

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

22 November 2020

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe



*For I was hungry, and you gave me food
I was thirsty, and you gave me drink
I was a stranger, and you made me welcome
I was naked, and you clothed me
I was sick, and you visited me
I was in prison, and you came to see me
In so far you did this to one of the least of these
brothers of mine you did it to me*

There is something very fundamental about today's message from the Gospel. Something well worth our consideration. Jesus is talking to his disciples about the last judgement. He lists some criteria which will be used to separate the sheep from the goats. There is no mention of how many times they have been to Mass or how well their prayer life has progressed. No, the main criteria listed in Matthews Gospel is how well they have loved. Faithfulness brings its own reward But unless we make the love of others our main priority faith has no meaning. We cannot save ourselves: We can only do what we can for each other and hope that our efforts are sufficient to save us. Belonging to a church does not ensure salvation. We must follow Christ every day and act as He did to the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the lost and the sick. It is only by giving of ourselves that we find eternal life.

"Life has taught me this, every day is new and if anything is true All that matters, when we're through, is how we loved" *Beth Nielson Chapman*

Lord Jesus

You are the King of Kings,
the Shepherd of our Souls,
Our Redeemer, Our Saviour, Our Friend
You hold us close to you.

Watching when we go astray,
seeking us out when we are lost,
when we are scattered in the mist and darkness.
You destroy our enemies,
even death cannot prevail against you.
You bring all your people to life in you,
So that God may be all and in all. **David Frank**

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 2

Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

Corinthians 15:20-26.28

Matthew 25:31-46

Opening times for Prayers at St Osmund's:

Monday churches closed.

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday (2pm-4pm) at
St Osmund, Brightmet.

Wed & Thur (2pm-4pm) at St Teresa, Little Lever.

Sunday 22 November - National Youth Sunday

10am-11am Private Prayer at both Churches

Monday 23 November

10am-11am Private Prayer (SJ)

Tuesday 24 November - St Andrew Dung-Lac

10am-11am Private Prayer (SB)

Wednesday 25 November

10am-11am Private Prayer (SJ)

Thursday 26 November

10am-11am Private Prayer (SB)

Friday 27 November

Churches Closed

Saturday 28 November

10am-11am Private Prayer (SJ)

Sunday 29 November - First Sunday of Advent

10am-11am Private Prayer at both Churches

Hoping that everyone is well. This weekend we enter the final week of our liturgical year with the feast of Jesus Christ the King of the Universe. This is placed at the end of the liturgical year and recalls that the life of creation does not advance by chance but proceeds to a final end: the definitive manifestation of Christ, Lord of history and of the whole of creation. The conclusion of history will be His eternal reign.

At present, it is too early to know and plan Christmas until we hear the Government guidance after this current lockdown. God Bless Fr Alf

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Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk



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, Howard McArdle, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg

Lately Dead: Colin Oliveira, Kenneth Smith, John Wynne, Margaret Campbell Smith

Anniversaries: Bill Wheeler, Graham Taylor

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: John Wynne, Margaret Campbell Smith, Bill Wheeler (1st Anniversary), Winifred Meagher, Graham Taylor

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

Let us pray this week for the intentions of the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the Guardian Angels, Bury, and the parish of St Hilda, Tottington, with Father Paul Cannon, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools. May they recognise the Lord in the ways they serve the least of their sisters and brothers.

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.

Prayer Resource - Lord's Day at Home

Based on the Sunday Scriptures, this resource is particularly aimed at those not able to follow a Mass on the internet. This week's Lord's Day at Home prayer sheet [can be found by clicking here](#)

Walk With Me Booklets & Calendars

Are now available (and free of charge) for you to take to help prepare for the season of Advent.

Christmas Stamps: Please remember that if you need to purchase Royal Mail stamps when posting your Christmas cards, that Nativity stamps are now on sale at Post Offices. This year's stamps feature English stained-glass windows reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. Just ask for "religious stamps."

