

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

4 November 2018

Thirty-First Week of Ordinary Time



Every priest, and indeed every Catholic, can sometimes find themselves in the position of someone asking “This religion of yours what’s it all about, really, when you come down to it? What’s the bottom line?”


Our temptation might be to start going on at length, which is when we should remember this Gospel. Jesus, asked a very similar question, pins our faith down to two very simple things love of God and love of neighbour which together make up the foundation for everything else in our religion. The very simplicity of these two commandments is a gift, so that we can try to live them out each day of our lives. The first commandment, which is also that given by Moses in the first reading, is actually a prayer that our Jewish brothers and sisters still recite every single day. Jesus, our perfect High Priest, gives us these two commandments to be written in our heads and our hearts, to remember each day, so that we may conduct ourselves in the paths of the Kingdom of God.

### Marriage Matters

**Remember our wedding vows:** In the Old Testament, Moses said: “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength.” In Mark’s gospel Jesus completes this commandment: “You must love your neighbour as yourself”. Your wife, your husband, is the nearest neighbour you have! This is what we promised each other on our wedding day.

### Think Vocation

We can all think of priests or religious who have made a deep impression on us but have now died. November is the month the Church remembers the faithful departed. In remembering them we need to be grateful for the way we have been brought closer to our Lord Jesus by the example and inspiration of those who have now died.

<p><i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office Week 3</i>  <i>Sunday Missal: Page 484; Readings page 486 Preface: At priest’s choice</i></p>
<p><b>Sunday 4 November</b>                  9am Mass (SJ) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i>                  11am Mass (SB) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i></p>
<p><b>Monday 5 November</b>                  9.30am Mass (SB)                  7pm Needles (Harbour Room, SB)                  7.45pm SVP (SJ)</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 6 November</b>  <b>9am Mass (SJ)</b>                  6pm Sacramental Programme Meeting and Presentation (SB)                  7pm Becoming Catholic Course (SJ)                  7.15pm SVP (SB)                  7.30pm Finance Meeting (Patmos Room, SJ)</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 7 November</b>                  9.15am Yr 4 Class Mass (SC)</p>
<p><b>Thursday 8 November</b>                  9.15am Yr3 Mass (SB) - <i>Prayer</i></p>
<p><b>Friday 9 November - <i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i></b>                  9.30am Mass (SJ)</p>
<p><b>Saturday 10 November - <i>St Leo the Great</i></b>                  10.30am-12noon Baptism Preparation Course (SB, Harbour Room)                  2pm Baptism (SJ)                  5pm Mass (SB) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i>  <i>A Special Collection for</i></p>
<p><b>Sunday 11 November - <i>the Retired Clergy fund</i></b>                  9am Mass (SJ) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i>                  11am Mass (SB) - <i>with Children’s Liturgy</i>                  11am Remembrance Services at Dunscair War Memorial &amp; Bolton Town Hall Square                  2pm Baptism (SJ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Remembrance Sunday</b> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please note there will not be coffee after the 9am Mass at St John’s today.</i></p>

### Prayers Please

We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends. Bernard Holder, Fr John Ashton (SB), Peter McGowan

**Lately Dead:** Frank Tomlinson, Cilene da Fonseca Rebelo, Kathleen Rostron, Joan Pearce, Margorie Greenhalgh, Kathryn Hinks (née Ashworth), Mel McGarron, Denis Burke, Judith Martin, Edith Brooks, Michael Greenhalgh

**Anniversaries:** Danny McKenna, George Cowley, Dorothy Hodget, Winifrede O'Connor, Terry McQuaid, Fr Denis Sheahan

**Mass Intentions:** Frank Tomlinson, Peter McGowan, Cynthia Winstanley (Birthday Remembrance), a sick person, George Cowley, Fr Livesey, Denis Burke, Deceased relatives & friends of the Carter & Mathen families, Michael Hollingsworth (Birthday Remembrance), All members of the Egan, Williamson, Hollingsworth & Martin Family and their relatives living or deceased, Dorothy Hodget, Cilene da Fonseca Rebelo, Kathleen Rostron, Joan Pearce, Margorie Greenhalgh, Kathryn Hinks (née Ashworth), Mel McGarron, Denis Burke, Judith Martin, Edith Brooks, Winifrede O'Connor, Terry McQuaid, Fr Denis Sheahan

**Cycle of Prayer Part 6 (of 6):** We pray especially for: the spread of the Gospel; the harvest; the fruits of human work & the reverent use of creation; justice and peace in the world; all victims of war; young people; prisoners & their families.

### Hope in the Future

Let us pray for the people of the parishes of St Dunstan and St John Vianney, Moston, with Fr Saunders, their parish priest, and for the people of the parish of St Edward, Lees, with Mgr Marsland and Fr Brown. We pray for their primary schools, and for St Matthew's High School.

