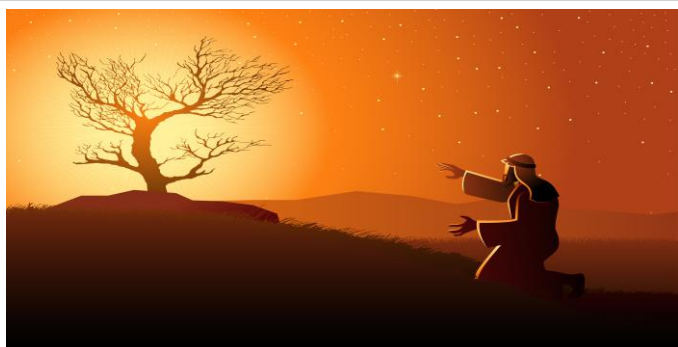


# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**23 March 2025**

## The Third Week of Lent



Lent is a time for repentance; it is a time to reflect on our lives and to start to make right those things that are out of harmony with God's love. There is a danger that we can lose the sense of what is sinful in our behaviour; that we take the mercy of God for granted. We have become familiar with the God of love, but we cannot just rely on His love to bring us to eternal life; we must live in a way that speaks to others of the love of God.

When I read the passages of scripture for this week, I am struck by the uncompromising message that they bring. The story of Moses and the burning bush always seemed very exciting; here was God choosing Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand freedom for the people of Israel. I had the image of Moses as a mighty warrior challenging the power of Egypt and bringing his people through the barren desert to a land of Milk and Honey. Then I read an article which described Moses as a murderer and a coward; one who killed an Egyptian and then ran away into the desert to hide from justice. I began to see that God chose him not out of his strength but out of his weakness, not because he was a hero but because he was a sinner. His strength came from repentance and through allowing God to transform him into someone who the people would follow, not through strength, but through faith.

Lent is also a time of transformation. Luke's gospel is a warning to the people of that time to change before it is too late. The people of Israel were heading towards a confrontation with the might of Rome and the way they were taking could only end in disaster. Jesus was trying to teach them a different way, but they would not listen. The parable of the Fig Tree is a reminder to us that we are given many chances to change and bear fruit; if we do not take these opportunities then we risk everything. God's love is there for each of us but if we turn away from that love then our fate may well be the same as the Fig tree. **David Frank**

### Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle C*

**Sunday 23 March** - *Retiring collection for The National Shrine at Walsingham*

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

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

3pm Stations of the Cross (SB) - followed by short Adoration

**Monday 24 March**

10am Requiem Mass for Joseph Cain (SB)

**Tuesday 25 March** - *The Annunciation of the Lord*

10am Mass (SB) (solemnity)

6.30pm Mass (SJ)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

**Wednesday 26 March**

9am Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ) - Followed by SVP Coffee Morning

**Thursday 27 March**

10am Mass (SB)

1pm Requiem Mass for Veronica Shaw (SB)

**Friday 28 March**

12noon Mass (SB)

**Saturday 29 March** -

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

***Clocks go forward***

**Sunday 30 March** - ***Mothering Sunday***

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

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

3pm Stations of the Cross (SJ) - followed by short Adoration

### 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)

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







**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, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Michael Latham, Kathryn Browning, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Eileen Fitzgerald, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Joyce Strickleton, Margaret Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Dr Allan Needham, Margaret Roberts, Margaret O'Brien, Kevin Knowles, Pat Howarth, Bernard Earp, Arnold Banks, Terry Smith, Michael Kitching, Jane Manuel, Pope Francis

**Lately Dead:** David Cummings, Geoffrey Farnworth, Pat Mainon, Michael Whyte, Veronica Shaw, Valerie Harvey, Joseph Cain

**Anniversaries:** Terence Gillett, Joan Grogan

**Mass Intentions:** Dorothy Killoran, Michael Whyte, Joan Grogan

**We are asked to pray for these intentions:** Candidates for the Sacraments; women; the needy & hungry of the world; penitents & 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.*

**We continue to pray for Pope Francis:**

*Heavenly Father, we thank you for the loving service of Pope Francis and the hope he has inspired in so many. We ask you to have mercy on him in his illness, guide the medical staff in his care, and grant him peace and healing. Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

**The Jubilee Prayer:** *Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.*

**Offertory:** We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially; if you are UK taxpayer, please consider gift aiding your kind donation, the parish will benefit at no extra cost to yourselves.

**Dona:** We can now accept cashless payments, using our contactless system.

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

**Congratulations:** To Jack James Lewin who was baptised last weekend. We pray that both he and his family may continue to grow in faith.

**Harbour Room Book Club:** Starts at 1pm, Wednesday 26 March. *A Terrible Kindness* by Jo Browning Wroe. All welcome.

### St Brendan's Church - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass

On 18 April 2025, St Brendan's Church will be celebrating 50 years since it first opened. The church was opened, 18 April 1975 by Bishop Holland, more than 40 priests were present. The church was then consecrated on 7 December 1983 by Bishop Holland.

As a parish community, we will be holding a special Mass on 1st May to commemorate this occasion and our Bishop, John Arnold, will celebrate this Mass. More details about this Mass will follow. If you have any old photographs (you would wish to share) please pass to Fr Alf (in a marked envelope) so we can return them to you.

### SVP News

**Coffee Morning:** We will hold our monthly coffee morning on Wednesday 26 March. This month we would like to treat everyone as a thank you for all your support, so there won't be a charge for drinks and tea-cakes!

**Summer Hanging Baskets:** Will be on sale at the end of April/May. There will be a list available in each church for those interested. More information will follow.

**Destitution Project:** Thank you for all your contributions so far. Please help us by donating the following items as they are so greatly appreciated by the Destitution project: Tins of chickpeas, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, long-life whole milk, long-life orange/apple juice, dried pasta (incl spaghetti), vegetable oil, sardines/tuna in oil, bags of sugar, carrier bags, & toilet rolls. The Destitution project is always so grateful for the support we give them. *Thank you.*

**200 Club Subscriptions:** Can be handed in by the following options: 1. Post or deliver to the Parish Office; 2. Leave in the basket provided at each church; 3. Contact me on 07528027295. For option 1 & 2 please place your subscription and contact details on an envelope FAO Ann Gracie. Please make Cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**. If anyone requires additional numbers, please contact me on the above number. Thank you, *Ann*.

**Offertory Envelopes for 2025/26:** These are ready to collect in each church. Thank you

**Retiring Collection for Walsingham:** Today we hold a one-off, collection for the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. This is to raise additional funds for the Shrine in the Jubilee Year. *Thank you.*

### Readers for 29/30 March 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
C Molyneux	P Partington	C Bridge
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 23 March		
P McArdle & J Summerton		