

**Corpus Christi Bolton**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**17<sup>th</sup> May 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, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen

**Lately Dead:** Denise Agrafiotis, Denise Bayley, Fr Peter Gooden (retired Salford priest), Margaret Gibbons, Colin Spragg, Kevin Roberts, Emilie Petela, Winifred Bryan, John Flynn, Peter Rowles, Fr. Colmille (Michael) Murphy OFM Conv long term based at Blakely

**Anniversaries:** Rita Bell (A 12th), Lola Ann Cosgrove (A 15th),

**Mass Intentions:** May Oliveira (BR), Graham Taylor (BR 15<sup>th</sup>), Gerard Dobson (BR 20<sup>th</sup>), Rita Bell (A 12<sup>th</sup>), Lola Ann Cosgrove (A 15<sup>th</sup>), Gerard Lamoury (BR), John Flynn (LD), Colin Spragg (LD)

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**

Let us pray for the people of the parish of St. John Henry Newman, Urmston, Davyhulme and Flixton, and for Fr. Kieran Mullarkey, their parish priest, and for Fr. David Quiligotti. We pray for their parish primary schools and for the chaplaincy to the Trafford Hospital.

**Prayer Resource - Lord's Day at Home**

If you would like to say the prayers along with the livestream of Mass, the Lord's Day at Home resource can help you. You can find this week's resource on this link:

[https://mcusercontent.com/76e219dab8653b775ba8aac4c/files/4cf32f49-2ed6-40d5-b952-4e111d6f913c/Lord\\_s\\_Day\\_at\\_Home\\_for\\_17\\_may.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/76e219dab8653b775ba8aac4c/files/4cf32f49-2ed6-40d5-b952-4e111d6f913c/Lord_s_Day_at_Home_for_17_may.pdf)

**Bolton Deanery Online Alpha Course**  
**- Pause Netflix. Try Alpha Online!**

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer are running a course where everyone watches an episode about questions around the Christian faith, then chats about it together online. It's called Alpha.

Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The video talks encourage conversation, and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal way. It takes place over a series of Wednesday evenings, and in this time of lockdown we're bringing it to you online. Once registered, we'll send you all the details for the video call, you just need a camera phone or computer with a webcam. Explore life's big questions, share your perspective, and connect with others. What have you got to lose? The first session is **Wednesday 27th May, 7:15pm-8:30pm on Zoom**. The course will take place each Wednesday for around 10 weeks. More information, including a trailer, can be found at [www.christthereedeemer.org.uk/alpha/](http://www.christthereedeemer.org.uk/alpha/).

PARISH PRIEST: FR 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

SALFORD ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUSTEES REGISTERED CHARITY – 250037 DIOCESAN WEBSITE:  
WWW.DIOCESEOFSAFORD.ORG.UK

Those wishing to take part should register by emailing hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk and we will send you more information and the zoom link. If they have any questions please also email us or call 07741 147 496.

Please spread the word to family and friends who may be interested and please keep the course in your prayers.

### **A notice for members of the Harbour Room Book Club (or anyone interested)**

Madeleine Evans writes-We shall not be meeting for the foreseeable future but in case you would like a "heads up" on forthcoming schedules, here is the list of books on the "to do" list.

We shall start (whenever that will be) where we left off with

The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry then

I'm Travelling Alone by Samuel Bjork. followed by any one of the "longer reads"

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese or All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (Pulitzer Prize winner) or Educated by Tara Westover (non-fiction).

The Lost Man by Jane Harper (Australian Outback series)

Big Sky by Kate Atkinson (Jackson Brodie series)

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn. (non-fiction)

The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan.

The Gift of Stars by Jojo Moyes.

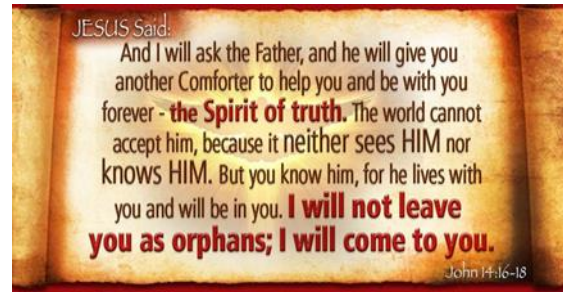
Circe by Madeleine Miller (Greek myths series)

Tangerine by Christine Mangan.

Any one of the three Classic reads; Wuthering heights by Emily Bronte, or

Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen or 1984 by George Orwell.

Happy reading, stay safe, stay well, Madeleine.



### **Fr Peter Gooden RIP**

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Fr Peter, one of the retired priests of the Diocese who I lived with at the Cathedral. Many of you will know his niece Julie, (who looks after the flowers at St John's) and her family. May we keep them all in our prayers at this sad time.

### **Sunday Reflection by David Franks**

#### **I will not leave you orphans**

It is hard to imagine the closeness of the relationship between Jesus and His disciples. His ministry was for a short time, possibly three years, and the pace must have been unrelenting, breathtaking. They came from various walks of life, some were fishermen like Peter and Andrew, working men, more used to catching fish than saving souls. Some were unlikely companions like Matthew the tax collector, some are just names who seldom speak, Bartholomew, Thomas and Phillip. There are a group of women who followed Our Lord faithfully, Mary of Magdala. Salome and Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, and many others. Each member of the group had been called to follow by Jesus, and in the following, they became part of a body of faith.

Jesus sees every incident, every time of healing, of teaching, as an opportunity to enter deeply into the lives of His followers and inspire them. Now comes the difficult part, He is aware of the aspirations of those who follow Him. Although He keeps reminding them of his impending sacrifice they follow in hope of a brighter future, a future of freedom from the yoke of oppression. John's discourse to the disciples is full of love; Jesus sees the need in each of them, he knows that the triumph to come is not an earthly victory but a victory that will live forever in the hearts of those who follow him, now, and in the tomorrows to come.