Let us remember our baptismal calling to become truly holy.

### Facts and Figures

#### Mass Attendance

27/28 October:

5pm-141; 9am-196; 11am -153

Total - 490

#### Offertory Collection

27/28 October: £1,116.23

Standing Orders (13 Oct-28 October) - £494

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



**Congratulatory:** To Nicole Wixted and Naomi Wixted who were baptised at St John's's last Saturday. We pray that they and their family may continue to grow in faith.

**Marjorie Greenhalgh RIP:** After celebrating her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday last week, it is with sadness that we now have to let you know that Margorie died on Tuesday 30 October. Our prayers are with her family.

**Thank you:** My family and I would like to thank Fr David and all parishioners from the church community who attended the Requiem Mass for my mum, Julia Jolly, on Wednesday 17 October. *Kathleen Robinson.*

**Adoration & Reconciliation:** From the beginning of Advent, we will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration, every week, at 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings (before the 7pm Mass). This will continue on a permanent basis but will not affect the monthly Adoration & Reconciliation.

### Urban Outreach

Dear Parishioners,

Once again, it's time for Urban Outreach to make up their Christmas Hampers for needy families.

Churches Together in Harwood have agreed to provide 600 boxes of After 8 Mints (that's 200 from each of the churches/parishes). As they need to be delivered to Urban Outreach on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, it has been decided to collect the boxes during November.

Once again, we depend on the generosity of Corpus Christi Parish, to provide 200 boxes of mints (regular sized boxes only as longer boxes will not fit in the hampers).

Thank you for your support & God Bless  
Churches in Harwood

**Baptism Preparation:** Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 10 November (10.30am-12noon) in the Harbour Room at St Brendan'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 will be attending by phone 01204 301927 or email [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk).

### SVP News

**Annual Mass for the Deceased:** This will take place on Saturday 17 November 2018 at 11am at St John's.

**Christmas Flower Demonstration:** On Saturday 15 December (11am-1pm) at St Brendan's. Tickets will be on sale at Masses next weekend.

**Sacramental Programme 2018/2019:** The first meeting for parents and the presentation of the children from all three schools, involved in the Sacramental Programme this year, will take place at 6pm on **Tuesday 6 November** in St Brendan's Church. If you have a child in Yr3 who does not attend one of our schools, or an older child who did not take part in the programme previously, and you would like them to take part this year, please have a word with Fr David.

**Parish Quiz:** Will be held on Friday 16 November at Dunsar Conservative Club. Tickets Cost £8 per person (including pastie supper). Teams should be a maximum of six people. **Tickets are now on sale. If anyone has a bottle of wine they could donate for a prize, it would be much appreciated!**

**Becoming Catholic:** The new programme starts on Tuesday 6 November (7pm). If you would like more information and think this is something that you would be interested in, please contact our parish office at [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk) (01204 301927) or alternatively, please see Fr David after Mass.

**Parish Social Committee Litter Picking:** Saturday 10 November (10am-11.30am) based at St Columba's school. All equipment will be provided by Bolton Council (tea & coffee will follow). Anyone who would like to join in should wear protective clothing. All children must be accompanied by an adult and only adults should work around the immediate church area (potential sharps). We hope you can join us.

**Salford Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage  
2019**  
**Volunteer Information Meeting**  
Sunday on Wednesday 28 November, 7.30-8.30pm at Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford St. Salford. M3 6DP.

**Remembrance Prayer Trees**

As you will notice we have a willow tree in each of our churches. During November, parishioners are invited to write a prayer/name of a loved one on a label and hang it on the tree. The labels can be found in the back of St Brendan's Church and the Patmos Room at St John's. The names of those on the trees will be offered up at Masses throughout the month.

**Marriage Care Volunteers needed: Could it be you?** *'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few'* Broken relationships are extremely painful especially among family and friends. Marriage Care draws on the Catholic tradition and contemporary research to support couples, in good times and bad, throughout England and Wales. Based locally we help couples preparing for Marriage to build strong healthy fulfilling relationships and offer ongoing support through our Counselling Service. We are expanding our local team and need volunteers who share our passion to build happy homes. Could you spare a few hours a week, a month, a year? Current roles include Evening Receptionist, Team Assistant, Marriage Preparation Facilitator and/or Co-ordinator, Parish Liaison, Head of Centre and Trustee. Full training and support provided. No upper age limits. For more information about these and other roles, or to offer financial support visit us at: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk); email [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk) or call Deirdre 07871 802336


**Fair Trade Stall:** The fair trade stall will be promoting the real advent calendar on the weekend of 10 & 11 of November. This is a chocolate advent calendar which emphasizes the Christian message. It is a fun way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story 24-page story-activity book designed to be used every day in Advent.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 11/12 November		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	C Holmes	TBA
9am (SJ)	S May	M Russell, M Speed, A Gracie, F Smith, S May, M Cropper
11am (SB)	K Wilkinson	J Murphy, K Wilkinson, P Carolan

This Newsletter is sponsored by

**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

Peef House  
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.  
BL1 7AL  
01204 309609



**Fr Parkinson:** The envelopes, for donations for Fr Parkinson, will be available for another two weeks. They are available at the back of St Brendan's and in the Patmos Room at St John's.

