



Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

25 March 2018

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



On Palm Sunday the long reading of the Passion dominates the celebration, and in a sense its meaning is obvious. Do not allow this, however, to detract from the other readings, which give the vital context necessary for understanding the Passion as more than just a long story. It is our story - the tale of how God achieved OUR salvation by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Think Vocation: St Paul tells us that Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross. Many people feel unworthy to respond to the call to serve in the Church as a priest or religious. None of us are, of course, worthy but the gap between our own worthiness is made up for by the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins so that we can enjoy eternal life. May those who are discerning their vocation within the Church, have the humility and trust, to accept the Lord's invitation to serve him

Marriage Matters: Today is all we have: Today let us reflect on what is really important in our marriages. In this day and age, the cost of living can create anxieties and tensions about making ends meet. So today, let's hold hands, look at each other, and celebrate our love, which joins us together as a 'sign' of God's love for everyone

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| Liturgy & Activities This Week <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 2</i> Sunday Missal: Blessing of Palms page 596 <i>Readings: page 608; Preface: p41</i> | |
| Sunday 25 March 9am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy 2pm Walk of Witness (Harwood) <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i> | |
| Monday 26 March 9.30am Mass (SB) 7.45pm SVP (SJ) | |
| Tuesday 27 March 9.15am Holy Week Mass (St Columba's School) 1.30pm Whole School Easter Service (SB) 6.30pm Stations of the Cross (SJ) 7pm Mass (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB) | |
| Wednesday 28 March 11am Chrism Mass (Salford Cathedral) 1pm-2.30pm Harbour Room Book Club (SB) 7pm Reconciliation Service (SB) | |
|  | THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM "In the Sacred Triduum, the Church Solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of her Lord, crucified, buried and risen." [Roman Missal] |
| Maundy Thursday 8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper and watching at the Altar of Repose until 10pm (SB) <i>Special Collection for our Parish SVP Groups</i> | |
| Good Friday Day of Fasting & Abstinence 3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (SJ) <i>A Special Collection for the Shrines of Palestine</i> | |
| Holy Saturday 8pm Easter Vigil and the First Mass of Easter (SJ) | |
| Sunday 1 April - Easter Sunday 9am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy 11am Mass (SB) - With Children's Liturgy | |

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, Ann Cunliffe, Maureen Woodward, Rose Adams, Valerie Piddock, Irene Parkinson, Father Francis McCauley, Zachary Ainscough (aged 8), Mary Bagg, Mary Castle, Peggy Ainscow, Canon Dorran, 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 and all who are sick or recovering from serious illness

Lately Dead: Finuala Philbin, Elaine Jansen, Bonifacio Valleteo, Vickie Dobbins

Anniversaries: Bernard Ramsden, Daniel & Veronica Evans, Mary Ann Howarth

Mass Intentions: Bernard Ramsden, Daniel & Veronica Evans, Mary Ann Howarth, Brenda Riley

Cycle of Prayer Part 3 (of 6): We pray especially for: candidates for the sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers

Hope in the Future

As we enter this Holy Week, in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The parish of St John, Burnley, with Father Michael Waters and Father Kevin Tierney, and for the parishes of St Mary, Burnley, and Christ the King, Burnley, with Father Peter Hopkinson and Father Blaise Amadi and for the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph, and Father John Mackie, their chaplain. We pray for their parish primary schools, for Blessed Trinity High School, Burnley, and for the chaplaincy to Burnley General Hospital.

May we walk with the Lord this holy week that he may walk always with us.

Facts and Figures

Mass Attendance

17/18 March 5pm-93; 9am-121; 11am-126;
Total - 340

Offertory Collection

17/18 March: £652.92

Standing Orders (14 Mar- 21 Mar) - £222

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



African Palms

The palm crosses you receive today are made from dried branches of the dwarf palm *Hyphanea coriacia*. These grow wild in the Masasi area, so are not cultivated, furthermore, no trees are cut down in the work of collecting the palm leaves for plaiting the palm crosses. The work of making the palm crosses does not interfere with the villager's normal work of producing the food they need to live, it provides additional income. The crosses are sent once a year to the UK where they are sorted and packed.

