

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

6 September 2020

Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time



“Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them”

We all make mistakes, often the mistake is trivial, we hardly notice it but each time we cause a ripple as on a pond and we only see the beginning of that ripple, we seldom see the wave as it reaches the shore. We do not stand alone, each action of ours has an effect on others, forgiveness is not something that we seek alone, sometimes it is others seeking forgiveness from us; do we treat these two requests for forgiveness in the same manner, do we find it easy to seek forgiveness, expect it even, whilst we reserve our forgiveness for those who we think really deserve it. This dilemma is at the base of today's readings.

Ezekiel is called by the Lord to speak to the people about the actions of the sinner. We are one community and each part of that community has a responsibility, for the acts of another part that community. If we stay silent, when an act is committed that causes offence, are we condoning that act? It is up to each of us to see that justice is done; that the culprit is asked to change their ways, to atone for their actions.

Paul argues that by keeping the commandments we are entering into a state of “mutual love” and if everyone takes responsibility for their actions out of love for all members of the community then God's love will surround us and keep us safe for sin. He quotes the commandments that have a direct act on our neighbour, those that damage or even kill our relationships with one another. Loving our neighbour is the greatest single thing we can do for our community.

We want justice but we also want forgiveness; how can we reconcile these two sides of the effects of sin. Jesus, in the Gospel passage, speaks about the conflict between sin and forgiveness. The sinner should be confronted, if he fails to repent then the community must take action. That action must be based on love otherwise the sinner will not change and his sin will remain. Judgement is a terrible responsibility; however, we can be reassured, that if we act together, in the presence of our God, then He will be with us and our actions will be a reflection of His love. *David Frank*

Activities this Week
Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 3;
Divine Office Week2
 Ezekiel 33:7-9
 Romans 13:8-10
 Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday 6 September
 9.30am Mass (SJ) *(Please see details below regarding Sunday Masses)*
 11am Mass (SB)
 2pm Baptism (SB)

Monday 7 September
 7pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 8 September - *The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
 9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 9 September
 9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 10 September - *St Ambrose Barlow*
 9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 11 September
 No Mass Today

Saturday 12 September
 11am Exposition and Adoration (SJ)
 11.30am Mass (SJ)

Sunday 13 September - *Education Sunday*
 9.30am Mass (SJ)
 11am Mass (SB)
A Day of Special Prayer for Students and Teachers

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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, Madeleine Evans, Barbara Pearl

Lately Dead: Fr John McKeown, Kenneth Williams, Peter Gartside, Noelle Schofield, Eugene Rafferty

Anniversaries: John Edward O'Brien, Gerard Lamoury, David Gracie (10th Anniversary), Barbara Grimes, Margaret Settle, James Dowbakin, Pat Ryan, Patrick Healy

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: John Edward O'Brien, Gerard Lamoury, David Gracie, Barbara Grimes, Margaret Settle, A private intention, Peter Gartside, A special intention for the O'Toole family, James Dowbakin. Eugene Rafferty, Pat Ryan, Patrick Healy

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: Students & Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; The Fruits of Human Work and the Reverent Use of Creation, Justice & Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners & Their Families

Hope in the Future

This week we pray for the people of the parish of the Divine Mercy, Hollinwood and Chadderton, and for Fr Lawrence Imoisili, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools and for St John Henry Newman College. We pray also for the Missionary Sisters of Christ the King.

Offertory Envelopes

We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Currently, there are still a number of offertory envelopes to be collected from our churches. If you would like these to be delivered to you, please do let us know and we can arrange this. 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. Again, many thanks for your continued generosity.

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

Our Schools: Let us wish all our children and staff a very safe return to their schools during a continued difficult time. We pray that they keep well and enjoy the next school year. Let us also keep in our prayers all the students moving on to high school, college, university, or out into the workplace. May the Lord stay with them on their journey.

Sunday Mass Times: Our Churches are open for Mass on Sunday mornings (9.30am at St John's and 11am at St Brendan's). Each church is limited to attendance of 43 people at St Brendan's and 50 at St John's. As we are restricted to numbers if you can attend Mass during the week this will allow more room for those who are restricted to Sundays. If you wish to attend a Sunday Mass please let the office know by email: office@sbsj.org.uk, or by phoning 301927, so that we can make a note of numbers. *Thank you*

SVP Sponsored Walk



The annual sponsored walk (around our three local reservoirs) has now been re-scheduled for Sunday 11 October 2020. This event helps to raise vital funds for the SVP to support families in our parish at Christmas time.

