

Corpus Christi Bolton
Third Sunday of Easter
26th April 2020

PRAYERS PLEASE

We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends.

Bernard Holder, Christopher Scott, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Colin Spragg, Margaret Padfield,

Lately Dead: John Cranshaw, Emma Thomasson, Eugene O'Neill, Margaret Moss, Patricia O'Hara, Michael Taylor, John Dodgson, Catherine Egan, Larry Bates

Anniversaries: Dominic Owen, Gerard Murphy, Thomas and Mary Howarth,

Mass Intentions: Patricia O'Hara, Danny and Alyson Grundy-Golden Wedding, John Dodgson, Catherine Egan, Larry Bates, Thomas and Mary Howarth, David Gracie

Let us also pray for the victims of this pandemic, their families and loved ones. Remembering also the key workers who are on the front-line during this current pandemic. We thank them for all they are doing and ask the Lord to keep them safe.

Hope in the future

We pray for the people of the parish of St. Augustine, Manchester, with Mgr John Daly, their parish priest. We pray for the Jesuit community at the Holy Name and for the work of the chaplaincy to Manchester University, Manchester Metropolitan University and the College of Music, for the Daughters of Charity, and for the parish primary school.

STAY WITH US LORD ON OUR JOURNEY

We are those disciples on the road to Emmaus, living our lives in the real world,

walking along with Jesus, in these challenging times, who is always there accompanying us

on the road, whether we recognize Him or not. He listens to us, and understands us, because he became like us, in "all things but sin" as the author of the letter to the Hebrews tells us.

In Him, the entire human experience has become, in the words of early Church Bishop and Father, Irenaeus of Lyons, "recapitulated".

In the Sacred Humanity of Jesus Christ, we can also begin to see who we are called to become as we grow in continual communion with Him.

In this encounter with the Risen Lord, made present at every Eucharist because it is outside of time, we receive the grace we need to begin to walk the road of our daily lives differently because we have seen the Risen Lord! He walks with us on our own road to Emmaus. We learn to recognize Him, in the breaking of the bread.



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



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MARGARET MOSS RIP

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Margaret Moss. Her private funeral will be held at East Lancs Crematorium on 28th April – a memorial mass will take place at St Brendan’s in due course.

PATRICIA O’HARA RIP

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Pat O’Hara - a memorial mass will take place at St Brendan’s in due course.

Both Margaret and Pat were regulars at St Brendan’s 5pm Saturday Mass- May they and all our faithful departed rest in peace

PARISH DONATIONS - STANDING ORDER

People have enquired how they can still donate to our Parish, in the absence of public Mass. This can easily be done by setting up a Standing Order through your Bank. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Chris Molyneux from the Parish Finance Committee, who has kindly agreed to assist with enquiries 01204 400472 or 07789816002

PRIEST SCHOOL

On Sunday last, BBC Scotland aired a documentary called “**Priest School.**”

The documentary is about the Scots College in Rome- (*Il Pontificio Scozzese*), and gives us an insight to priestly formation and seminary life throughout the year, culminating in an Ordination. You can watch this through BBC iPlayer- BBC Scotland

Jesus eats the Fish

(Luke 24:36-43)

“While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them

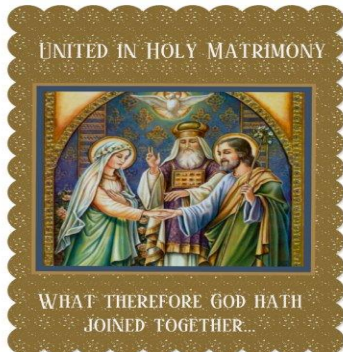
his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.”

Consider how Jesus, appearing once more to his friends, wishes to prove that his resurrection is not purely spiritual, or a thing of imagination, but a real, physical rising: his wounded body can be touched, and he can eat and drink with them once more. It is easier to believe in a “spiritual” resurrection than a physical one – and yet the Empty Tomb and these moments when Jesus appears to his disciples teach us that his resurrection was physical.

