

Corpus Christi Bolton
Seventh Sunday of Easter
24th 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, Charles Freeman

Anniversaries: John Carter

Mass Intentions: John Carter(A)Charles Freeman (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. Ambrose, Chorlton, and for Fr. John Hitchen and Fr. Michael Deas. We pray for their parish primary school.

Ceilidh (Cafod) 20th March

Just a polite reminder if you bought a ticket for the above Cafod charity event. The monies are still being held by Peter Carolan and John Murphy who sold the tickets. If you want a refund you can contact them direct Peter 386006 and John 370034

Sunday Reflection

**Acts 1: 12-14 Psalm 26 1 Peter 4: 13-16
John 17; 1-11**

Gratitude to David Franks

Three parts to Jesus prayer

- John 17:1-5
 - A prayer for himself
 - Theme : Glory
- John 17: 6-19
 - Prays for the disciples
 - Theme: protection
- John 17:20-26
 - Prays for all believers
 - Theme: they may be one

The Hour has Come

The season of Eastertide is coming to a close and today we hear the final part of the Last Supper discourse in which Jesus completes his teaching to the Apostles through a prayer to the Father for them to remain united in Him and in the Father. His time of sacrifice is now upon Him yet His thoughts, as always, turn to His followers and the trials they must endure for His sake. Whenever we say the “Our Father” we recall both the blessing of this prayer, which he has taught us through the Gospels, and these words at the Last Supper which repeat and expand the petitions of that prayer.

In the first reading the apostles take “a sabbath walk”, a Sunday stroll, in the warm afternoon air. The mood is sombre, silence is upon them. their Lord has gone from them, ascended to His Father, and they are alone once more.

We cannot imagine the mood; to have lost then regained their saviour and to have been parted from Him again, in what must seem a final time creates among them a feeling of

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sorrow but also of anticipation. Jesus has told them they are not as orphans, but members of a heavenly family united in spirit and truth and though they will experience times of trial, times of joy, they will never feel alone and abandoned again. They return to the upper room, their place of safety, a place which we seek when fear and confusion come upon us. Instead of drowning in sorrow, they begin to pray.

There are times, in this dreadful period of self-isolation and exclusion from our place of worship and our sacraments, that we too may feel abandoned. Through the gifts of technology, we can keep in touch with each other over the phone and the internet but that does not replace the companionship we have enjoyed as part of the universal church. The human contact, which is so necessary for our comfort and mental well-being, is missing and we too take our small sabbath walks for exercise, often silently, with our thoughts in turmoil.

We miss our families, our friends, our community, our God. But this is not the end. Our Lord may not be with us in a physical form, but we have an advocate, the Holy Spirit, who brings us hope and connects us, through the Blessed Trinity, to Jesus and Our Father in heaven. The early church could have faded away, the apostle and disciples scattered, hearts broken, in the hills and lakes of Galilee, but they were not, and we too, through the Spirit working within us, will see a brighter day tomorrow when all the pain and confusion will fade and we will be free to serve our God and our neighbour again.

David Frank

Pentecost Sunday - Rosary Rally

Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics to pray the Rosary in their family homes during the month of May, especially when the Pandemic is making us aware of the value of our families

and making it possible for us to pray together in lockdown at home. He encourages simple Rosaries and joining online Rosary initiatives to pray to Our Lady for deliverance from Covid-19 and he has composed two prayers for this intention.

You are invited to join in an initiative that follows on the Pope's request, the Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally, from 9.00am to 9.00pm across Scotland England and Wales.

Our Diocese has been asked to pray a Rosary Hour at 1pm and you are invited to take part.

Alpha Online Webinar

Alpha Online Webinar – Tuesday 26th May, 3pm on Zoom

**“Go and make disciples of all nations...”
(Matt 28)**

We find ourselves living in an unprecedented situation. As the Covid-19 outbreak affects patterns of daily life, it is clear that the local church has an even more crucial part to play in people's lives. In the face of increasing isolation and decreasing mobility, it would be tempting to go into hibernation and wait for everything to 'return to normal'.

However, the great commission compels us to keep looking outwards to reach the many people who are asking big questions about life during this pandemic. But, how can we continue to carry out the command of Jesus in these days of isolation and social distancing?

As parishes are currently unable to gather in person, many are innovating and choosing to run Alpha Online. Join Mike Roche (Catholic Context Development for Alpha UK) at 3pm on Tuesday 26th May for a webinar on how Alpha Online can help our parishes to reach the places we've never reached before and share the good news of Jesus with those around us.

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Register your place by emailing hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk and we will send you the zoom link. Alpha online is for over 18s only and only over 18s can attend this webinar.

ONLINE MASS

www.churchservices.tv or www.mcnmedia.tv

If you have no internet-The Diocese of Middlesbrough are now offering Mass by phone. The number is 01642 130120

Calls are charged at local rate or free if included in your phone package

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 the Lord's Day at Home resource for the Seventh Sunday in Easter here.

https://mcusercontent.com/76e219dab8653b775ba8aac4c/files/a42d3af4-8c74-43a6-bc6d-4321438d9029/LDAH_Easter_7A.pdf

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 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.

Mary's Prayers in May - Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.

(Luke 1:46-55)

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR CHILDREN EASTER 2021

Do you know any Catholic children currently in year 7 at Secondary school (Thornleigh/Canon Slade, Bolton School etc) who reside in our parish and are still to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Confirmations are scheduled to take place at **Easter 2021**

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Unfortunately, the current situation has delayed the Diocesan plans of preparation but once we return to normal, we will be arranging catechism for the children who wish to be Confirmed in 2021.

It will be easier liaising through the schools in due course but any interested families can register their interest by emailing the parish office office@sbsj.org.uk

VIRTUAL MEDITATION

If you are interested in taking part in a led meditation session via the internet (Zoom), Mary Durkan is happy to lead these sessions, which may also have participants from her new parish in Horwich.

*If interested please email Mary:
maryannedurkan@gmail.com*

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.christtheredeemer.org.uk/alpha/.

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**.

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).

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.

*I hope everyone is keeping safe and well.
We continue pray for an end to this Pandemic, for those affected and suffering at this time and for the souls of the lately dead - May they rest in peace.*

The prayer of Jesus at the end of today's Gospel is that although he is no longer in the world, his disciples are. At Pentecost, they are given the mandate to go throughout the world and spread the Gospel message.

This, too, is our mission; to make a difference and to be bold disciples of Jesus who breathes the gift of the Spirit within us.

As we approach the Church's birthday, the great day and feast of Pentecost, let us pray that all of us will have a re-awakening of the Spirit within us so that we may truly appreciate what we have and to be transformative and grateful disciples, spreading the Good News.

With every good wish and blessing Fr Alf

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