

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

24 January 2021

Third Week in Ordinary Time



One day, by the Sea of Galilee, an itinerant preacher walked the shoreline and called to four young men, sat in their fishing boats, mending their nets, and they immediately got up, went to him, left everything behind them and followed in his footsteps. They did not know where they were going, all they knew was that He knew and that was enough for them. Would you do the same today?

Jesus told the fishermen that the Kingdom of God was very near, that it was not a place, but a state of mind. It was a vision of a world turned upside down and inside out. A world where the poor and needy were the first in this kingdom and the rich and powerful were outside looking in. It was a world where God had opened human hearts and put humanity back inside.

Jonah was a sceptic, he knew the people of Nineveh were hopeless, they were dreadful sinners who could never change. When God sent him there to appeal to them to change their ways and repent, he knew it was a bad idea, he turned and ran as fast as he could in the opposite direction, and it took a near drowning and an encounter with a big fish to get him to change his mind and do what he said he would do in the first place. What did he find? Instead of a hopeless people, he found a people full of hope who were only too willing, from the richest to the poorest, to give up evil ways and repent. They were ready to embrace "the Kingdom of God",

When Paul wrote to the people of Corinth and told them, in no uncertain terms, that spending, feasting, and having fun would lead them to death not life, he too was asking them to change, repent and face up to reality. There are no pockets in shrouds; the kingdom of God is not found in the good life, it is found in caring and forgiving each other, in preparing for a new life, life in the Kingdom of God.

This is why some men and women are looking at the life around them and realising that what they are seeing is not real. They see a world that has become surreal, a world slowly destroying itself by ignoring the destruction of the environment, by making people miserable through the bad news of Social media, a world that was created as a home for humanity that is turning into a nightmare. They have seen clearly what "the kingdom of God" could be and they have gone for it. Are you ready to join them? David Frank

Activities this Week
<i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1</i> Divine Office Week 2 Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20
Sunday 24 January 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)
Monday 25 January - The Conversion of St Paul 7pm Mass (SJ)
Tuesday 26 January - Ss Timothy & Titus 9.30am Mass (SB) 10.30am Private Requiem Mass for Terence Holland (SB)
Wednesday 27 January 9.30am Mass (SJ)
Thursday 28 January - St Thomas Aquinas 9.30am Mass (SB) 10.30am Private Funeral for Kevin Hinegan (SB)
Friday 29 January Churches Closed
Saturday 30 January 11am Exposition 11.30 Mass (SJ)
Sunday 31 January - Caritas Sunday 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB) We will hold a special collection for Caritas today

Thought for the Week



"The family is a community of love where each of us learns to relate to others and to the world around us."

Pope Francis

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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, Anne Hurst, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Madeleine Evans, Barbara Pearl, Howard McArdle, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt

Lately Dead: Kathleen Roberts, Kevin Hinegan, Win & Peter Daly, Joseph Cleary, Andrew Porter, Hannah McAuley, Terence Holland, Archbishop of Glasgow Philip Tartaglia

Anniversaries: Michael Axford, Peter Walsh, Alan Yates

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Michael Axford (Birthday Remembrance, Jessie Carter (Birthday Remembrance), A sick person, Peter Walsh, For a dear friend who has died, Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, Alan Yates

We continue to pray for victims of the Covid-19 virus, and for all those who are still working tirelessly to keep us safe.

Cycle of Prayer Part 1 (of 6): We pray especially for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The sick and those who care for them; Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it; The unemployed

Hope in the Future

Let us pray for the parishioners of St Peter and St Thomas More, Middleton, for Fr Peter Hopkinson, their parish priest, for Fr Kevin Tierney and for Fr Marcel and the chaplaincy to the Romanian community in the Diocese. We pray also for their parish primary schools. May they know that the Lord, who called Peter, has called them also.

Offertory

We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Donations can be made by posting through the presbytery letter box, by post or alternatively donations can be made through Salford Diocese website, or alternatively by setting up a bank standing order. Again, many thanks for your continued generosity.

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

Prayer Resource - For those at home, and not able to attend Mass, the Liturgy Office has prepared a service called "*The Lord's Day at Home*", based on the Sunday Scriptures, that you can pray on your own or with your family. It is particularly aimed at those not able to follow a Mass on the internet.

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/LDAH-Ordinary-3B.pdf>

A Message from Urban Outreach: We just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to you all for your involvement in Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2020. There is so much that goes into making a project like this work - from donating, to volunteering, to delivering and nominating. Please pass on our thanks to all of your families, friends, colleagues, pupils and congregations for their generosity and involvement. On the back page of the newsletter, you can read some of the highlights from this year's project.

Holocaust Memorial Day: The Mayor of Greater Manchester together with the ten councils of Greater Manchester has invited people in our diocese to join them online for the Greater Manchester Holocaust Memorial Day Service, [streamed from the Mayor's Facebook page](#), on 27 January (10am - 11.15am).

Potholes - Access Road, St Brendan's Church: Please take special care when using the unadopted access road leading to St Brendan's Church as there are several deep potholes. Thank you.

