

13 May 2018

The Seventh Sunday of Easter



As the joyous season of Easter draws to a close, this Sunday's Scripture brings our focus onto Christ's loving relationship with us. We see how the very early Church decided that the person who was to replace Judas needed to be someone who had known Jesus personally from the very start of his ministry, and had witnessed his suffering, death and resurrection. We can pray with great joy the Psalm of thanks for all the blessings of God's love - a love that is calling all of us into a deeper personal relationship. John's letter (Second Reading) is like a summary of the Good News and the mystery of the Resurrection. We are encouraged to love one another. It is through our loving relationships that we will come to know God more fully. God is love, and God shares the Spirit of love with us when we die to ourselves and give ourselves fully to love. In John's Gospel we hear Jesus praying to the Father for his followers. Jesus wants us to share fully in his joy. It is in this spirit of Easter joy that we are sent out into the world to draw all people into that relationship of love of which each and every one is invited to be a part. Let us pray for the grace to be able to live out the joy of the Gospel of love in every part of our life!

**Marriage Matters**

**Strive for Unity:** Since even before we were married, we have worked to bring about our unity in our love relationship. Today we are reminded that by loving one another; *"God will live in us and His love will be complete in us"*. Let's take a moment to hold hands, look at each other and say "you are my beloved 'till the end of time".

**Think Vocation**

We are called to live in accord with the calling we have received, whether as priest, religious, married or single; encouraging one another by the example of our lives

Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 3</i> <b>Sunday Missal:</b> Page 793; Readings: page 796; <i>Preface: At priest's choice</i>
<b>Sunday 13 May</b> 9am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 2pm Baptism (SB) <b>World Communications Day</b>
<b>Monday 14 May - St Matthias</b> 9.30am Mass (SB) 7pm Needles (Harbour Room, SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)
<b>Tuesday 15 May</b> 7pm Mass 7.15pm SVP (SB)
<b>Wednesday 16 May</b> 9.30am Mass (SJ) 10am Book Club Outing to The People's Museum
<b>Thursday 17 May</b> 9.15am (SB) 7.15pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room) 7.30pm Lourdes at Home (Wardley Hall)
<b>Friday 18 May</b> 9.30am Mass (SJ)
<b>Saturday 19 May</b> 10.30am-12noon Baptism Preparation Course (Patmos Room, SJ) 5pm Mass (SB)
<b>Sunday 20 May Pentecost Sunday</b> 9am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy <b>A Day of Special Prayer for the Church</b>

**This weekend Fr Michael celebrates his last Masses with us. As the parish of Corpus Christi gather together, let us pray for him, wish him well and ask the Lord to stay with him on his journey.**

## Prayers Please

**Sick:** Isabelle Owen, Laura Shuttleworth, Bernard Holder, Eileen Murphy, Joan Pearce, Pauline Bowling, Caroline Garside, Sarah Parkinson, Linda Southern, Callum Fazackerley, Mary Cassidy, Tony Wright, Janet Rabbett, Mike Greenhalgh, June Dawson, Greta Barlow, Cassie Wilson, Christine Hasleden, Jude McCann Brown, Maureen Woodward, Rose Adams, Valerie Piddock, Irene Parkinson, Father Francis McCauley, Zachary Ainscough (aged 8), Mary Bagg, Mary Castle, Peggy Ainscow, Christine Everitt, Mark O'Brien, Sheila Derbyshire, Margaret Gibson, Kathleen & Arnold Banks, Andrew Rostron, Michaela (Sick child), Linda Marsh, Ross Smith (young person), Vernon Holt, Marie Williams and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness

**Lately Dead:** Maureen Branagan, Michael Kelleher, Philip & Marie Derbyshire, Audrey Pawson, Margaret Knowles

**Anniversaries:** Rita Bell, Thomas Howarth, Patrick Kelly, Lola Anne Cosgrave

**Mass Intentions:** Gerard Lamoury (Birthday Remembrance), Rita Bell (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary), Thomas Howarth, Patrick Kelly, James Wheeler (Birthday Remembrance), Deceased members of the Villa and Strange families, Grateful thanks to Our Blessed Lady & St Brendan for prayers answered and favours received, Maureen Branagan, In special remembrance of Lola Anne Cosgrave (aged 15 days)

### Cycle of Prayer Part 4 (of 6):

We pray especially for: new members of the Church; vocations; the right use of the media; the Church; human work

## Hope in the Future

We pray, as one Diocese united in prayer, for the people of the parish of:

St Stephen's, Droylsden and Fr Bernard Wilson their parish priest.

