

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

27 September 2020

Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time



**“There should be no competition, among you,
no conceit, but everybody should be self-
effacing”**

There is still time to change. That is the clear message from today's readings. This is the time, in the depths of an unprecedented event the effect of which we cannot yet know, it is surely time for each of us to look at how we live our lives and try to find ways that will take us closer to our loving God. There is no need for rash action or rushing around changing our way of life, it is a time to sit down, relax, think deeply about the way we live and then make some decisions which may or may not change our attitude to our families, our neighbours, our world. We cannot blame God or other people for the way our lives have turned out. Ezekiel speaks out clearly to the people. It is not God's fault if we reject integrity or commit sin, other people cannot force us to sin against our will. We have the power over our lives, we can turn away from sin or we can commit sin. We cannot blame others for our faults. It is up to us; we can choose to die in sin or live in honesty and harmony with others.

The love of self is often the cause of the sin in our lives. From small indiscretions and petty mindfulness, we can gradually fall into sin and these things lead us deeper down that path. Just listen carefully to what Saint Paul has to say. He looks for unity with a common purpose and a common mind. A community in which we live in tenderness and sympathy with one another. This makes us happy, “Always consider the other person to be better than yourself”. Christ is Lord, but He never saw himself as superior to others. He emptied himself so that he could be like us but, much more than that, he accepted death to free us from our sins; and “God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names”. Take Jesus as your model, live by His example, then you will find peace. The parable of the two sons always sounds to me as a tale of two adolescent boys, one wanting to shock his parents, the other seeming to obey but actually going out and doing his own thing. There can be two sides to our characters. We can be willful and nasty, but we can also be obedient and loving. It is our choice; our status in society is no judge; we find love and compassion within the human spirit despite our circumstances. It all depends on the road we choose and the life we live. *David Frank*

<p align="center">Activities this Week <i>Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2</i> Divine Office Week 2 Ezekiel 18:25-28 Philippians 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32</p>
<p>Sunday Mass Times: 9.30am at St John's and 11am at St Brendan's. Each church is limited to attendance of 43 people (St Brendan's) and 50 (St John's) this doesn't include “bubbles”. If you wish to attend please let the office know by email: office@sbsj.org.uk, or by phoning 301927, so that we can make a note of numbers. <i>Thank you</i></p>
<p>Sunday 27 September - A Day of Prayer for Thanksgiving for the Harvest 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB) <i>Harvest Sunday</i></p>
<p>Monday 28 September 11am Private Funeral for Armando (Tom) Chung (Overdale)_ 7pm Mass (SJ) At all Masses this week, we will have a retiring collection for Peter's Pence.</p>
<p>Tuesday 29 September - St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael, Archangels 9.30am Mass (SB)</p>
<p>Wednesday 30 September - St Jerome 9.30am Mass (SJ)</p>
<p>Thursday 1 October - St Therese of the Child Jesus 9.30am Mass (SB)</p>
<p>Friday 2 October - The Holy Guardian Angels No Mass Today</p>
<p>Saturday 3 October 11am Exposition and Adoration (SJ) 11.30am Mass (SJ)</p>
<p>Sunday 4 October - 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB) The Special Collection for Peter's Pence ends at Masses today. Thank you</p>

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.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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 & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Madeleine Evans, Barbara Pearl

Lately Dead: Armando (Tom) Chung, Godfrey Mascarenhas

Anniversaries: Sheila Doona

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Sheila Doona, Armando (Tom) Chung, Jane Connaughton (Birthday Remembrance). Godfrey Mascarenhas, Margaret Smith

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 parish of The Nativity, Failsworth and Limeside, with Fr Michael Job, their parish priest, and Fr John Adio. We pray for their parish primary schools.

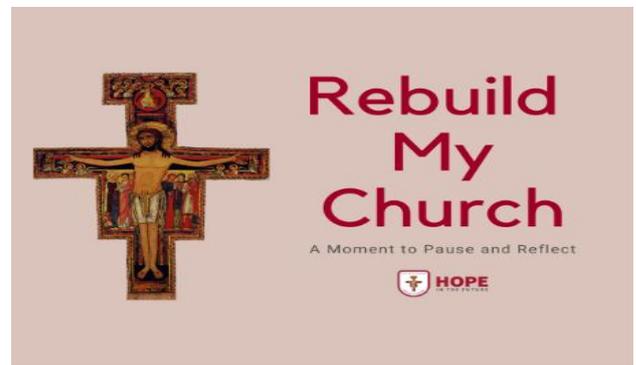
Offertory Envelopes

We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Currently, there are still a few offertory envelopes to be collected. 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.



