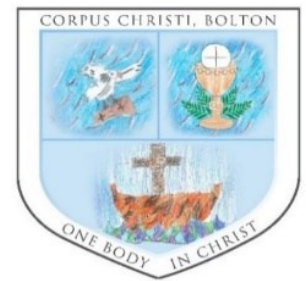


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

27 April 2025

Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy



The rise of Christianity began a struggle between the power of this world, mainly associated with the Roman Empire, and the world of the Holy Spirit. Christianity was something new and was seen as a threat against the established order, this led to persecution of the faith, and this is reflected in the books of the New Testament. The Book of the Apocalypse is written in a language of images and symbols. It follows some books of the Old Testament such as Daniel in which the message is hidden behind the images. John is believed to be the Apostle John, and the book is written in his old age. It is a difficult book to follow and, over the next few weeks, strange ideas and images will fill our imagination.

The miracles of Jesus did not stop at His death; today's first reading reminds us that His power was passed down to the apostles and that the healing continued. Life revolved around religious observance; if you turned away from the Jewish faith then you would lose your social status and your job. Despite this the group known as the faithful continued to grow and their influence spread through the city.

Thomas has a unique role to play in the Gospels. He is the one who brings a common sense, down to earth, attitude to faith in Christ. When he speaks, he speaks for all who need a clear understanding of events. In an early chapter of John, when Jesus is speaking of going to prepare a place for his followers, he is the one who says to Jesus "we do not know where you are going so how do we know the way". It is this practical side of Thomas which is so important. Today he refuses to believe on the word of others; he needs to see for himself.

We do not have the opportunity that Thomas has; we cannot see Jesus or touch his wounds, but because Thomas sees and believes we can have the confidence to confirm our faith in Him when, at the Eucharistic table, we pray the affirmation of faith "My Lord and My God", Faith is a mystery and is not given to all, we should always be thankful for the little faith we have for then we can be part of the community to whom Jesus promises "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 27 April

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

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

Monday 28 April - St George (Solemnity)

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 29 April - St Catherine of Siena

10am Mass (SB) - With Yr3

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 30 April

9am Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

1pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB)

Thursday 1 May

7pm St Brendan's 50th Anniversary Mass (SB)

Followed by refreshments in St Brendan's School

Friday 2 May - St Athanasius

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 3 May - Ss Philip & James

10.45am Confession & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

5pm Mass (SB)

Sunday 4 May-

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

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

1pm Baptism (SJ)

This month, St Brendan's church celebrated its 50th year as a place of worship - on Thursday we are delighted to welcome Bishop John to our parish to commemorate this anniversary.

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

Lately Dead: His Holiness Pope Francis, Stanley Edge
Anniversaries: Rose Heron

Mass Intentions: David Gracie (Birthday Remembrance), Stanley Edge, Rose Heron (Birthday Remembrance)

We are asked to pray for these intentions: New members of the Church, vocations, the right use of the media, the Church and human work.

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.

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.

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

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

His Holiness Pope Francis

We were all saddened to hear of the death of the Holy Father on Easter Monday.

May his teaching live on so that the dignity of every person may be valued and protected and that there be peace in our world and care for our common home.

We continue to keep Pope Francis in our prayers. In light of the Holy Father's requiem on Saturday, there will be no morning confessions or adoration this Saturday (26 April), and Fr Alf will celebrate Mass at St John's (12 noon) for the Holy Father. If you wish to send condolences by email, this can be done via: fransiscus.angb@gmail.com



The Holy Father, Pope Francis, died on Easter Monday, 21st April 2025

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of the late Holy Father

O God, immortal shepherd of souls,
look on your people's prayers
and grant that your servant Pope Francis,
who presided over your Church in charity,
may, with the flock entrusted to his care,
receive from your mercy
the reward of a faithful servant.
This we ask through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We pray for the Church during this time of *sede vacante*

We pray, almighty God,
that your Church may always remain that holy people,
formed as one by the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
which manifests to the world
that Sacrament of your holiness and unity,
and leads it to the perfection of your charity.
Grant to your Church, we pray,
a new Holy Father, filled with your Holy Spirit,
even as we mourn the passing of Pope Francis;
that your Church may continue steadfast in faith
in confessing your name to the world.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

SVP News

Michael Wright, a member of our parish SVP, is walking a 200km stretch of the famous pilgrimage route of Camino Santiago de Compostella at the beginning of May. He is hoping to raise some money for the work that our SVP does in this parish, which includes helping families in difficulty, sponsoring activity trips for young children, supporting the Destitute Centre in Bolton as well as those in our local prisons and their families.

If you feel able to donate, please add your name to the sponsor sheet at the back of church. Prayers will be said at the many chapels and churches on the route for our parish and its charitable works. *Thank you.*

Confirmation Course: The next date for the course (Thursday 1 May) has now been cancelled due to the Anniversary Mass for St Brendan's Church on the same evening.

Readers for 3/4 May 2025

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
A Grundy	J Carroll	L Lamoury
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 4 May P McArdle & J Summerton		