Fort Alice Toy Appeal: In the past we have held appeals for Christmas toys for Fortalice. This year, as you can imagine, will be different and there is an even greater need for children's gifts. If you are able to donate a newly purchased toy or high street gift vouchers (for older children) they would be most welcome. If you can, please bring along any items to either church before Sunday 13 December when a representative from Fort Alice will come and collect them. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Caritas Diocese of Salford Advent

Appeal 2020: At this time of year, Caritas Salford traditionally begins a winter appeal for donations of food, sleeping bags and other materials. The restrictions affecting the public celebration of Mass means we are unable to accept physical donations this year or tell parishioners about the positive impact of their donations on the lives of those in need. Please visit the Caritas Salford website / use this link <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/advent-appeal-2020/> to watch a short film about how Caritas helped Rochelle, Quinton and Nikki and to make a small donation by debit or credit card if you are able. Please continue to remember in your prayers all the staff, volunteers and beneficiaries of Caritas services this winter. *Thank you.*

National Youth Sunday: Takes place today (Sunday 22 November), the feast of Christ the King. National Youth Sunday represents an opportunity to recognise young people - their gifts, talents and uniqueness. It also provides the Church with an opportunity to thank them for and affirm their contribution to the life of the local and universal Church. All resources for NYS are available at

www.nationalyouthsunday.com.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Peel House
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.
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One Hope Project Academy - Paid for place at St James and All Souls, Salford
Launching in January 2021, The OHP Academy aims to raise up accomplished, Spirit-filled worshippers in parishes around the country. Whether you are a singer or a musician, we want to help you grow and encourage music teams in your context. One Hope Project have teamed up with Divine Renovation and the parish of St James and All Souls, Salford to provide a paid for place. To apply you must be prepared to invest in the worship of the parish, either by living nearby or moving to the area to be involved. Following your application, an additional Zoom meeting will be set up between the applicant, OHP and the Parish Priest. For more information visit <https://www.onehopeproject.co.uk/ohpacademy>



Destitution Project: Thank you for all donations that have been coming in - they really do make a difference. We continue to collect the usual items: tinned tomatoes, tinned chickpeas/red kidney beans, rice, cooking oil, sardines, tea, coffee, long-life milk, tinned fruit & corned beef, cartons of orange juice etc.



Harbour Room Book Club: An Update for any member or anyone interested in our Book Club. As the present circumstances are unpredictable, any future meetings will probably start next September 2021. Here is the list of books recommended:

The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry, *I'm Travelling Alone* by Samuel Bjork.

Please choose one from; *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese, *All the Light we Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr or *Educated* by Tara Westover (non-fiction). *The Lost Man* by Jane Harper, *Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson (Jackson Brodie), *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn (non-fiction), *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan, *Circe* by Madeleine Miller *Tangerine* by Christine Mangan, *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes, *Abide With Me* by Elizabeth Strout.

Please choose one from; *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte, *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen or *1984* by George Orwell.

Mark 10 Mission - Children's Liturgy

Resource: Mark 10 Mission create free virtual Gospel liturgies for primary schools. They have just completed filming a second series and although this was created to be used in schools for Collective Worship, in the absence of children's liturgies, they can be used to share the gospel with families. You can find the resources [here:](https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/theepisodes)
<https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/theepisodes>

High Sheriff Young Citizen of the Year

Award: We have been asked by the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Eamonn O'Neal, to share the below message. *Our young people play a huge role in making local communities safer and better places to live and it is extremely important that we recognise and celebrate their achievements. The exceptional young people of Greater Manchester have demonstrated their commitment to social action, community engagement and philanthropy across the entirety of Greater Manchester. The High Sheriff Awards for Young Citizen 2020 seek to celebrate these achievements and recognise the contributions that young people play in all our lives - fundraising, helping, or caring for people, or being very thoughtful, kind, or brave in some way. Nominations will give the opportunity for each young person to be congratulated. The awards, sponsored by Beaverbrooks, are open to individual young people who live or who carry out their work in Greater Manchester and who are aged between 11-18 years old as of the 31st December 2020. [Find out more on the poster here](#)*

Call for Evidence - Faith Engagement

Adviser: England's Faith Engagement Adviser is leading a review into how best the Government should engage with faith groups in England and has launched a call for evidence to gather the thoughts of a variety of people, including people of faith. You can find the link to the Call for Evidence page by [clicking here](#). The Call for Evidence has been formatted to work on mobile phones and tablets as well as desktop computers:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence

'Family is Sacred' Zoom

Course: formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

2 December - The Sacrament of Matrimony -

16 December - Fatherhood & Motherhood

Diocese of Salford - Job Vacancy

Safeguarding Officer

Appointment Type: Full time, permanent.
Working Hours: 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday. There will be a requirement for occasional evening and weekend work. **Location:** Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP **Salary:** £26,000-£32,000 per annum
Closing date for applications: 12noon on Monday 23 November 2020

