

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

6 April 2025

The Fifth Week of Lent



The call in Lent is to reconciliation and to change. In today's first reading we are reminded of the great blessings we receive from the Sacrament of Reconciliation; we are urged "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old". We need to believe we can be forgiven. God promises that he will provide a new thing, a way in the wilderness, that all we need to do is open our eyes to perceive it. He will take us from the wilderness of our lives and create a new road for us to follow.

Paul is making a journey from obedience to the Law and living as a devout Jew to living as a Christian and following a crucified Christ. This is not an easy choice, it is a difficult road to follow but Paul says "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord", He realises that he does not walk alone, that without the guidance of the Spirit and his faith in the resurrection of Jesus he would not be able to walk this road. But he tries, just like an athlete; he strives for the finishing line. Paul speaks to from the heart; this is a personal testimony in which he accepts that he can only do this with the help of Christ.

The Gospel is also speaking about our attitude to others who we judge as sinners. This time it is a woman who is in trouble; as an adulteress she is under sentence of death by stoning; a cruel punishment in a male dominated society. The Jews use this as a test against Jesus, hoping to trap him into an indiscretion. Jesus sees through their motives he says a few words then turns his attention to marks he is making in the sand. The mob is challenged by the words of Jesus "Let him who is without sin throw the first stone at her" and one by one they walk away unable to face their own sins. Often, we judge others.; we apply to them rules which we do not apply to ourselves. We need to learn to hate the sin but love the sinner. Change is always necessary; real change makes a difference in our lives, and this is the change that Jesus wants us, and the woman taken in adultery to make. **David Frank**

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 6 April - **CAFOD Emergency Appeal**

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 7 April

9.15am Whole School Mass (SC School)

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 8 April

10am Mass (SB) with Yr4

1.30pm Mike Croft Funeral Service (Radcliffe Crematorium)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

Wednesday 9 April

9am Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 10 April

10am Requiem Mass for David Cummings (SB)

Friday 11 April

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 12 April

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

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

Sunday 13 April - **Palm Sunday**

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With

Children's Liturgy

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

2pm Walk of Witness - Christ's Church Harwood



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

Website: www.sbsj.org.uk

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Peel House

638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.

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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: Anne Devine, Gavin Wade, Moira Brannagan, Mike Croft, David Cummings, Veronica Shaw

Anniversaries: Marcelino Maio, Judith Towler (nee Finlay), Jim Smith, Jack Gallagher, John Cranshaw, Jessie Carter

Mass Intentions: Jim Smith, A special Intention for all, Jack Gallagher, Jessie Carter, Jesus Espiritu (Birthday Remembrance), Rosa Mystica, John Cranshaw, In thanksgiving for 30th wedding anniversary Zbigniew and Susan Mikolajewski

We are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; women; the needy & hungry of the world; penitents & wanderers
We pray for all the victims and their families after the recent, devastating earthquake in Myanmar.
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.

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

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

Michael Whyte RIP: Karen, Dorothy, Anthony and families would like to thank Fr Alf for a beautiful service, all friends and families for their messages of sympathy, prayers and Mass cards received after their very sad loss of Michael. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered up for all. Thank you & God Bless.

Church Cleaning St John's: The general clean for Easter will be on Tuesday 15 April 10am. There will be hot cross buns available afterwards!

The Assisted Dying Bill: The Bill is scheduled for a third reading in Parliament later this month; as a Church we are encouraged to unite in prayer. This bill will undermine the sanctity of human life and we are encouraged to continue to write to our MPs. Cards to assist can be found at the back of our churches.

Mass of the Sacred Chrism: Will be held on Wednesday 16 April (11am) at St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst. We have 3 tickets for any parishioners who would wish to attend. Please see Fr Alf.

CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal: Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. Thank you

SVP News

The SVP groups of St Johns and St Brendan's have amalgamated to form *Corpus Christi SVP*. All future cheques to our SVP should be made payable to **Corpus Christi SVP**.

Summer Hanging Baskets: Lists are available in each church for those interested.

Destitution Project: Thank you for all your contributions so far. We have reached the target on most items but if you could help with the following, we would be very grateful: tinned fruit, long-life whole milk, long-life orange/apple juice, vegetable oil, bags of sugar, carrier bags. *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. As a parish community, we will be holding a Mass on 1st May (7pm) to commemorate this occasion and our Bishop, John Arnold, will be our main celebrant. 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.

200 club winners for March:

1st prize £50 D Whyte

2nd prize £25 F Doloroso

3rd prize £15 E Connolly

Readers for 12/13 April 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
G Drabble	J Summerton	P Brennan
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 13 April V & A Rawlinson		