

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

11 May 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



The shepherds of the Old Testament led a lonely, dangerous life. Sheep were an important asset in the economy of their land. They needed to be on their guard against both human and animal predators. Some shepherds were hired hands, but others had close relationships with their flocks, they knew each one by name. They lived in the hills of the high country, beset by the conditions, heat in summer, cold in winter, their nights filled with the sounds of the wind, ever vigilant and far from human company, the smell of the sheep was strong and made them isolated by the nearby village communities.

Shepherds were the first to hear of the birth of our saviour. The wondrous song of the Angels calling them down from the hills to the village of Bethlehem and a wooden stall in a cave where the King of Kings was laid. We hear stories of shepherds throughout the Bible. Abraham had his flocks, Moses minded the flocks of his father-in-law Jethro, the well where Jesus met the Samaritan Woman was built for the flocks of Jacob and his sons. The parable of the lost sheep reminds us of the compassion of God who, forsaking the ninety-nine who are safe, leaves them to search for the one who is missing.

When Jesus says that He is the Good Shepherd he is announcing a message to His people, His flock. Many shepherds were hired men who had no bond with their sheep and when trouble came, they would disappear leaving the sheep to their fate. Jesus knows His sheep and they know Him. He does not run away but stays with his sheep, his people, and sees them through whatever may befall them. We hear his voice each time the Word of God is proclaimed. This is a tremendous gift that we sometimes take for granted; familiar stories often lose their impact through repetition. If Jesus appeared amongst us and spoke, we would be lost for words and cling to his message. He speaks to us in the Gospels, He is really present in the Word we hear at Mass; we must hold each sentence in our hearts, and it will feed us, as the Eucharist feeds us. Never lose your love for the Word for it is a gift from God that will guide, nurture and lead you to eternal life.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle C

Sunday 11 May - A Day of Special prayer for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and religious life

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 12.30pm Baptism (SB)

A Special Collection for the Ecclesiastical **Education Fund**

Monday 12 May 6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 13 May

10am Mass (SB) With year 2 7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 14 May - St Matthius

9am Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 15 May 10am Mass (SB)

Friday 16 May

12noon Mass (SB)

Saturday 17 May

10am First Communion Mass for St Brendan's (SB) 5pm Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 18 May

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 12.30pm Baptism (SB)

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

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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: Barbara Anderson

Anniversaries: David Badley, James Healey, Robert Grant

Mass Intentions: David Badley, Mark Villa (Birthday Remembrance), Someone Sick, James Healey, Robert Grant, John Smith, Barbara Anderson

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 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.

As the cardinals gather in conclave, we as a Church pray:

Holy Spirit, enlighten the Church at this time, especially all the cardinals you call to take part in the conclave. Grant them wisdom and holiness so that all may cooperate with your inspiration and guidance to elect the next Vicar of Christ, your chosen servant. Through Christ our Lord. 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 Halle Eve Rushton who was baptised last Sunday. Let us pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith.

Ecclesiastical Education Fund: We are grateful to all those who support vocations within the diocese. We ask that you continue to pray for our seminarians and all those who are on the journey of discernment. We also give thanks to all those who have chosen to serve the diocese.

SVP News

Hanging Baskets Collection dates:

Saturday 17 May at St John's Church (from 12noon onwards)

Sunday 18 May at St Brendan's Church (after 11am Mass)

Cash is preferred for payments, but cheques are also acceptable - please make payable to:

Corpus Christi SVP, Bolton. Thank You

Michael Wright, a member of our parish SVP, is walking a 200km stretch of the famous pilgrimage route of Camino Santiago de Compostella. He is hoping to raise some money for the work that our SVP does in this parish. 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*.

St Brendan's Anniversary Mass: It was such a privilege and blessing to have Bishop John visit our Parish last week. He described the evening as a very happy occasion. Thank you to Mrs Brindley and the school for use of their facilities and everyone who assisted and attended to make it such a memorable evening. It was good that Carmine could return and serve for the Mass. On this Vocation Sunday weekend, please keep all our students in your prayers as they continue their journey towards Ordination. God Bless Fr Alfred

Other News From Around the Diocese

Laudato Si' Centre Gardening Club: Parish Groups and volunteers are invited to join the team at the centre to explore sustainable gardening techniques and to come together in shared faith to care for our common home. To find out more, please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell: The Diocese of Salford's Pilgrimage Office is delighted to announce a prayerful pilgrimage to Our Lady's shrine at Ladyewell, taking place on Saturday 28 June. For more information please visit:

https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/ladyewell-pilgrimage-2025

Readers Rota: The next rota will be available in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to consider becoming a reader at any Mass, please contact the Parish Office. Similarly, please contact us if you no longer wish to read.

Readers for 17/18 May 2025		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
A Grundy	G Drabble	C Owen
Eucharistic Ministers 9.30am (SJ) 18 May		
V & A Rawlinson		