Over the years, the number of Palm Crosses sold has increased and in 1986 African Palms Ltd was formed, a company owned by the African Palms Association (a charitable trust formed at the same time). Any profit made by the company is transferred to the trust and used for health and education projects in the Masasi area.

At present the trust is working on a project to get clean water supplies available in all eight of the villages where the palm crosses are made. This is an exciting project and will make a huge difference to the lives of the villagers. Past projects have included other water projects, hostels and safehouses, work on clinics, books and desks for schools.

The important thing about the project is that they are helping themselves and not relying on charity.

For more information visit the website: africanpalms.co.uk

SVP News

During March there will be our usual collection of food items for the Destitution Project in Bolton. The centre is always very grateful for all our donations. Please see the list of items that are in short supply on the notice boards. Thank you for your continued generosity.

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





Tickets for the CAFOD concert on 11 May are now on sale.

St Brendan's School: Please pray for the school on Tuesday as it is undergoing its RE inspection.

Chrism Mass (Salford Cathedral): Wednesday 28 March at 11am. There are a few tickets available for our parish. If you would like to go please contact the office (301927) or email: office@sbsj.org.uk.

Palm Sunday Procession with Donkey: The Churches in Harwood are once again joining together to celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem 2000 years ago riding on a donkey. We meet 2pm at Christ's Church, Harwood then we follow Roly, the real live donkey, to St Brendan's RC Church and finally, to Harwood Methodists for Hot Cross Buns. **Everyone Welcome!**

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Wednesday 28 March in the Harbour Room (St Brendan's) at 1pm-2.15pm. The book for discussion is *The Light Between Oceans* by M L Stedman. Refreshments are available, and all are welcome. Can I remind all members intending to go on the outing to The People's Museum that we are now collecting trip money! Thank you. *Madeleine*.

Walsingham Pilgrimage: For those who have put their names on the list for the Walsingham pilgrimage on the 5 May, please could you pass your payment of £20 to the parish office before 8 April. If you are paying by cheque, please make it payable to *SRCDTR*. Thank you

Palm Sunday Passion Play: Enter the Passion of Jesus by accompanying Him on His journey. This year a Passion Play will be performed by students from St Ambrose Barlow RC High School and 6th Form (4.30pm on Palm Sunday) at St Mary's Cemetery Chapel, Wardley. There will also be a guest homilist. All are welcome.

Christian Meditation: Please note, the Meditation that was due to be held on Tuesday 27th March has been cancelled due to the School Easter Service. April dates are: Tuesdays 10th, 17th and 24th and Thursdays 5th, 12th and 19th. All welcome.

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 14 April (10.30am-12noon) in the Patmos Room at St John's Church. Please contact the parish office if you wish to attend (01204 301927) or email: office@sbsj.org.uk.

Cornerstone Big Sleep Out: Parishes are invited to support Caritas Homeless projects through *The Big Sleep Out* (18+) or special Diocesan *Youth Sleep Out* (For 11-17year olds). If you would like to join in solidarity to 'sleep rough' for the night for a great cause please register <http://cornerstonecds.org.uk/> or, for the *Youth Sleep Out* contact:

lorraine.leonard@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or m.woodward@caritassalford.org.uk

Alternatively, why not sponsor Bishop John and the team through:

www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/caritassalford/cornerstonebigsleepout2018.

Diocesan Prayer Workshops (7.30pm-9pm)
Cathedral House, 250 Chapel St, Salford M3 5LL, Tuesday 27th March.
formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

| Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 31 March/1 April | | |
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| Mass | Reader | Eucharistic Ministers |
| 8pm (SJ) | TBA | TBA |
| 9am (SJ) | M Isherwood | P McArdle, M Cropper, M Speed, A Gracie, M Russell, F Smith |
| 11am (SB) | M Day | P Brennan, M Durkan, C Owen |