Members of the SVP will be taking part in this beautiful walk (which is approximately 10 miles) and if you feel you would like to join us, in either all or some of the route, please do come along and take part. If you have any further queries, please contact any member of the SVP. Further times and details will be available in the next couple of weeks.

This year, a *just giving Crowdfunding* page has been created for sponsorship. This can be found by visiting:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/svp-walk-2020>

Virtual Pilgrimage to Walsingham



On 27 September there will be a virtual Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life to Walsingham. It can be accessed via YouTube on Walsingham Catholic TV

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0aJG5juZ0) or at the Basilica live stream

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/> Devotions will be streamed throughout the day, beginning with the Mass at 12noon. Full details are available on the website, including the programme for the day:

<https://www.prolifepilgrimage.org/>

Survey for Vocations of Older Persons Salford Diocese have been asked to share the following survey, run by the National Office for Vocations in conjunction with other Catholic organisations.

With more people remaining healthy longer in our times, and the ageing population in many countries around the world, the Church is eager to keep in mind the contribution older people can make. The letter contains two links which will invite the recipient to fill in an online questionnaire regarding the vocation of the older person. There is one link for people over 60 years of age, and another link for parishes meaning parish priests, or anybody working in the parish.

This survey link will remain open until the end of September 2020 and the information it provides will be used to produce an anonymised report which it is hoped will enable the National Office for Vocations to understand better what is being done in the Church in England & Wales, and what more could be done, to promote a culture of vocation which endures and develops throughout life. [The letter can be found here](#)

Destitution Project:



The Destitution Project, here in Bolton, are always so grateful for all we do for them but they are always in desperate need of more items. If you are able to donate, the usual items are: Tins

of fish, tomatoes, chick peas, red kidney beans, sweet corn, corned beef, fruit. Also, Cartons of apple or orange juice, Rice, Long-life milk, tea bags, coffee and vegetable oil. Items can be left at each church, and members of the SVP will take them to the centre. Thank you, as always, for all your help and support.



Caritas September Beacon: Caritas has published its latest Beacon newsletter which can be found by following this link:

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/newsletter/>

Volunteer Vacancy at Marriage Care

Catholic Marriage Care are looking for a volunteer *Head of Centre* in Manchester. In this rewarding role you will lead and support a local team in providing and extending our marriage preparation and relationship counselling services in the area. Email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk Or visit their website www.marriagecare.org.uk for more information.

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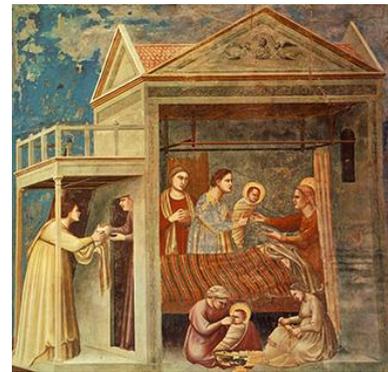


Department of Formation Course

Family is Sacred

After the success of our first *Family is Sacred* Webinar in July, we will be offering the full 14-week course online via zoom. The first session will take place on Wednesday 23 September (7.30pm-9pm) and will run every other Wednesday for 14 weeks. The course is designed to enrich and support marriage and family life and the building up of the Domestic Church. There will be input from various speakers followed by small group discussion and Q&A All Welcome! Register your free place by emailing formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk before Tuesday 22 September (Zoom details to follow)

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



We know that everyone has a birthday. The Bible doesn't say anything about Mary's birth, but we know that she was born. Like all parents, Mary's parents (Joachim and Ann) probably took one look at their newborn daughter and knew that she was special.

Joachim and Ann loved God very much, and they were filled with gratitude to God for the gift of a child. They raised Mary as a child of God, teaching her to love and serve God. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that she had been chosen to be the Mother of Jesus, she already had great faith in God. Her strong faith and trust allowed her to say yes to God's plan for her. We cannot be certain what the future holds for any newborn infant, but we do know that the life of each person has meaning and purpose. When Mary was born, the world did not know who she was. Sometimes others—and maybe even you—don't see how special you are. Maybe you forget that God is calling you, too, right now, to do what Mary did—to bring Jesus into the world.

When we celebrate his mother's birth, we honour Jesus too. Today thank God for the gift of life, and give honour to both Mary and Jesus by showing respect and concern for one another—remembering that God has created each person with love and with a call to something very special in life.