

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

22 August 2021

Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time



Love is at the centre of all that is of value in human relationships; it is the glue that holds us together. It is also the very nature of our relationship with God for, all that is true, all that is beautiful and all that is worthy, is based in love. Love needs commitment. Without commitment when we say we love we are like empty vessels rattling around filled with worthless pebbles. Today's readings examine our attitude to commitment. The passages are very different but the spirit behind the words is the spirit of love. The first reading from the Old Testament is based on choice; the place of the meeting is Shechem. Joshua gathers all the tribes of Israel and their representatives, elders, leaders and judges and scribes. The people are asked to choose between serving God, or turning to the pagan gods of Egypt and the Amorites, they commit to the Lord God of Israel and their journey into the Promised Land continues. Today we have a similar choice; our false gods are all around us in the temptations of the world. We too must choose who to follow and make the same commitment made by the people of Israel all those centuries ago.

The relationship between men and women, between husbands and wives is always based on love. Paul is sometimes criticised for his views on the place of women in the Christian life. This is unfair because we look at the words of Paul through twenty first century eyes and not at the situation when they were written. It is also unfair because Paul acknowledges throughout his letters the great help and service of the women he encounters. The place of women in the world of Paul was very different from today and Paul explains the relationship in this passage from Ephesians. He compares the union of Christ and His Church with the union of man and woman; the spirit behind the words is clear. Christ loves and sustains His church, He is committed to its well-being: marriage is also a loving commitment, and its success depends on mutual love.

Commitment is also the subject of the Gospel passage; the Jews can either choose Christ or turn away. Many cannot accept His words and do turn away. Jesus speaks of the "spirit that gives life". We cannot know the deep mystery of God but by following the spirit that prompts us from within we move ever closer to Him. Peter speaks for those committed to following Christ "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life." Let us pray for the faith of Peter. **David Frank**

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1

Divine Office Week 1

Joshua 24:1-2,15-18; Ephesians 5:21-32; John: 60-69
*Roman Missal page 381; Readings page 384;
Preface page 50*

Sunday 22 August

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12.15pm Baptism (SB)

Monday 23 August

1.30pm Requiem Mass for Sharon Hart (SB)

7pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 24 August - St Bartholomew

9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 25 August

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

1.30pm Burial of Ashes

Thursday 26 August - Sixtieth Anniversary of the First Mass at St John's Church [See back page of newsletter]

9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 27 August - St Monica

No Mass Today

Saturday 28 August - St Augustine

11am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

1pm Baptism (SB)

5pm Mass (SB)

Sunday 29 August

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12.15pm Baptism (SB)

1pm Baptism (SB)

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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 Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt, Peter Riley, Frances Skemp, Kathleen Banks, Penelope Booth (poorly infant), Eileen Gartland, Colin Markland
Lately Dead: Nancy Monk, Sharon Hart, Jeanette Barlow, Lena Corbett

Anniversaries: Barbara Proctor, Mary Carter
May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Jodie Settle (Birthday Remembrance), Barbara Proctor, Mary Carter

Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6): We pray especially for: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution; oppression and denial of human rights; Europe, seafarers, human life

Hope in the Future: This week we pray for the people of the parish of St Mary, Horwich, and for Fr Richard Howard. We pray for their parish primary school and for St Joseph's High School. May they too recognise Jesus as the Holy One of God, hear his message of eternal life and be nourished by his Body and Blood.

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 they 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 the Liturgy Office has prepared "The Lord's Day at Home", to pray on your own or with your family [click here](#) to view the Mass sheet for Sunday 22nd August (Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time).



Congratulations: To Alessia & Jamell Harris and Remy Evans who were baptised at St Brendan's last Saturday. And to Vienna McDonald who was Baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families continue to grow in faith.



Wedding Congratulations: To Matthew and Stephanie Parkinson who were married at St John's Church last Friday. We wish them a long and happy marriage.



Birthday Wishes: To John O'Connor, who is celebrating a "significant" birthday. We send him our very best wishes.

Statutory Compliance Work St John's Church

Recently, we have had some surveys carried out at both our church properties to ensure we are up to date with statutory compliance. St Brendan's is currently up to date; however, St John's Church still has a couple of outstanding items:

1. The side doors at St John's Church, did not conform to Fire safety Regulations, and are therefore to be replaced and widened.
2. The large Red Oak (in the front Garden), needs to be removed as it is in a serious state of decay. In line with Laudato Si we will, of course, be replanting a more suitably sized tree in its place. We are also looking into planting some more saplings following the building work of the Patmos Room extension.

The work, for the above, will be carried out over the next few weeks, and if there is to be any disruption to Masses or entry into the church building, we will, of course, let you know.

We would like to thank those who have given their time and effort in sorting the co-ordination of the above and the help with much more as well. God Bless, *Fr Alf*

Church Volunteers

As we move back to some kind of normality, we are hoping to bring back our popular *after Mass coffee*. This would, of course, have to be in line with Covid guidance. If you are interested in helping to serve coffee, please contact the parish office.

