

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

Incorporating St John, the Evangelist, Bromley Cross, St Columba's, Tonge Moor and St Brendan's, Harwood

19 July 2020

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Weekly Reflection

We all love to hear stories; good books have an ability to make words come to life in our imaginations, and we become part of the story as we are changed, transformed, by the truths sheltering behind the words. Jesus was a master storyteller; He lived in a time when most people were illiterate and he who could tell a good story was at the centre of community life. When Jesus spoke, people listened. He spoke, often in parables, painting pictures with his words, so that those who listened could grasp the meaning of message.

Two images emerge from today's readings, but there are several levels of meaning caught in the words we hear. The first image is of the world. When God created the world, He saw "*that it was good*" but sin and death entered the world through human failings and the devil, Satan, and so it became a battleground between good and evil. Our first reading from Wisdom reminds us of the care and mercy of God and our response must be as the virtuous man who "*must be kindly to his fellow men*". If we love our neighbour then the power of evil can be defeated, and we will can gain repentance.

The second image is how goodness spreads through the world through the way we live our lives. Saint Paul urges us to listen to the Holy Spirit for "*The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness*" and "*expresses our plea in a way that can never be put into words*". God's work in our world is often hidden and emerges in simple acts of love, there is no "great action" only a slow turning away from sin so that God's purpose comes to fruition in the hearts of those who listen

When we read the parables in today's Gospel, we are reminded that, despite our good works, there is often a malign influence, sowing evil, in our world but, when the final judgement comes, that evil will be taken and destroyed. Faith is like a mustard seed; it begins small, but, if nurtured, it can grow and create God's kingdom among us. Yeast when mixed with flour seems to disappear but like the seed it works unseen changing slowly until bread is created to feed the Body of Christ, to lead us to His kingdom. In these simple words, Jesus speaks to the hearts of His listeners and the harvest is found in our response.

With thanks to: **David Frank**

Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2; Divine Office
Week 4*

Wisdom 12:13,16-19; Psalm 85; Romans 8: 26-27;
Matthew 13; 24-43

Sunday 19 July

2pm-4pm Private Prayer at St Brendan's

Monday 20 July

10am-12noon Private Prayer at St John's

Tuesday 21 July

10am-12noon Private Prayer at St Brendan's

Wednesday 22 July - St Mary Magdalene

10am-12noon Private Prayer at St John's

Thursday 23 July - St Bridget of Sweden (Patron of Europe)

10am-12noon Private Prayer at St Brendan's
Special Day of Prayer for Europe

Friday 24 July

Churches Closed

Saturday 25 July - St James

10am-12noon Private Prayer at St John's

Sunday 26 July

10am-12noon Private Prayer at St Brendan's



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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We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends: Bernard Holder, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred Heywood, Emily Martin

Lately Dead: Vincent Sheridan, Brenda Wark, James Coyne, Jeff Haworth, Christopher Scott, Fr Arthur Neary (retired Salford priest), Irene Parkinson (Fr Frank's mum), Bridget McDonagh

May They Rest in Peace

Anniversaries: Mary Mathen

Mass Intentions: Mary Mathen, Christopher Scott, Vincent Sheridan, Brenda Wark

We continue to pray for victims of the Covid-19 virus, and for all those who are still working tirelessly to keep us safe.

Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6): We pray especially for: a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; human life; seafarers

Hope in the Future

We pray for the people of the parish of St Kentigern, Fallowfield and English Martyrs, Whalley Range with Canon Michael Cleary, their parish priest, for its parish primary school and St Bede's College

Offertory Envelopes

These are now available for collection in the respective churches. Donations can be made by posting through the presbytery letter box, by post or alternatively donations can be made through Salford Diocese website, or alternatively by setting up a Bank standing order.

Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to *Corpus Christi*. Thank you.

God Who Speaks BBC Radio 4 Programme: A Leeds diocese Deacon, Henry Longbottom, will be co-leading BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship Programme this Sunday (19 July). The theme is the 'God who Speaks'. The programme begins at 8.10am.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0001w9>

Caritas Vacancy - Support Worker

1x 25.9 hours (3.5 days per week) - £19,171 per annum (£6,709 actual salary) plus Essential Car User Allowance

6-month Fixed Term Contract based in Manchester.

The Support Worker will support isolated older people, who may be vulnerable, living at home in North Manchester. They will provide a highly valued visiting and support service for people with limited mobility, declining coping capacity and poor mental health. This will include providing one to one support to clients, addressing identified needs in a manner reflective of their dignity and self-worth and to encourage and assist clients to address their health and social problems. Experience of working with the elderly or disadvantaged groups in a similar setting is essential.

To apply, please visit the Caritas website www.caritassalford.org.uk for an application pack or more information, please contact Rebecca Anderson on 0161 817 2264 or by email r.anderson@caritassalford.org.uk

Fr Alf: Celebrates 6 years of the Anniversary of his Ordination this Saturday (18 July). We keep him in our prayers and thank him for all that he does for us.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

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