)  
11.30am Private Funeral Service for Frank Airey (SJ)

#### Wednesday 17 March - *St Patrick*

9.30am Mass (SJ)

#### Thursday 18 March

9.30am Mass (SB)

#### Friday 19 March - *St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Churches Closed

#### Saturday 20 March

11am Exposition & Benediction  
11.30 Mass (SJ)

#### Sunday 21 March

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

### Lent - Weekly Eco-Thought



Today is, according to a long-standing English tradition, Mothering Sunday. We pray in thanksgiving for our mothers. We pray to for our Mother the Church. But let's not forget to pray for the Earth which is our Mother. May we make our own today and always the words of St. Francis of Assisi: Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our Mother, who nourishes us and sustains us, bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds and flowers of many colours.



**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:** Eric Hiland, Frank Airey, Phil Chisnell, Judith Fletcher, John Wrench

**Anniversaries:** Rita Brooks, Rosie Berry, Jack & Mary Carroll, Teresa Wilson,

**May They Rest in Peace**

**Mass Intentions:** Rita Brooks, Frank Airey, In memory of Margaret Gibson, Rosie Berry, A parishioner's intention for her children, Jack & Mary Carroll, Members of the Carroll family, Teresa Wilson, Barbara Grimes (Birthday Remembrance), Phil Chisnell

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

On this Mothering Sunday, following an English tradition dating back centuries, we pray for our Mother Church, our Cathedral Church of St John, together with the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Joseph, Salford. We pray for Bishop John, for Fr Michael Jones, the Cathedral Dean, Fr Ignatius, and Deacon Steven, 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. May the life of our Cathedral and its parish truly be God's work of art.

### 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 to attend 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 [by clicking here](#).



## Lenten Activities

**Lent Resources 2021:** The Diocese of Salford have compiled a list of resources to help parishioners sustain their prayer life this Lent. You can find these on the website here <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lent-in-lockdown-resources/>

### Enviroilent - Caring For our Common

**Home:** The season of Lent provides us with an opportunity to take a step back and reflect. To refocus on what we believe, and why. We remind ourselves about the faith and trust that we have in our God and we take a moment to regain the sense of putting our faith into action in all that we do. This is particularly relevant through this year like no other, where we have faced a time of pandemic and of changes to our daily lives. As we move out of this time, let us put the protection of our common home at the centre of our efforts to create a better world for all. The Diocese have produced resources offering suggestions of practical actions which we can adopt in our communities. For more information please visit: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/enviroilent-2/>

**Churches in Harwood Lent Course:** Each Monday until 22 March at 7.30pm. The link can be accessed at:

[www.churchofengland.org/resources/live-lent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/live-lent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story)

### Caritas Lent Appeal - Pray, Fast, Give:

**Lenten Prayers:** A reminder that parishioners and the wider community can join in our Lenten prayers, written by pupils from our schools on the themes of Catholic Social Teaching, by going to <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/sjp2021/> and clicking on *Weekly Prayers*.

### Holy Week-Voices from the Holy Land (Poems & Reflections):

It features prayers and resources for support in this years Lenten and Easter Journey. <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/holy-week-voices/>



We wish all mothers the happiest of days today. Let us remember and pray especially for all the mothers who are deceased and grant them eternal rest.

## Holy Week Services



## Holy Week

Please find below the dates and times of services for Holy Week. If you would like to attend any of these services, we encourage you to book places through the Parish Office by email or phone. It is important that we can plan ahead for where you can sit in accordance with the Government guidelines. According to national directives, the liturgical rites will be simpler this year, so that the duration of the services are not prolonged.

We are hoping (subject to stewards) to re-introduce a Saturday Vigil Mass (6pm for the interim period) at St Brendan's. Please note the Easter Vigil will be at a later time of 6.30pm.

**Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday 27 March**  
6pm (St Brendan's)

**Palm Sunday Mass 28 March**  
9.30am (St John's)  
11am (St Brendan's)  
3pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction  
(St Brendan's)

**Holy Thursday 1 April**  
6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper  
(St John's)

**Good Friday 2 April**  
3pm The Passion of the Lord (St John's)  
10am Stations of the Cross (SB)

**Holy Saturday Vigil Mass of Easter 3 April**  
6.30pm (St Brendan's)

**Easter Sunday Mass 4 April**  
9.30am (St John's)  
11am (St Brendan's)

**Thank you:** For your contributions to our recent Special collections: Caritas £309 and CAFOD £1,370.12. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated.