Ann and Terry Scott wish to thank the parishioners for their Mass Offerings, prayers, cards and messages of sympathy received following the death of their son, Robert Christopher. He is now at peace with God. *God Spoke his name, He heard his call, and turned and said "Goodbye" to all. Rest in Peace*



A Message from The Diocese of Salford

In October 2017, we launched our five-year pastoral renewal programme, Hope in the Future. This October, we were due to begin Stage Four - Proclaiming the Good News. None of us could have foreseen the way this year turned out. We have been unable to access the Sacraments, and many families around our diocese have faced ill health, isolation and the loss of loved ones.

Given the strangeness of our present circumstances, we think it necessary to have a period of reflection to discern what we have learnt during these challenging times and, in doing so, plan for a brighter "new normal".

When the time is right, we will relaunch Stage Four of Hope in the Future. But for now, we will take a moment to pause; to remember those we've lost and to reflect on the challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic

A new digital document called 'Rebuild my Church' has been published by the Department of Formation which is full of resources to help us through this period of reflection. [You can click here to view that document.](#)

On Sunday 4 October, Bishop John will lead a Holy Hour from Salford Cathedral [which will be livestreamed on ChurchServices.tv at 3pm.](#)

The theme of the Holy Hour will be *Hope in Difficult Times* and we hope it will provide parishioners around our diocese with an opportunity to take stock of the last few months.

The focus is not on moving to stage four but rather reflecting on the presence of the Lord all through lockdown and as we continue on our journey. The Lord has, in a very real sense, answered our prayer and stayed with us on our journey.

We need to pause, draw breath, grieve where we need to grieve but also be grateful where we can be and allow ourselves to be renewed.

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey

The 'New Norm'

Since the onset of Covid 19 in March of this year, many people have been subjected to the most difficult and sometimes tragic period of their lives. Some of our older population lost their independence, families isolated, lives tragically and prematurely ended and children found themselves unable to gather together in school and in play.

God willing, and if common sense prevails, we will, in time, overcome this terrible pandemic and maybe, just maybe, look forward to better times ahead.

In his inspirational homilies throughout 'Lockdown' our own Bishop John has shared with us his total admiration for the unselfish devotion to duty of our NHS staff and that of the key workers who have kept our essential services going. Also included by him were the dedicated and sometimes unsung heroes who have run our Care Homes against all odds.

Such selfless and precarious actions became the catalyst for an unprecedented ground swell of community spirit, where peoples' love and help for others shone through so brightly. It is the Bishop's wish that this wonderful demonstration of goodwill should continue when normality resumes.

Thinking about the Bishop's words and hopes for the future, I was reminded of the wonderful and unselfish work carried out by some of our own parishioners for SVP, CAFOD and the various parish duties, clubs and committees. They give of their own time for our benefit and that of the wider community in the UK and overseas.

I am sure that, like me, many of you have been emotionally moved by the TV pictures of deprivation, poverty and untreated sickness throughout the world. These are the people that our superb CAFOD group are trying to help.

Similarly, our admirable SVP group are trying to comfort and help an increasing number of our own housebound parishioners by regular phone calls (at present) but in normal times by weekly visits to their homes for a welcome chat plus some occasional social events, as funds allow.

Both of these excellent Christian activities drastically need more help. Is it possible that the prevailing wonderful community spirit could encourage you to offer your assistance? *Anon*

SVP Awareness Month



Our SVP groups continue to carry on with their valuable work during the pandemic. They have been helping to deliver vital food supplies to the Destitution Project, helping with shopping for isolated people and providing a phone call and a chat to those who cannot visit their family and friends.

Thank you for all the continued support you continue to give the SVP, your generosity is overwhelming. If anyone feels they would like to volunteer, by offering some time with the SVP, please contact the numbers below.