Lourdes Pilgrimage 27 July–2 August 2018 (Corpus Christi Parish): We now have the application forms available (indicating this year's precise costs). If you would like to join the Parish group, we would more than welcome your company. We intend to use the Hotel Roissy, as last year, where the cost for full board is £759 in a twin/treble room. Unfortunately, there is an additional charge of £216 for single rooms, of which there are only a limited number available. There is a considerable saving to be had, therefore, if you could mutually arrange to share with others in a twin or treble. If you would like an application form, please contact Margaret Russell (St John's), Peter Carolan or myself (St Brendan's). Please return the completed forms as soon as possible so that I can quickly submit them together (the hotel is very popular). As you will see on the 'Form' they provide insurance at a very reasonable cost. You can, of course, use your own. A non-refundable deposit of £200 is required with your application. The insurance premium must be included with your deposit and cheques made payable to JWT. *God Bless, Terry Smith* (01204 305832).

The Silence of Prayer



Bishop John reflects on the power of prayer on Lindisfarne and also in Bangladesh:

I think that, for most people, there is probably a very reasonable assumption that prayer is best achieved, or more easily achieved, in a place of silence. One of the great qualities and beauties of Lindisfarne is the silence. Take yourself away from the village, even on the busiest of summer days when the tide has been gracious and crowds of day visitors and pilgrims are filling the little lanes of the village, and after even a few hundred yards it is possible to be alone and immersed in silence. There may be the song of numerous birds and even, particularly in the evening, the moans of hundreds of seals on the sandbanks, or the bleating of sheep, but there is no man-made noise, no machinery, just miles of sandy beaches, dunes and rocks, and the sound of the sea. Yes, Lindisfarne provides a silence and a place that I am so pleased to be able to visit whenever possible, because of the peace and the invitation it provides.

That sense of silence and a divine presence is particularly evident for me when the sun has set and a clear night sky just speaks of infinity and the grandeur of God. This place reminds me of the centuries of prayer by the Celtic monks who inhabited this little tidal island and made it the cradle of Christianity. Like most people I know, I could not claim to have a rich and deep prayer life. That is something that I have pursued since my teenage years, with moments of greater or lesser success. I have always assumed that my best chance of immersing myself in prayer would be in silence, and particularly in the beauty and the silence of a place like Lindisfarne.

My recent experience of travelling to Bangladesh with CAFOD has suggested that silence is not necessarily the best or only context for prayer. We visited Dacca, the capital, for three days and I doubt that I have ever experienced such continuous noise and activity. My room looked over a narrow street which was alive with pedestrians and traffic throughout the day and most of the night. There were street-sellers too, calling out their produce as rickshaws with bells and motor vehicles with horns sounded their presence and every manoeuvre. The traffic is gridlocked most of the working day and we spent hours in jams with the noise and the bustle of the city all around us. Searching for a silence there seemed impossible but finding a way into prayer was actually not at all difficult. As I sat in the traffic jam I was surrounded by the world with all its treasures and traumas - the diversity of God's kingdom and His creation and the reality of human experience. Rushing past were students and labourers, mothers with small children, just as wealthy business men and women and, inevitably, there were the beggars and the homeless. This was a place in which prayer is invited and needed, where God's grace is essential. There was an opportunity to praise God for human ingenuity and creativity and also to recognise our limitations and our mistakes and the injustice of our inequality. Here was the place to pray for determination and commitment to care for our common home and to heal the damage we have done.

A different form of prayer also came easily when we visited the Rohingya camp. It is now the biggest refugee camp in the world and growing. Its deprived and desperate population is approaching one million in a place which had only forested hills and virtually no inhabitants just six months ago. As we walked through areas of this refugee city there was an eerie quiet, broken occasionally by children singing in their makeshift "child friendly spaces". This was not a place like Lindisfarne of serenity and peace. This place pleaded for an urgent prayer for hope amid despair.

Every place, loud or silent, crowded or remote can be a place where we make God's presence real through prayer. We can praise God for all that is good, giving thanks. We can plead for his help and strength in places where we have failed to be good stewards and to ensure the dignity of our brothers and sisters in our common home. Prayer can and should be with us wherever we may be. *This article, taken from the diocesan website, was first written for publication in the online version of The Tablet on 20th March 2018*