**North Mayo Heritage Centre - Genealogy:** Do you have ancestors or relatives with Mayo connections? If you would like to find out more about your Mayo roots, the [North Mayo Heritage Centre](#) can help. Contact 00 353 9631809, write to us at Ennisceoe, Castlehill, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26FR94 or email: [northmayo@gmail.com](mailto:northmayo@gmail.com)

**Caritas - Almsgiving:** Lent is a time often associated with giving something up or give something back. It is a time to re-centre on the things that matter in our lives and to seek nourishment for our spiritual lives through prayer. We are reminded to serve those in our communities that may be considered 'the least, the last and the lost' just as Jesus showed us. Today, if you are observing #LockdownLent in your own home, will you join others to help your neighbour? Caritas is supporting children and families in poverty, individuals who are isolated and vulnerable and those that are homeless. Your Lenten donation may just provide the essentials or advice they need to survive. To make a Lenten donation, please visit: <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/donate/> or call Rachel Taylor 0161 817 2285 and please continue to keep those we serve in your prayers.

**Experiences of Jerusalem - Academic Research:** Dr Philip Booth, a researcher at Manchester Metropolitan University, has asked us to share the following survey link with anyone who may be interested. Dr Booth is researching people from Manchester's experiences of Jerusalem. You can find more information on his website here:

<https://adterramsanctam.wordpress.com/about/>

You can complete the survey by clicking here: <https://mmu.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/from-mancs-to-jerusalem>

**Caritas Update:** The next meeting of DiSAN (Diocesan Social Action Network) will take place via Zoom on Thursday 25 March (10.30am-12noon). We will be delighted to welcome Caritas Parish Representatives to the meeting, together with others who have a particular interest or responsibility in their parish for local social action/social justice activities. *Please can anyone wishing to attend the meeting email Kath Ansley [k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk) by no later than 12noon on Monday 22 March.*

The Global Catholic Movement invites you to “Global Healing.” Every Thursday (7.30-8.30pm until 25 March). These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis’ call to *Care for Our Common Home*. Please email: [jane@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:jane@catholicclimatemovement.global).



**200 CLUB:** Subscriptions are now due (£12 per number). These can be handed in by the following ways:

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.

March Draw: I Clappison (£40); J Burton (£20)

### Events at Christian Heritage Centre, Stonyhurst

**The Drama Displayed: A Journey of Salvation:** On Thursday 25 March Sr Emanuela Edwards will speak on *The Life to Come* and Michelangelo’s Last Judgement: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

**A Thinking Body, Embodied Minds:** a webinar for Catholic and Christian mental health professionals, looking at the relationship of bodily health to mental health, with Dr Elizabeth Corcoran. Takes place at 10am on Saturday 13 March. For info and registration:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/spirit-mind-body/>

**Online Retreat  
Living *Laudato Si’*  
Your Parish and Your Planet  
12-16 March & 16-19 April  
(led from Boarbank Hall, Cumbria)**

A weekend of talks and discussions on zoom, on living the message of *Laudato Si’* in and through your parish. Any interested parishioner is most welcome to join us. The weekend is aimed especially at people with parish responsibilities or who are part of or want to start a relevant parish group.

Cost: voluntary donations gratefully accepted, but there will be no fee for the weekend. To apply, simply email Sr Margaret Atkins on [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk)

**The Catholic Universe:** Are facing a difficult time at present, and are hoping to increase their circulation. If anyone would like to order a copy please go to [www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com) for more information.



### The National Novena to St Joseph

Continues until 18 March at St Joseph’s Church in Maidenhead. If you would like to join in from home, for the first time this year, Masses from St Joseph’s Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: [stjosephsparish.co.uk](http://stjosephsparish.co.uk) and the Mill Hill website:

[www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena),

You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com).

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered, died, and rose for our salvation- to forgive our sins and to offer us everlasting life in Heaven. Moreover, He wanted His healing ministry of forgiveness for sin to continue through the Sacrament of Penance. On the night of the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the apostles and said, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.... Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men’s sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound” (John 20:21-23). Please note it is difficult at present to have a Reconciliation service but confession/reconciliation is readily available just ask Fr Alf and he will happily oblige.

**Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello**  
**Parish Office: St John’s Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP.**

Tel: 01204 301927

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