St Anne's, Openshaw and their parish priest Fr Chris Lough.

We pray for the Presentation Sisters and for the primary schools serving these parishes.

May we all pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

### Facts and Figures

#### Mass Attendance

5/6 May 5pm-119; 9am-171; 11am-132  
Total-422

#### Offertory Collection

5/6 May: £1,005.35

Standing Orders (4 May - 10 May) -  
£1,384.75

**Cheques:** Whilst we are awaiting our new bank account for the parish, please make all cheques payable to St John's. Thank you.

**World Communications Day:** Today, Catholics are encouraged to pray for all those professionals who work in the field of Communications. A particular intention for prayer is for those who are responsible for communicating on behalf of the Catholic Church in this country. The communications office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales supports the bishops, in their witness and engagement with current issues, and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through digital, social, print and broadcast media. The office is the central point for media enquiries and is a key resource for national and international media professionals. It also plays an important role in developing the public profile of the Church through word and image. Please help us continue this work through contributing generously to the special collection. Prayer cards are also available at the back of each church.



**Congratulations:** To Louisa Kate Rawlinson who was baptised at St John's last Sunday. We pray that she and her family may continue to grow in faith.

**Fair-Trade:** The Fair-Trade stall will be open after Masses this weekend. Thank you for your continuing support. As well as helping to lift producers in the developing world out of poverty, the sales in 2017 generated a contribution of £60 to CAFOD.

**St John's 200 Club:** There are still twenty-five numbers available. Please see Frances Smith if you would like to join or contact the parish office 01204 301927.

### SVP News

**SVP Outing:** The Spring outing for the elderly, disabled and housebound will be on Sunday 3 June at St Joseph's Blackburn. There is a list at the back of each church for those wishing to go on the outing and for those who are able to offer transport.

**SVP Sponsored Walk:** Will be held on Sunday 1 July. More details to follow soon



Thank you to all who supported the concert on Friday evening. The amount raised will be published next week.

As all donations to CAFOD before 12 May will be doubled by the Government, in anticipation of these proceeds, together with other monies collected lately, we have sent a further £751.20 to CAFOD (which is worth £1,502.40 to them).

**Trip to the People's Museum (Wednesday 16 May):** We shall depart by coach from outside St Brendan's (or the Vet's) at 10am prompt. It is a popular museum, and there will be queues for lunch, but we have asked for some reserved tables. There is a Gift Shop and plenty to see. We depart at 2.30pm and should be back at St Brendan's at 3.15pm. We have just four spare places if anyone would like to join us.

**Salford Diocese Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2018:** After an early start last Saturday morning, coach number one (out of nine) left St John's Church on a beautiful May morning to start our journey to Walsingham.

While some of us dozed, we passed through beautiful countryside and arrived in the village at 12noon, where we had chance to look around this wonderful little place before meeting up to start the procession to the Shrine.

Bishop John blessed the statue of Our Lady and was so grateful for the fantastic turnout this year. He asked that we spread the word to others who may like to come in the future.

Walking the Rosary mile was quite incredible. Although we were really lucky with the weather, the tranquility and stillness allowed time for prayer and reflection and a chance to walk alongside other pilgrims not just from our own parish, but from across the diocese

For those who had never seen the Shrine before, it was quite simply a moment of instant peace as the whole place is filled with such spirituality. There was a service of Reconciliation in the chapel and we were lucky enough to have nine priests with us. Afterwards the Chapel was prepared for Mass, and the wide doors were opened up so that people could sit inside and out. Many of us took advantage of the weather and sat outside. How blessed we were to be able to come together for Mass in such a beautiful place! Although the journey home was tiring, and we didn't arrive back until 11pm, we all agreed it had definitely been a wonderful and memorable day.

If you are able to go next year, it is guaranteed you will get so much out of the day (even if it is long), although, we can't guarantee the same glorious weather!

