

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

3 March 2024

Laetare Sunday - Fourth Sunday in Lent



The image of Jesus that we see in today's Gospel can only be truly seen through the eyes of faith. When Nicodemus came to Jesus, he was looking for answers to the many questions Jesus was raising and which seemed to contradict his own beliefs. Nicodemus was a student of the scriptures, well versed in the Torah, the Law of God, yet here was a man, Jesus, who seemed to draw new meanings from the scriptures and through his miracles and his teaching was bringing new light into the darkness.

As they talked Jesus began to reveal to Nicodemus the real meaning of the Messiah; this was not the mighty king who would win freedom for Israel but a king who would rule in the hearts of the people. A king who would change the people of God into a spirit filled community who would show, by their actions, the love of God dwelling within them. Jesus reveals the Son of Man must be lifted up before the people, a direct indication of his death on the cross, and, through this lifting up, the people would come to believe in him. He speaks of a God who so loves the world that he willingly sacrifices his Son for them; a God who promises eternal life to all who believe in him.

Jesus is the Light of the World; now we no longer live in darkness but in his light. In darkness we find sin for sin cannot live in the light. Jesus shines to dispel the darkness and bring all who believe in him into God's clear light. We too must live as the man described in John's Gospel as "*the man who lives by the truth*". If we can do that then our light will shine and people will see that what we do is done in the name of God.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2
Divine Office Week 4; Roman Missal: p 568
Readings: p573. Preface: At priests choice

Sunday 10 March - Mothering Sunday

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*
11am Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*
3pm Stations of the Cross followed by short Adoration & Benediction (SB)



Monday 11 March

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 12 March

9.30am Mass (SB) - *Today Only*
11am Funeral Service for Susan Ainscough (SJ)
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)
7.30pm Churches in Harwood Lenten Course (SB)

Wednesday 13 March

9.30am Mass (SJ) - with Reception & Yr6
11am Funeral Service for Josette Marin (Overdale)

Thursday 14 March

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 15 March

No Mass Today

Saturday 16 March

10.45am Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*

Sunday 17 March - Fifth Sunday in Lent

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*
11am Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*
12.30pm Baptism (SJ)
3pm Stations of the Cross followed by short Adoration & Benediction (SJ)

Parish Contact Details

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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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, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Kathryn Browning, Fr Leo Heakin, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Joyce Strickleton, Christine Gardner, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Dr Allan Needham, Margaret Roberts, Margaret O'Brien

Lately Dead: John O'Connor, Susan Ainscough, Josette Marin, Sheila McGurk, Stephanie McKeown

Anniversaries: Teresa Wilson, Lillian Dawson, Alfeo & Bonifacia Doloroso

Mass Intentions: David Coffey (Birthday Remembrance), John O'Connor, Teresa Wilson, Sheila McGurk, Barbara Grimes (Birthday Remembrance), Lillian Dawson (21st Anniversary), Stephanie McKeown, Alfeo & Bonifacia Doloroso, A Special Intention, Deceased members of the O'Kane & Boardman families

During ordinary time (winter), we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers.

We pray for healing, a peaceful solution and restoration in the Middle East.

We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine.

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

A Mother's Day Prayer

Today, we give you thanks and praise for the gift of mothers.

We pray for the mothers-to-be, who are just beginning to be the bearers of new life in them, may they welcome their forthcoming child with loving anticipation and joy.

We pray for the young mothers; may they cherish their child with tender care and unconditional love.

We pray for the mothers who are separated from their children especially because of war, poverty, conflict, violence and for any other reasons; comfort them, strengthen their hope, and let them feel your loving embrace that wipes every tear away.

We pray for all mother-figures, those who have loved, surrounded and shaped us with motherly care and compassion.

We especially pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us, their sacrifices and care gave us a glimpse of the extent of your love for us.

Thank you for them. Grant health, blessings, and well-being for those our mothers who are still alive.

We also remember those mothers who are no longer with us. While they live forever in our hearts and memory grant them eternal rest and reward of their labours. Amen

Lenten Activities

Stations of the Cross at the Laudato Si' Centre
Join the Diocese of Salford's Laudato Si' Centre team on Saturday 16 March for a special Stations of the Cross in the midst of nature. For more information and to book, please visit <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lsc-stations-2024/>

Walk of Witness: Will be held, as usual, on Palm Sunday 24 March. Beginning at 2pm from Christ's Church Harwood.

The Easter Triduum

28 March Maundy Thursday
7.30pm (St John's)

29 March Good Friday
9.30am Confessions (St Brendan's)
10.30am Stations of the Cross (St Brendan's)
3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (St John's)

30 March Holy Saturday
7pm Easter Vigil (St Brendan's)

Marmalade 2024: Many thanks to all those who kindly bought marmalade last week. We raised the sum of £100 which has been divided equally between CAFOD and DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee) for their Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. I am especially grateful to those who donated more than just the price of each jar. I do hope your breakfasts will be improved as a result! *Peter*

Caritas Diocese of Salford St Patrick's Day Fundraiser: Clergy band *The Mercy Brothers* will join forces with St Cuthbert's parish folk group for a fun-filled evening to raise money for Caritas Diocese of Salford. The concert takes place on Friday 15 March, 7pm, at Thornleigh Salesian College. Tickets are £12 each (food included) are available by emailing: office@stcuthberts.org.uk

Destitution Project Lenten Gathering: Thank you for all your donations so far. We are continuing to collect: Tins of Chickpeas, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, long-life whole milk, long-life orange/apple juice, dried pasta (incl spaghetti), vegetable oil, sardines in oil, bags of sugar, carrier bags, & toilet rolls.

Readers For 16/17 March 2024		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Kearns	J Carroll	M Day
Eucharistic Minister's 9.30am (SJ) 17 March		
M Speed & A Gracie		