SVP Sponsored Walk: The annual sponsored walk is on Sunday 11 October 2020. This event helps to raise vital funds for the SVP to support families in our parish at Christmas time. If you have any further queries, please contact any member of the SVP: Julie Burton (304732), Arthur Rawlinson (418204), Mary Cropper (596439), or Peter Barnes (301263). 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>

We are still some way off our target, so if you are able to contribute, we would be so grateful. As well as of making use of *just giving*, you may of course prefer to contact one of the SVP members direct to sponsor them. Thank you!

Destitution Project: The Destitution Project, here in Bolton, are always in desperate need of food items. 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

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
BL1 7AL
01204 309609



World Day for Migrants and Refugees

This Sunday is the International Day for Migrants and Refugees. Pope Francis has invited us to consider the theme of *'Forced like Jesus Christ to flee'* reminding us that the Holy Family were also victims of forced displacement.

Refugees to the UK arrive via one of two routes. Either they have been accepted by a Government resettlement scheme and travel directly from another country or they have arrived in the UK and are submitting a claim for asylum. Those who are seeking asylum and can show that they would otherwise be destitute are offered accommodation on no-choice basis and subsistence support of only £5.39 per day but are prohibited from working. If their claim for asylum is recognised as legitimate, newly recognised refugees are given just 28 days 'move-on period' to leave their asylum accommodation. However, this often forces refugees into further destitution, as it can take some time to access mainstream services, such as bank accounts, new housing and income from employment or welfare.

Caritas Salford is responding in a variety of ways, to support those who have been forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution or natural disaster who and are seeking refuge in our area. As well as providing a humanitarian response with food and support through our day centres in Cornerstone, Manchester or Bury, Caritas is a leader in supporting the government Community Sponsorship scheme which enables parish communities to welcome and support a resettled refugee family. We continue to provide free education classes to around 150 people (currently via Zoom) to teach or help improve English language skills and are supporting many learners into higher or further education. We also provide support and advice through 'drop-in' sessions at a variety of locations. Much of this work is funded directly through donations and support of parishes, schools and individuals and we are very grateful for your support. For more information on World Day of Migrants and Refugees or to read stories from those people whom Caritas has helped, please

visit: <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/news/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees-2020/>

A Thought for the Week...



"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

St John Henry Cardinal Newman

Virtual Walsingham Pilgrimage: This Sunday the virtual Pilgrimage of Reparation and 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/>

Online Laudato Si Weekend Retreat - Your Parish and Your Planet (16 - 19 October):

To attend, please email Sr Margaret Atkins on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk.

The God who Speaks - Online Talks

Wednesday 7 October: *The God who speaks in Letters* by Father James Crampsey, SJ, Jesuit priest at the Holy Name Church, Scripture Scholar, and member of the Chaplaincy Team at the Manchester Universities

Wednesday 28 October: *The God who speaks to us today: Contemporary Challenges through a Biblical Lens*, by Father Joe Evans, priest of the Opus Dei prelature, Scripture specialist, and based at Greygarth Hall, Manchester.

Wednesday 25 November: *The God who speaks in the Gospel of John*, by Fr Michael Winstanley, SDB, Salesian priest and Scripture Scholar, based at the Salesian community in Bolton. Each evening begins at 7pm. To book a place please email formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk indicating which evening (or all four) you wish to participate in.

Red Box Collection: Parishioners in St Brendan's, who have a Mill Hill red box, should have received the latest copy of *Mission Today* this week. Obviously, with the pandemic and lockdown, it not been possible for the collectors to call round and empty the boxes for the past few months and with the current situation, it seems unlikely that they will be able to do so in the foreseeable future. However, the pandemic has had a devastating effect in the third world and donations to Missio have suffered substantially. I know times are hard but if possible, could you make a donation by whichever method suggested in the letter (in the magazine) that is easiest. If you wish you could empty the red box yourself and send a cheque for that amount. Every bit helps no matter how small. I don't know when the collectors will be able to get round again, but I do know they all miss coming round and having a chat with you, even more so in these difficult times. On behalf of Missio thank you and thank you for your generous contributions over the last few years. *Peter Hosie*