**Baptism Preparation:** Our next preparation session takes place on Saturday 19 May (10.30am-12noon) in the Patmos Room at St John's. This is for parents from our parish who wish to have a child baptised in the coming months. Please contact the parish office if you wish to attend on 301927 or email [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk)

**Readers' Rota:** The rota for June - August is now available at the back of each church. It is also available to view on our parish website by looking under "Liturgy & Activities - Readers List" on the home page.

**Lourdes at Home:** Lourdes at Home is a series of Marian Devotions at Wardley Hall and Cemetery. They will take place every Thursday in May at 7.30pm. Please see the poster at the back of church.

**Thy Kingdom Come - The Global wave of Prayer 10-20 May:** *Praying that people come to know Jesus Christ.* At the heart of this global action is the desire that Christians pray in the special days between Ascension and Pentecost; *Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*


**Fostering Fortnight:** There's an increasing and pressing need for foster carers across Greater Manchester and East Lancashire. Could you give a child a loving home as a Foster Carer? Our Caritas Fostering Team invites you to find out more at our coffee and cake morning. Meet some of our foster parents and learn what it takes to become a foster carer. Join us 10.30am-12.30pm on Friday 18 May, at Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP.

RSVP [info@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:info@caritassalford.org.uk) or call 0161 817 2280.

**Christian Meditation:** The dates for May are: Tuesday 22nd & 29th May and Thursday 17th & 31st May. The group meets in the Harbour Room at St Brendan's and all are most welcome.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 19/20 May		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	J O'Connor	TBA
9am (SJ)	M Roe	M Russell, M Speed, A Gracie, F Smith, S May, M Cropper
11am (SB)	C Owen	M Durkan, C Owen, P Brennan

This Newsletter is sponsored by  
**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**  
 Peel House  
 638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.  
 BL1 7AL  
 01204 309609



www.hf.co.uk



# Hope in the Future

## Parish Novena to the Holy Spirit



The following Novena is to be said the days between Ascension and Pentecost. The daily prayer remains the same but each day there is an opportunity to reflect on the different Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Each day pray for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:**

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples. We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward.

The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion.

The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may.

The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love.

The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth.

The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow.

The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you.

**Day 2 (Saturday 12 May).** Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of *Piety* so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary

### ***Followed daily by:***

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth*

**Day 3 (Sunday 13 May).** Spirit of the Living God, Courage grant us today the gift of *Courage* so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary

**Day 4 (Monday 14 May).** Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of *Knowledge* so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

**Day 5 (Tuesday 15 May).** Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of *Understanding*, so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary

**Day 6 (Wednesday 16 May).** Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of *Counsel*, so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

**Day 7 (Thursday 17 May).** Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of *Awe and Wonder*, so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

**Day 8 (Friday 18 May).** Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of *Healing*, so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

**Day 9 (Saturday 19).** Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of *Discernment*, so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

## A Farewell Message

After almost 12 years here in Bolton, the time has come for me to bid you farewell. When I look back on those 12 years, it is with very happy memories and a feeling of having been privileged to serve you at a time of great change for the parishes that have grown together into Corpus Christi. The journey has not always been smooth and straightforward and some things have taken longer than anticipated to come to fruition. However, I believe that things are now in a much stronger position than they were 12 years ago and I want to thank everyone who has played a part in making that the reality that it is today.

I am particularly grateful to those who helped with specific projects (such as the refurbishment of St Brendan's church and presbytery or the building of the new Patmos Room) as well as those who have consistently continued to undertake particular roles within the parish (whether liturgical, social, charitable or administrative). The Parish Enabling Team are a great asset, together with the more recently formed Parish Finance Committee, Parish Property Committee and Parish Social Committee. As *Hope in the Future* unfolds, there will be many further opportunities for people to become involved and offer their gifts and talents in the service of the parish. I trust that you will give your new parish priest a warm welcome and work co-operatively with him (as you did with me).

I am conscious that in recent years, with increased diocesan commitments, I have not been able to do as much as I would like to have done here - and particularly with our wonderful schools, the three parish primary schools and Thornleigh College. I am grateful for the support given by assistant priests: Fr Joe Gee, Fr Séan O'Brien and, of course, Fr Frank. Without their help, and the active involvement of so many of you, we could not have achieved so much over these years.

Thank you for your welcome and your support and thank you for your good wishes as I move to pastures new. God bless you all in the years ahead.

*Fr Michael*