

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

30 March 2025

The Fourth Week of Lent – Laetare Sunday



When we look at a familiar passage from scripture it is very easy to presume that we know the message it contains. Sometimes we fail to grasp the opportunity of looking at the passage through the eyes of today and so we stay with images from our past which can be old and staid. Each time we read a passage we should ask ourselves what is this saying to me now; how relevant is this to who I am today?

At the beginning of today's Gospel passage there is a reference to two groups: the tax collectors and the sinners and the Pharisees and the scribes. Jesus, in the parable, is trying to teach us something about our attitudes to people and how we need to embrace change in our lives. We begin with the rebel, the younger son, he is the one we take a dislike to because he offends our sense of morality. He takes the hard-earned money his father has made and wastes it on sex, drugs and rock and roll. When it is gone, he reaches rock bottom and feels sorry for himself; reflecting on his life he realises that even the least in his father's house has much more than he has. He swallows his pride and sets off back towards his home. Just like the tax collectors and the sinners he wants to turn his life round.

The older son looks on his returning brother with disdain. How can this wretch hope for forgiveness, he will always be a waste of space! Why can't my father see through his lies and deceptions and turn him away from the door. After all, I am always faithful, I have always led a good life, and I deserve my father's love so much more than he does. Do you recognise the older son? Does he sound like a Pharisee or a scribe, does he sound like someone you know?

Saint Paul tells us that there is a new creation. *All this is from God who, through Christ, reconciled us to himself and gave us the sacrament of reconciliation.* We are ambassadors for Christ; we are to work in his vineyard and give all who dwell there the opportunity to be reconciled to our heavenly Father. There will be saints and sinners, the self-righteous and the downtrodden. All need to be welcomed, none turned away. The Father, in today's parable, does not judge but welcomes, does not make rules but embraces the younger son and celebrates. This Lent, today, we are called to do the same.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

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



Monday 31 March

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 1 April

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

Wednesday 2 April

9am Adoration (SJ)
9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 3 April

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 4 April

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 5 April

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 6 April

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

Parish Contact Details

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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, 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: Gavin Wade, Moira Brannagan, Mike Croft, David Cummings, Pat Mainon, Veronica Shaw, Joseph Cain

Anniversaries: John Reddy, Fred Davies, Maureen Southworth, Daniel & Veronica Evans

Mass Intentions: Frank McDowell (90th Birthday Remembrance), A special intention, John Reddy, Fred Davies, Gavin Wade, Moira Brannagan, David Badley (Birthday Remembrance), Maureen Southworth, Veronica Shaw, In honour of the Rosa Mystica, Daniel & Veronica Evans, Jack & Nellie Shechter

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 and Ukraine.

We continue to pray for Pope Francis

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 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

200 Club Subscriptions: Can be handed in by the following options: Post or deliver to the Parish Office; Leave in the basket provided at each church; Contact me on 07528027295. 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

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Father, thank you for mothers and for all the joy of family life.

Be with those who are grieving for their mothers; be close to expectant mothers and those who aren't yet mothers; be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.

Let your love be present in every home and help your eyes to see and ears to hear all who come.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

SVP News

Thank you: Even though the Wednesday coffee morning held as a thank you, we still had some extremely generous parishioners who donated. This kind gift (£176.30) will be used to help children in our parish. Thank you!

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 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.

St Brendan's Church - 50th Anniversary Mass

On 18 April 2025, St Brendan's Church will be celebrating 50 years since it first opened. The church was opened on 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 Mass on 1st May to commemorate this occasion and our Bishop, John Arnold, will be our main celebrant. 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.

Thought for the Week...

"May each family rediscover family prayer, which helps to bring about forgiveness."

Pope Francis

Readers for 5/6 April 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
N Bunting	M Roe	M Day
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 6 April J Carroll & S May		