In the Creed we profess our faith in the “resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come”. Jesus promises us a share in this physical resurrection, so that after our sleep in the grave (however long that may be) a day will come when we too will rise in the body, to eat and drink with the Lord Jesus after his resurrection.

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GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS



Many congratulations to Danny and Alyson Grundy, who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this Saturday, the feast of St Mark. May God continue to bless them and their family.

The Holy See has produced a free online prayer book in times of tribulation.

Here is the link

<https://www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/strong-in-tribulation.-20042020.pdf>

Church Services Online:

Fortunately, there are many online resources available to help you with your prayers at this time, including the daily live streaming of Holy Mass. For links regularly updated:

www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/covid-19-online-resources

www.vatican.va

www.churchservices.tv

In these difficult times, we obviously find comfort and solace, that we can join in the Sacrifice of Mass through the internet, and make a Spiritual Act of Holy Communion.

We all long for the time when we can gather again as a family of God in Church, around the

Lord's Table to be nourished by The Lord's Body and Blood.

Just this week, on the topic of online Masses Pope Francis commented: - "This is the Church in a difficult situation that the Lord is allowing, but the ideal of the Church is always with the people and with the sacraments — always,"

One's relationship with Jesus "is intimate, it is personal, but it is in a community," and this closeness to Christ without community, without the Eucharist, without the people of God assembled together and "without the sacraments is dangerous," he said, because people could start living their relationship with God "for just myself, detached from the people of God.

" As the Gospels show, Jesus' disciples always lived their relationship with the Lord as a community — they gathered "at the table, a sign of community. It was always with the sacrament, with bread."

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER



*Act of
Spiritual
Communion*

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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Road to Emmaus Sunday
reflection with thanks to David
Franks

The road was hot and dusty, despair slowed their step, disappointment made heavy their feet trudging along, to their destination.

They saw him in the heat, shimmering in the desert sun, tall, thin, nondescript, just another traveller, looking for companionship, to journey, in strength, against the dangers of the road.

News was shared, the two spoke of their troubles, their scattered hopes and dreams.

The stranger listened, let them empty themselves of words.

Then he began. He spoke with authority, his words made sense, soothed their troubled minds, all was not lost, hope burned within, their spirits rose, steps no longer dragged,

Evening fell quickly, as it does, the light was going, but they begged him to stay.

A welcome blinked in the windows of the houses ahead, a harbour of peace beckoned.

The offer of supper was accepted, and a table set before them, a simple meal, a loaf of bread set before them, a fresh wine sack opened.

They sat in silence.

Then He took the bread, said the blessing, broke it and handed it to them. Their eyes were opened, minds cleared, hearts singing with joy, but he was gone from sight.

Each time we share the Eucharist we are on the road with Cleopas and his companion, we

hear Christ speaking to us, soothing our unquiet minds, we walk together in unity as, on the altar, bread is broken, wine is poured, and our eyes are opened as Jesus, our hope, our salvation, shares himself with us in Holy Communion.

In this difficult time, we take our consolation from afar, listening, watching on, as familiar words are said, gestures made, and we respond as we can. It is a feast for our spirits, we are lifted by a shared experience, we repeat a prayer of Spiritual Communion, and see our priest raising hands in blessing, and we look forward to bread broken and Body and Blood shared in a future Eucharistic Feast.

Amen

AMDG

I pray that you are all coping in these difficult times. We must remember to look out and pray for those who may be lonely through self-isolation; while we cannot physically make visits at this time, we always have the benefit of the ministry of the telephone to keep in touch.

Many kind parishioners have offered to assist in these difficult times and I know through telephoning around many are receiving the assistance they need - never be a stranger.

This Saturday, the 25th is the feast of St Mark the Evangelist. This is a memorable feast for me and my friend, Fr Michael Deas, who is now based in Didsbury. It was 12 years ago on that date, that Bishop Brain accepted us to be students for the Priesthood for Salford Diocese and sent us both off to Spain.

Keeping you all in prayer

God Bless you Fr Alf