Fr Alf would also like to have two Eucharistic Ministers to help at the 9.30am Mass (SJ). If you are happy go back on a rota, or similarly, you do not feel you would like to continue as a Eucharistic Minister, please let the Parish Office know. Thank you.

Can You Help? As part of geography A level course work, a parishioner (and student at Thornleigh) has to obtain some feedback from people who live/ work / study or visit the Bromley Cross and Halliwell areas of Bolton. If you would be able to help with this survey, please go to the following links:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQ_zy5gviAcha73Whz1FYjnupC6DR4q4Th7V1ysrC3Z411Rw/viewform?usp=sf_link Halliwell

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf9coY41U0YtUvpQEb4YvGzYl7rfaJyZh3olr6lQpOR6bXWkQ/viewform?usp=sf_link Bromley Cross

Urban Outreach: Have sent us a letter of thanks for all our support over the last twelve months with food parcels and hampers. They have helped a total of 22,131 people with the distribution of 10,902 food parcels. The food given throughout the year (from all sources) weighed a total of 165.2 tonnes (a similar weight to the statue of Liberty)!!

Reopening of Cathedral Centre Facilities: We are delighted to announce that Cathedral Centre Books has now reopened (8.30am-3.30pm Monday to Friday. Orders can be also placed via

<https://www.cathedralcentrebooks.com/>

or over the phone on 0161 817 2208.

The Cathedral Centre Café has also reopened and is open to the public 8.30am - 1.30pm Monday to Friday.

Taking Liturgy Seriously - Online study course from the Society of Saint Gregory

As part of its commitment to promote and support the liturgy of the Catholic Church, the Society of Saint Gregory will be offering a new modular study course, aimed at developing liturgical understanding. The course, which will be run in partnership with the London Jesuit Centre, starts in September and will take place via Zoom. Held over the course of one year, each module will comprise three sessions and provide a theological and historical overview, which will form the background for a deeper study of how we celebrate the liturgy today. Modules include The Paschal Mystery, Healing and Forgiveness, Initiation, Commitment and Ways of Prayer. Within each theme we will look at how we apply general principles of liturgy, how music and space affect the way we celebrate, and, above all, how we are enabling people to pray together. The course is aimed at all who wish to widen their understanding of the liturgy. Further information, including details of the course leaders and online booking, can be found [here](#). Or visit <https://www.ssg.org.uk/>

Readers For Next Weekend (28/29 August)		
SB (5pm)	SJ (9.30am)	SB (11am)
F Smith	L Howarth	F Doloroso

We would like to welcome and thank Fr Paul Daly, who will be celebrating our Vigil Mass this Saturday.

Caritas Cornerstone's Big Sleep Out 2021

The Big Sleep Out is returning this autumn with a special hybrid event, asking people to raise funds to support rough sleepers by sleeping outdoors overnight at Xaverian College, Manchester, from 7pm on Friday 17 September, or by "boycotting their bed" from their own home.

How to get involved:

1. Click [here](#) or visit <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BigSleepOut2021> to set up your Just Giving page. This can be done whether you plan to be present on the night or at home boycotting your bed.

2. Click [here](#) or visit <https://cornerstonecds.org.uk/big-sleepout/> to register for the overnight event at Xaverian college. For further information, contact Rachel Taylor on 0161 817 2258, or email fundraising@caritassalford.org.uk.

Job Vacancy

Salford Diocese
PA/Senior Administrator - Chief Operating Officer's Office (replacement role)
Appointment Type: Full-time, permanent
Location: Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP
Salary: £26,000 - £28,000 per annum

For further information and how to apply please see: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>



Destitution Project: Thank you for all donations so far. We have been asked to help with the following list of shortages: 1 litre cartons of orange or apple juice, cartons of WHOLE milk, Tins of sardines - preferably in oil, tins of fruit (they are almost out of these) - mango, pineapple and mandarin oranges are firm favourites but fruit cocktail also popular, packets of biscuits, boxes of tissues. Thank you, again, for all your kindness!

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St John's Church



St John's was founded in 1960, incorporating St Aldhelm's Turton that had been in existence since 1890. That former parish was originally served by the chaplain from Tottington Convent who used to ride over on his horse for Sunday Mass!

Initially St John's used a converted Ministry of Pensions building, where the first Mass was celebrated on 26 August 1961. The current church was opened in 1967. The temporary building continued to be used as a parish hall until the primary school was built in 1977.

This last 18 months, we have missed out so much (as a parish) especially on social events. We will, in the near future, arrange a celebration for the 60th Anniversary of the founding of St John's and the 50th Anniversary of St Brendan's (and we are still in the early stages of "getting back to normal"), it is hoped that we can organize a parish celebration at some point during the next 12 months to commemorate these special anniversaries.

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