His promise, "I will not leave you orphans" and his gift of the "Spirit of Truth" will lead them to greater deeds than they ever thought possible. He is with them, in them, as He is with, and in, all those who follow Him down the long years to today and the present moment.

*Lord, let me walk with you down the dusty roads of Galilee.*

*May I be present as you heal the leper, teach those who have gone astray and forgive those who have sinned Inspire me to live my life today in your footsteps and remind me that you are always close by and your spirit ever present guiding my steps all I need to do is to listen to your voice within me  
Amen*

David Frank

## Mary's Prayers in May

### Our Lady of This House

O sweet and gentle Lady, Immaculate Mother of God, we choose thee this day as the Mistress and Lady of this house.

Guard it, dear Mother from pestilence, fire, lightning and tempest, from schisms and heresies, and from the malice of enemies.

Protect its inmates, sweet Mother, watch over their going out and their coming in and preserve them from sudden death.

Keep from us all sin and harm and pray to God for us that we may live in His service and depart this life in His grace.  
Amen.

## Resources

The Diocese are regularly updating our website with signposts to helpful resources collated for use during this difficult time. You can find this, along with livestreaming times, here:  
<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/ovid19/>

## Finance and Donations

The diocese has set up a system to make it easier for people to donate to their parish by standing order or by a one-off payment. It is quick, safe and private. If you go to the diocesan link: - If you go to the diocesan web page [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk) at the top right-hand corner you will see a red box that says 'DONATE'. By clicking on this you can donate money to Corpus Christi, through the main diocesan system and your donation will come straight to the parish.

Alternatively, you can always set 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**

## MASS OFFERINGS

These can still be made ideally by post or dropping off your intention at either Presbytery, or if you have any queries please call the Parish Office.

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



## Webinars Offered by Divine Renovation

We have been asked by the diocesan communications department to share the below webinar which you may find useful to watch: - **Divine Renovation from Square 1**

**Tuesday 19 May, 11am - 12pm**

<https://divinerenovationuk.churchsuite.co.uk/events/fh5q6bg9>

Join Director of Coaching, Ron Huntley, and UK priests in coaching with Divine Renovation as they share how to get started with some Divine Renovation basics

### BISHOP JOHN

Since the Prime Ministers address last Sunday regarding the Covid-19 lockdown, some information and updates have started to come through from the diocese.

On Monday last, **Bishop John** made the following statement about the future opening of churches:

*There is, as yet, no indication as to when churches may be able to re-open, even for private prayer. It is important that we act together with all other dioceses under the guidance of the Archbishops, who are in discussions with government officials and Public Health England... When any date for re-opening is given, there will be clear instructions provided. Thank you for all you are doing in this most difficult time.*

**“Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey”**

**+John Arnold**

Once the Bishop and diocesan administration send us more information, we'll post it here on the parish website.

**ONLINE MASS**

[www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) or  
[www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv)

## Volunteers in readiness for Church re-opening

Though we have no information yet we continue to pray for the day when we can begin to open churches, visit our Blessed Lord and gather for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

When that happens, it will probably be a gradual process. It will involve social distancing and other precautions.

We will need people to help as marshals and ushers encouraging people to observe social distancing and ensuring that safeguards are followed. Though nothing is certain yet if you are willing to help could you kindly email the parish office ([office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk)).

For your own safety you must not have any underlying health problems or be of an age where self-isolation is recommended. The diocese has stated that all volunteers will need to be safely recruited following diocesan safeguarding procedures.

### St Brendan 16<sup>th</sup> May



Born possibly in Tralee, Ireland, and educated by St. Ita and ordained by Bishop Erc, he became a monk and founded a large monastery at Clonfert. Many fantastic details have been added to this brief knowledge usually based on the fictional "Navigation" in which he is described as searching for the Isles of the Blessed, touching the Canaries, and even discovering America. It is possible that he actually made visits to Scotland and Wales. Feast day May 16. He travelled to



Wales and Iona. In 563 he established the monastery of Clonfert where he is buried.

## ASCENSION THURSDAY

In the Nicene Creed, we profess our belief in Jesus' Ascension when we say: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father."

The Ascension is a mystery of faith, just like Jesus' Resurrection, with which it is closely associated. The event is mentioned briefly by the Evangelist Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). A more detailed account is given by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-12).

The Ascension of Jesus can be defined as the transfer of his risen, glorious body to heaven, that is, to the world of the divine. In the Old Testament, God is described in some texts as "descending" from heaven to accomplish something on earth; he then "ascends" or returns to the world of the divine. Jesus himself speaks of descending to this earth and ascending again to the Father once his work of redemption has been accomplished (cf. Jn 3:13, Eph 4:10).

There are enough indications in the Gospel accounts of the appearances of Jesus to support the belief that he was already in the glory of the Father when he appeared to his followers. But there was a period of instruction after the Resurrection during which Jesus gave his Apostles their final preparation before going out to bear witness to him to the ends of the earth. So, it is commonly held that the Ascension means the final appearance of Jesus to his Apostles before his definitive departure for heaven.

The Ascension means that Jesus, triumphant over death, has begun a new life with God. He has gone to heaven to prepare a place for the elect. On the Last Day, he will return to lead them there so that they might take up their abode with

him (Jn 14:2 ff.). For this reason, the Ascension is a source of great hope and consolation for Christians.

## THE GREAT COMMISSION



Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers

*God bless Fr Alf*