**Pastoral Letter from the Right Reverend John Arnold, Bishop of Salford**

**From the weekend of 27th/28th October 2018, the 30th Sunday of the year.**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In Luke's Gospel we read "The harvest indeed is great but the labourers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest that he send labourers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2).

I firmly believe that God has a definite purpose for each one of us. Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman was convinced that God has committed some work to each one of us that He has not committed to another. We can all say, in his words, "I have my mission". Discerning that mission, or vocation, God will call as many men to the priesthood as are needed, and men and women to religious life. We must do all that we can to ensure that those who are called are listening and we must also be sure that the priesthood and consecrated life to which they commit themselves are appropriate for the needs of today's Church, as envisaged by the Second Vatican Council. The Council was greatly concerned with that sense of mission and evangelisation that Pope Francis constantly emphasises in his letters and communications to the Church. As "missionary disciples" we are all invited to use our gifts in growing and strengthening our parish communities and taking our Faith out to the wider community in service of all, particularly the marginalised and the poor. With our pastoral programme Hope in the Future I believe that we are making good progress to develop and strengthen that sense of mission. Within that mission, the priest has a specific role.

Over the last four years I have resisted any use of the phrase "shortage of priests" in this Diocese because, compared with just about every country in the world, we have a good number of priests for what is, geographically, a small Diocese. But we are certainly seeing a reduction in the number of priests in pastoral ministry and this will continue as we see more priests retiring than those being ordained. In the last four years 24 priests have retired in this Diocese and seven have died in active ministry. Those thirty-one priests have been replaced by six newly ordained and the transfer of one priest into the Diocese. This imbalance is clearly estimated to continue in the next few years.

The essential role of the priest is to provide sacraments to a parish community in the celebration of the Eucharist, Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. He is the lead pastor who, with the assistance of lay ministers, ensures that there is care for the sick and the elderly of the parish community, for all those in any particular spiritual need, and catechesis for the young and on-going Faith formation for the whole community. He is the spiritual father of the community with a ministry of prayer for the people and for preaching the Word of God.

Any man, young or not so young, may hear a call to priesthood in a great variety of ways. He may feel drawn to priesthood by the example of a priest that he knows. He may discern a call to priestly service through his reading, prayer, thinking, or work experience. He may also benefit from the idea being suggested to him by another. That was certainly an important factor in my own life when, as a young schoolboy, a priest made the suggestion to me that sowed a seed in my own thinking. It is important that we recognise that the vocation to the priesthood is not something that just happens to someone, somewhere else. It must come from within our parishes and schools and families and we need to nurture the conversation that allows for priestly vocation to be spoken about and encouraged.

I would like to challenge the young men in our parishes to ask themselves if it is possible that God is calling them to priesthood. Are there young men and women called to religious life? I would like to challenge everyone to consider if they know of men and women who they believe have the qualities for such service in the Church. Would they have the courage to suggest that to them? And I would ask that we all make a fresh commitment to pray for vocations: that those whom God may be calling may hear that call and respond, with our active encouragement.

Service as a priest does, in my own experience and in my knowledge of others, bring a great sense of fulfilment and happiness. It can be very demanding but it is packed with privileged moments of service to people in the most important moments of their lives. To join couples in marriage, to baptise new lives, to forgive in God's name are a gift and joy. To walk with others in their time of bereavement or illness is humbling. I am so very grateful for priests in my life who have been the presence of Christ to me by their kindness and encouragement. I am sure that many would share that sense of gratitude. The call to religious life also brings great fulfilment as men and women dedicate themselves to a particular quality of the Gospel, such as in teaching, nursing or care for the elderly - in the very deliberate sense of mission to others.

Thank you for your care for and appreciation of the priests and religious of this Diocese. As we continue to develop our sense of mission in parishes, schools and family life, let us be sure to remove tasks from our priests and religious that can be done by others so that they may attend to all that they are specifically ordained and consecrated to do. Let us ask in our daily prayer that the Lord will prompt and urge men and women to respond to His call so that, by their service, our Church may grow in its mission - making Christ ever more clearly present in our world.

*Stay with us, Lord, on our journey*

With my prayers and thanks for you, my brothers and sisters

+John Arnold, Bishop of Salford