CJM Six Month Intensive Course for Parish Musicians and Singers: The frustration of not being able to sing at Mass is being keenly felt by many parish congregations and musicians during this pandemic. As yet, we do not know when we will be able to sing again and when we do, we will surely want to do so with great enthusiasm. With this in mind, the time may be right to consider how we can develop our music ministry skills so that we are prepared for when we are called upon once more to serve our communities. It is always good, however long we have been involved in any ministry, to take time to reflect on what we have been doing and seek ways to develop our repertoire and skills. CJM is offering us the opportunity to do that with a six-month intensive course (money back guarantee if you do not find the first month helpful). Full details can be found here:

<https://cjmmusic.mykajabi.com/parish-music-ministry-collective>

200 Club Winners of 2nd January Draw:



E Connelly (£40)
M O'Kane (£20)

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



Caritas - Who is my neighbour? Fr Ged

Murphy: The Parable of the Good Samaritan is a familiar one: a traveller is beaten by robbers, stripped and left for dead by the road. First a holy man and then another comes by, but both avoid the man. Finally, a Samaritan happens upon and helps the injured man, showing great compassion, reflecting the lengths to which love will go. He treats the injured man not as an enemy but as a neighbour, as one of his own. Through this parable, Jesus indicates that a person truly acts as a neighbour through love.

“But who is my neighbour?”

Every gift Caritas receives means we can love and support the most vulnerable and marginalised in our communities. We provide a befriending service for older people, preventing loneliness and isolation. We welcome the stranger, teaching English to those seeking asylum and those with refugee status so they can quickly integrate into their new home community. And we continue to love and feed the hungry, and shelter the homeless, across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Pope Francis reminds us that, before we are anything else, we are brothers and sisters sharing a common home, and we are called to become neighbours and friends. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen rising inequalities in wealth and new forms of poverty and a disregard for human worth. We have a universal responsibility to act; to accept the obligations we bear to each other, and to find ‘fraternal love’. A willingness to respond to human need wherever it is found. **So I ask for your help in responding now. Please choose to help Caritas to continue its life-changing work during 2021 with our brothers and sisters in need.** The best way to answer the question ‘Who is my neighbour?’ is to choose to become a neighbour, itself a chosen journey along a road. To accept the invitation to approach the other with love, and cooperate with a wider process of grace. <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/sunday2021/>

Retrouvaille Marriage Support: Covid19 is a challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children and housing. It can be difficult to talk, to listen, to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples bringing a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. For confidential information, or to register for the next programme Call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Altar Servers Retreat ‘*Serving God and our neighbour in the everyday*’:

Saturday 27 February 10am-12pm (Ages 8-11) and 1pm-3pm (Ages 12-17) - Servers aged 18 and over please email the address below. The day includes a keynote from Bishop John on the ministry of serving during this time and in the future, To register your place or for more information formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk An under 18’s videoconferencing consent form must be downloaded from here, completed by parents/carers and returned to the above email address.

Talks from the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst

Our new **Christian Leadership Formation programme**, offered in partnership with St Mary’s University, Twickenham and the Catholic Union of Great Britain, is now open to applications. The programme is offered to students in Lower Sixth who are committed to their faith and aspiring to some form of public life. Students will require the support of their schools and religious minister in applying. For info and application forms: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/clf/>

The Drama Displayed: A Journey of Salvation: A free series of online talks at 7.30pm every second Thursday, up to 25 March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

Set Free Summit: A set of six, online sessions to young adults on relationships and sexuality based on John Paul II’s teaching. At 4pm on Sundays from 7 February to 14 March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/set-free>

Online Talk

Austen Ivereigh: Let Us Dream!

Saturday 30th January, 11am - 2.30pm

Let Us Dream! is the first book written by a pope in response to a major crisis, and the first ever to be drafted in English - by Austen Ivereigh.

To access this live stream event go to www.sppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services. Event available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org Questions for Austen may be emailed beforehand to adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org



Christmas Dinner on Jesus

We want to say "thank you" -
Together 1565 Christmas hampers
blessed 5042 people.



"There was so much about this year that we didn't know— how many people would be referred to receive the hampers, if restrictions would prevent groups from collecting, whether people would be able to donate or volunteer at such a challenging time. Yet you all got involved in anyway you could to make the project happen. Together we provided more hampers this year than ever before, fed more people than ever before, were donated more food and money than ever before! We knew this project would be bigger than ever before and we have been blown away by the generosity of each and everyone one of you! So thank you. Thank you for making sure the meals went out and blessed people this Christmas."



Dave Bagley (CEO Urban Outreach).

In Numbers

384 hampers for individuals and **1181** family hampers. That's **1181** savory cabbages, **1339** chickens, **1749** blocks of cheese and **2565** selection boxes!

Over **260** different volunteers making the boxes, packing the boxes, stickering, helping on distribution day and delivering! With volunteering facing more barriers and wanting to give everyone an opportunity we were amazed at the response with volunteering being booked up within just a few days.

Over **60** churches, schools, organisations and community groups donated either money or items for the hampers (that isn't including a huge number of individuals who also donated—so many it is hard to keep track).

This was the most generosity we have ever seen for the project and included many groups smashing their targets (some by over 1000 of what they expected) and all of our costs covered!



From Workers

"One of my families were over the moon...they had been wondering what they were going to eat on Christmas day and this hamper gave them more than they ever would have had. The whole family couldn't stop talking about it all night." **Health Care Professional.**

"Just wanting to say a massive thank you to you and all the volunteers at Urban Outreach. The families who received the Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers have been overwhelmed by the generosity from so many people." **Support Worker**