



The Fourth Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday



As today we hear the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son (or the Forgiving Father), the message is Reconciliation - the making new of relationships, the healing of past wrongs and the opening of ourselves to the "new creation". This is just as the Israelites opened themselves to the New Creation of the Promised Land, when under Joshua they ended their sojourn in the wilderness after forty years of hardship, and began to eat of the produce of the country. It is all God's work: it is God who calls us back, and God who welcomes us into the Promised Land of his mercy when we return. So today, let us think not so much of sin and offences, as the new creation God offers us, if we but turn back to him and embrace him as our Father.

Marriage Matters

The need for gratitude and trust: The Gospel illustrates the Father's amazing forgiveness but the elder brother reacts angrily and is resentful and self-righteous. At times when we feel hurt and resentful and life seems unfair, and tensions rise, we can blame each other. Jesus' message is to trust in our husband/wife, to look for their loving ways and to ask forgiveness for our own faults.

Think Vocation

"Father I have sinned against heaven and against you." The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great gift to the Church - it's often something many of us find difficult. St John Vianney is the patron of all priests and was renowned for his compassion and wisdom in the confessional. May we pray for our own priests to imitate their patron in his zeal and dedication to this beautiful sacrament of healing.

<p><i>Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 1; Divine Office Week 4</i> Sunday Missal: Page 568; Readings page 576 <i>Preface:</i> Page 580</p>
<p>Sunday 31 March Laetare Sunday / Mothering Sunday 9am Mass (SJ) - with <i>Children's Liturgy</i> 11am Mass (SB) - with <i>Children's Liturgy</i> 3pm Stations of the Cross (SJ) A Special Collection will be held for the Cyclone Idai Victims</p>
<p>Monday 1 April 9.30am Mass (SB) 7pm Needles (Harbour Room, SB) 7.30pm Lenten Course (Christ's Church) 7.45pm SVP (SJ)</p>
<p>Tuesday 2 April 8.15am Mass (SC School) 2pm Christian Meditation (Harbour Room, SB) 6pm St John's School Reconciliation Service (SJ) 7.30pm Praying With Scripture Course (SJ) 7.15pm SVP (SB)</p>
<p>Wednesday 3 April 9.30am Mass (SJ) 7pm <i>Deanery Station Mass</i> (Our Lady of Lourdes)</p>
<p>Thursday 4 April 9.15am Mass (SB) 6pm St Brendan's School Reconciliation Service (SB)</p>
<p>Friday 5 April 9.30am Mass (SJ) 10am Coffee Morning (SJ)</p>
<p>Saturday 6 April 11am-12noon Adoration & Reconciliation (SJ) 5pm Mass (SB) - with <i>Children's Liturgy</i></p>
<p>Sunday 7 April 9am Mass (SJ) - with <i>Children's Liturgy</i> 11am Mass (SB) - with <i>Children's Liturgy</i> 2pm Baptism (SB) 3pm Stations of the Cross (SB)</p>

Parish Priest: Rev David Chinnery

Assistant Priest: Rev Alfred Rebello

Parish Office: St John's Presbytery, The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP

Tel: 01204 301927 **E-mail:** office@sbsj.org.uk

Website: www.sbsj.org.uk

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Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Prayers Please
We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends. Bernard Holder, Fr John Ashton (SDB), Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin
Lately Dead: Malcom Strange, Estella Latham, Jim Carney, Jean Burke, Martin Stadden, David Procktor, Kate Roe, Rosie Plumbly, Mary O'Doherty, James Cummins
Anniversaries: Nina Gilmartin, Daniel & Veronica Evans, Kathleen Williamson, Jessie Carter, Maureen Southworth, Bernard Ramsden, Jim Smith
Mass Intentions: Gladys Hall (Birthday Remembrance & Mother's Day), Estella Latham, Malcolm Strange, James Carney, Nina Gilmartin, Jean Burke, Martin Stadden, David Procktor, Daniel & Veronica Evans, Kathleen Williamson, Jessie Carter, Maureen Southworth, Bernard Ramsden, Jim Smith
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

This weekend we pray for the people of the Cathedral Parish of St John and the parish of St Joseph, Ordsall, for Fr Michael Jones and Fr Gavin Landers, for Sr Cecily and Sr Brenda, for the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph, for the retired priests at Cathedral House, and for the parish primary schools. Let us pray for the success of the renovation work on our Cathedral, that the housing developments in our parishes will build stronger communities and that the presence of Media City will be a channel of good news.

