

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**19 November 2023**

## Thirty-Third Sunday Ordinary Time



Today's readings are about gifts and talents. In the first reading, using the example of a perfect wife, the writer of Proverbs describes her virtues; faithful, industrious, compassionate, and loving. These virtues are a reflection of the work of a disciple, somebody who is dependable, always ready to help, a good worker, one who does not forget the poor and those who are in need. One who is wise and who is worthy of praise.

What is a disciple; put quite simply it is "one who follows". We follow Christ and his teaching; part of that teaching reminds us that we are all servants and servants are asked to bring whatever talent or gift they may possess and use it for the benefit of others. Our faith is a reflection of our daily life; we should live in such a way that anyone hearing our words or seeing our actions can see a reflection of the life of Christ. Being a disciple is far from easy, there are many times we may want to run and hide from our responsibilities; we are not always faithful disciples, but God forgives us our failings and takes us back no matter how often we fail.

The Gospel reading is the parable of the talents. We each have gifts and talents given to us by God. Some have a great talent, others may excel only in small things, but we all have something to give. In the parable the master rewards those who use their talents to create wealth but punishes those who waste their talent and do nothing.

There are many people, men and women, who work in our churches, some are seen, many others work unseen, all are using their gifts to benefit the church. Many did not wait to be asked but saw a need and answered the call to fill that need. Perhaps you can see a need for your particular skills or talents? Have you ever thought "I could help with that"; if you have, then speak to someone and take the first step to ensure that your gifts and talents are not wasted. Then, when you come to your heavenly reward, you may hear the Father words "Well done, good and faithful servant". *David Frank*

### Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1  
Divine Office Week 1 Roman Missal: p 504

#### Sunday 19 November

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*  
11am Mass (SB)

#### Monday 20 November

9.10am Yr3 Class Mass (SC School)  
6.00pm Mass (SJ)

#### Tuesday 21 November - *The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

10am Mass (SB)  
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

#### Wednesday 22 November - *St Cecilia*

9.30am Mass (SJ) with Yr 2 and 4  
6.30pm Diocesan Big Listen (SB Church)  
This is an important opportunity for parishioners (along with anyone who you think would like to contribute), to be involved in this event. Please visit <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/the-big-listen/> for more information. All encouraged and welcome!

#### Thursday 23 November

10am Mass (SB)

#### Friday 24 November - *St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions*

No Mass Today

#### Saturday 25 November

11am Annual Mass for the Deceased (SJ)  
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*

#### Sunday 26 November - *Christ the King*

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*  
11am Mass (SB)  
12.15pm Baptism (SB)

### Parish Contact Details

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](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk)  
Website: [www.sbsj.org.uk](http://www.sbsj.org.uk)  
Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees  
Registered Charity - 250037  
Diocesan website: [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

This Newsletter is sponsored by

**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

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



[www.hfs.co.uk](http://www.hfs.co.uk)



**We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends:** Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Thomas Baker, Kathryn Browning, Rachel Edge, Fr Leo Heakin, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Ken Goodwin, Michael O'Connor, Joyce Strickleton, Christine Gardner, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Joan Turner

**Lately Dead:** Fr Vincent Naylor, Edna Baker, Bernard Harper, Gill Longworth, Peter Carroll, Ken Manual

**Anniversaries:** Bill Wheeler

**Mass Intentions:** Peter Carroll, Bill Wheeler

**During Ordinary Time (autumn), we pray for:** Students and teachers, the spread of the Gospel, the harvest, the fruits of human work, the reverent use of creation, justice and peace in the world, all victims of war, young people, prisoners and their families. *We pray for healing, a peaceful solution and restoration to the conflict in Gaza and Israel. We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine.*

Let us pray for the people of the parish of St Joseph, Reddish, for Fr Damien Loudon, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school. May they be faithful in things great and small.

**Offertory:** We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially.

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

**Newsletter:** Please note, next week's newsletter will cover two weekends (25/26 November and 2/3 December) If you have any items of news or Mass Intentions that you would like included over that time, please send these into the office before Thursday 23 November. Many thanks

**Fortalice Christmas Toy Collection:** As in previous years, we have been asked if parishioners would kindly donate a newly purchased gift or voucher for children at Fortalice. These will be collected at Masses on 15/16 December. Thank you for your continued support.

**Christmas Flower Demonstration:** Saturday 9 December at St Brendan's Church (1pm-3pm). Tickets are on sale at £5 per person.

Readers For 25/26 November 2023		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
A Grundy	A Hayes	L Lamoury
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ)		
A & V Rawlinson		

**Fire Safety - Appeal for Fire Wardens for St Brendan's:** To keep our parishioners safe we need volunteers to act as Fire Wardens. The fire wardens' job is to ensure, in the event of a fire, that the alarm is sounded, and everyone safely leaves the building. We hope that existing stewards & fire wardens will continue to volunteer. There is no requirement to be on a rota, we simply need a group of parishioners who know what to do in case of a fire. Training will take place at St Brendan's at 10.15am before the 11am Mass on Sunday 3 December and at 4.15pm before the Vigil Mass on Saturday 9 December. We invite fit and able parishioners to volunteer, especially as some parishioners with mobility difficulties might need your assistance in the case of fire. Please either email the Parish Office at [sbsj.org.uk](mailto:sbsj.org.uk) or just come along to the training session. Thank you.

**Health & Safety - St Brendan's**

**Sanctuary Steps** The flooring and steps leading to the sanctuary are not easy to differentiate. Simple brass handrails are being installed on Monday to create easier access. In the meanwhile, please take extra care. The votive candle stands have been moved for easier access. Please ensure that the offertory bags are placed in front of the lectern, not on the altar steps.

**Access Road:** This road has many potholes which may be a hazard to car users and pedestrians. The road is unadopted, so no-one has responsibility for its upkeep. The parish and school have expended significant sums of money on repairs, only to find that the road has further deteriorated. Representations are being made to Bolton Council to seek funding or repairs. Parishioners are advised to take special care when using the road.

**Paved Pathway from St Brendan's Church to the School:** The pathway leading from the car park to the school, which is heavily used by the school children and parents, is becoming damaged and worn especially due to adverse weather and surface water. To reduce the risks of slip and trips hazard all users are advised to take special care when using the pathway. The parish is seeking quotations to carry out the necessary repairs.

**Christmas Poinsettias:** If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia plant, in memory of a loved one, please take a request slip & envelope and place, with a donation (minimum £5), in the basket provided. The deadline for your request is Sunday 10 December.

**Churches in Harwood (Christmas Dinner on Jesus):** We aim to collect 200 jars of Cranberry Sauce (200g size) by the last Sunday in November (26/11/23).

**Parish Administrator - Blessed Dominic Barberi Parish, Bolton (replacement role)**

**Appointment Type:** Part-time, permanent

**Working hours:** 12 hrs per week - worked over two days

**Location:** St Osmund's Presbytery, Long Lane, Brightmet, Bolton, BL2 6EB.

**Salary:** £11.26 per hour. Find out more and apply at <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>