Facts and Figures for 30/31 March

Offertory Collection: £1,027.42
Standing Orders (23-28 March): £202

Mass Attendance:

5pm-131; 9am-185; 11am-150; Total 466

Cheques: We now have our new Corpus Christi parish account name. Please make all cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you.

Happy Mother's Day

A Happy Mother's Day to all mothers. Today is a chance to remember our mothers, living or deceased, and to thank God for the love shown to us through them.



Congratulations: To Emily Olivia Coulman who was baptised at St Brendan's last Saturday. And to Alessio Kavannagh who was baptised at St



Brendan's last Sunday. We pray that they and their families continue to grow in faith.

Financial Summary for February 2019	
Income (for General Use)	
Gift-Aided Envelopes	1,631
Non Gift-Aided Offertory	2,212
Standing Orders	2,706
Piety Stalls, Votives & Almanacs	264
Baptisms/Funerals/Weddings	260
Fundraising (inc. 200 Club subs)	108
Harbour/Patmos Room Rental	449
Total Monthly Income	7,630
Restricted Income (Specific Use)	
Mass Intentions	337
Money raised for CAFOD	972
Expenditure	
Church Expenses (both)	1,392
Presbytery Expenses (both)	2,038
Clergy Allowances	1,398
Wages	1,750
Insurance	350
Diocesan Levy	1,388
Total Monthly Expenditure	8,316
Balance of Income/Expenditure	-686

GIFT Aid Eligibility: We are nearing the end of the tax year (5 April 2019). The standard personal allowance will increase to £12,500 per annum and the first £1000 of interest from banks & building societies etc., will be tax exempt for basic rate tax payers, as will the first £2000 of dividend income. It will therefore be possible for an individual to be in receipt of £15,500 of income without paying any income tax. Please ensure that you are paying sufficient income tax to cover the amount reclaimed from HMRC on your donations. If you have any doubts or questions, please contact the parish office. Many thanks.



The Lenten Fast day appeal raised £1798 this year. Thank you for all your generosity and continued support. We would also like to thank you, in advance, for any help towards the Cyclone Idai Emergency Appeal.

Offertory Envelopes: The new envelopes are available to collect from the back of each Church. Thank you.

Coffee Morning: On Friday 5 April at St John's Church (10am). All the proceeds will go to buying 10p rosary beads for Ghana

Baptism Preparation: Our next preparation session will take place on Saturday 11 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 (01204 301927) or email office@sbsj.org.uk for more information.

Lent & Easter at Corpus Christi

Reconciliation Service 7pm

Wednesday 17 April at St Brendan's

Deanery Station Masses 7pm

3 April - Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gregory's

10 April - St Osmund's

Churches in Harwood Lent Course

7.30-9pm (Monday Evenings)

1 April - Christ's Church

8 April - Longsight Methodist

16 April - St Brendan's

Palm Sunday Churches in Harwood Walk of Witness (Starting at 2pm Christ's Church)

Maundy Thursday 8pm St John's; Good

Friday 3pm St John's; Easter Vigil 8pm St Brendan's

Corpus Christi

Upcoming Social Events:

A Springtime Variety Show
Astley Bridge Conservative Club
Friday 26 April at 7.30pm.

£5 per ticket with *Pastie supper* included. This price has been set low to encourage as many as possible to attend and enjoy each other's company. It will also help to bolster Church funds.

The individual acts have been chosen to provide top quality entertainment for all, with many of the artists giving their services free of charge and others at a very much reduced fee. The Conservative Club is also allowing us the use of their premises without charge. Our grateful thanks to them all.

We are aware that some may have difficulty in attending because of lack of transport. With this in mind, we will try to organize a door to door, return, transport service. To do this however, we will need to know your requirements, well in advance.

Please try to support this initiative
Terry Smith---Parish Social Committee

Friday 14 June. Klezmer (music) concert at Dunscair Conservative Club, *further details to follow.*

Transformed by Love: The Cost of Discipleship: Wardley Hall (10.30am-12.30pm).

5 April: Accepting God's unconditional mercy

12 April: Recognizing our "appointed hour"

Please contact: Marie Sartini, Bishop's PA, Wardley Hall, Worsley M28 2ND; 0161 794 2825 E:marie.sartini@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Or Sister Joan Kerley, FMSJ; 0161 9717842; E: joankfmsj@gmail.com

Sacrament of Confirmation: As you are aware, pupils currently in year 6 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation when they are in year 8 (Easter 2021). An invitation from Bishop John to the young people to continue their faith journey towards Confirmation has been sent out via our Catholic schools. If your child is not in a Catholic school and has not received an invitation, can you please speak to Fr David as he also has the invitation letters and register of interest forms.

Vacancy: Lead Teacher/Innovator for Primary Religious Education (For September 2019 or earlier if possible)

Location: Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

Competitive salary around UPS+TLR1 and benefits package.

This is a new role in the Department for Education and for the Diocese as a whole. Education represents one of the most important aspects of the mission of the Church. It is an essential role in ensuring consistency in standards of teaching and learning throughout the diocesan family of schools and colleges. We are seeking to recruit an exceptional individual to model innovative and creative teaching pedagogy within an impact driven environment.

Closing date for applications: 12 noon Tuesday 23 April 2019. More details can be found at: <http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>

For further information on the job description and eligibility criteria or to request an application pack or for more information on this post please contact: The Director of Administration and Personnel Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP 0161-817-2203 or personnel@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Whit Walks: Once again diocesan parishes have been invited to take part in the Manchester and Salford Whit Walks on Bank Holiday Monday, 27 May. The groups set off from Manchester Cathedral at 10am and walk to Albert Square for an Act of Worship before returning to Manchester Cathedral. Email paul.daly@dioceseofsalford or ashworthburton@hotmail.com

Early Notice - St Mary's Five-Day Retreat:

Explore the Christian Contemplative Tradition through 5 monthly retreat days hosted by The Diocese of Salford. **Venue:** St Mary's RC Church, Brownedge Lane, Preston PR5 6SP on Sept 25, Oct 23, Nov 20, Dec 11, Jan 22 (10.30am-3pm) It helps if those interested could contact Donna Worthington: drworthington@live.co.uk. The retreats are free of charge as they are supported by The Christian Meditation Trust (UK).

CAFOD Appeal for Cyclone Idai

CAFOD has joined forces with Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to reach hundreds of thousands of people affected by Cyclone Idai, across Southern Africa.

Just over a week ago, Cyclone Idai swept across Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi leaving in its wake a trail of destruction, killing an estimated 750 people. Mozambique is described as the worst affected country. Beira city, in the Sofala Province, was battered by the cyclone, bringing torrential rains and winds of up to 140 km/h.

Almost 90 percent of the city is now submerged in flood water, and a tidal surge has cut off several villages in the district.

Across the three countries, tens of thousands are now homeless, and all three countries have appealed for international humanitarian support.

We have received this appeal from Christine Allen, at CAFOD:

“It is with great sadness that in my first correspondence with you as the new director of CAFOD, I find it necessary to write to you about the emergency in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi caused by Cyclone Idai. The more we see and hear of the destruction caused, the more shocking the impact on the lives of children, women and men.

We know that the Catholic community will want to respond. The Church and our local experts in the Southern Africa region are already responding but desperately need support. We are inviting parishes to hold a second collection; their gifts will help families who have lost everything. Knowing they are not alone, will give people hope. Vital humanitarian aid is needed for the millions of people made homeless and our priority is to reach the most vulnerable with food and clean water, basic shelter and hygiene kits.

The scale of the crisis is such that the Disaster Emergency Committee, of which CAFOD is a member, has launched a full-scale humanitarian appeal. We are so thankful for your support of our recent Family Fast Day, which we rely on for our planned projects over the next year around the world.

Please to keep the people of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi in your prayers.

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



Readers & Eucharistic Ministers for 6/7 April 2019		
Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers
5pm (SB)	M Maybury	TBA
9am (SJ)	P Partington	P McArdle, L Rule, M Speed, F Smith, T Armstrong, A Grundy
11am (SB)	T Proctor	C Owen, M Durkan, P Brennan