Full details and application packs are available at: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies

DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Pastoral Letter of the Right Reverend John Arnold Bishop of Salford FOR THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING 2020

Jesus has been born into the brokenness of our world.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Because there have been such impressive initiatives in the parishes to build up communication during this time of pandemic and lockdown, I am confident that this letter will reach recipients throughout the Diocese. I have been aware of regular, even daily, messages from priests to their parish communities, weekly newsletters and live streaming of Masses and services and of personal connection with isolated and housebound members of our parishes. Sincere thanks to all those who have done so much to ensure that there have been such good levels of communication. I am writing now as we approach the close of the Church's year and as we look forward to the beginning of the Season of Advent and our preparations for Christmas.

I certainly do not want to dismiss the difficulties that so many people have had to face in these recent months, and the continuing challenges as this pandemic rolls on. And people have been so generous, in many and diverse ways, in caring for their neighbours. My thanks, also, for the great generosity and thoughtfulness shown to our priests during this time of two lockdowns, understanding the difficulties they have faced in adapting their ministry. Those thanks extend to the many volunteers who have ensured that our churches have been the safest places for indoor gatherings and allowed them to open once that initial lockdown was over. After this second lockdown, I am sure we will open our churches safely again, when allowed to do so. While recognising all the difficulties, we have to ask what possibilities and opportunities are uniquely presented to us in our current situation? We must emerge from this pandemic with a sense of vision and with renewed priorities. Our Christmas celebrations will have to be different, but they can, and must, be important to us.

I think it is true to say that Christmas has become increasingly secularised in recent years. The accent has been on presents, decorations, parties and family gatherings - all perfectly reasonable and good in themselves, but there has been almost no public and media mention of the Christmas Story which is the foundational reason for all this celebration. The crib is rarely seen in public places and we are not reminded of the gift of Christ's birth and presence among us.

This year we must celebrate Christmas in a different way. Assuming that our churches will be open but still having a limited capacity, we will return to the ancient tradition of observing the Christmas Octave and I invite everyone, able to do so, to attend a Christmas Mass on at least one of the days during the Octave, from Christmas Eve through to New Year's Day. Each parish will have its own arrangements for managing its capacity. During those days there are important Feasts which can be celebrated specifically in the light of Christmas. We will also provide some resources for the family at home, and resources for children. Can we connect more closely with the simplicity of Christmas and the importance of what God is saying to us in the birth of His Son?

That First Christmas was the story of a family without home or security. God's Son is born in a stable. A few shepherds, among the humblest of people of the day, are given the great privilege of being called to witness what is happening. I enjoy contemplating the simple crib setting with Mary and Joseph, shepherds and the ox and ass. There is a

silent adoration of the new-born baby. There is no need for words. We have the wonder of silently gazing on the presence of God among us. There is surely a wonderful sense of hope and reassurance in that scene.

This family then must become refugees and flee from the wrath of King Herod, into Egypt. God is uniting His new-born Son with the homeless, the rejected, the poor and the insecurity that surrounds so many people in our own generation. We need to remember the real Christmas Story if we are to truly celebrate its importance. And this year, when families cannot meet in large numbers, and Christmas must be very different - the invitation is there to remind ourselves of what this feast is really all about. Jesus has been born into the brokenness of our world. He comes to share our reality and to lead us in truth. As we celebrate Christmas this year, we have every reason to be confident that, out of the many difficulties and problems that face our world today, progress can be made in seeking justice and peace and care for our brothers and sisters and our common home.

It is also a time to recognise, with thanks, all that we have and the good things that surround us; those qualities of life which everyone should enjoy.

Looking beyond Christmas, into 2021, there will need to be a lot of careful consideration given to our ministry and programmes in the Diocese. We need to consider how best to provide the sacramental preparation for our young people, the ways of preparing people for reception into the Church, for those preparing for marriage. There is a need for more resources to help us in strengthening a spirituality of "Church at home". It can be a time for all of us to reinforce and develop our personal faith. I have begun discussions about how we might most effectively provide for our present circumstances and I will hope to explain the arrangements early in the New Year. And our planning cannot just be about a catching up on things delayed and postponed in 2020. We must also be thinking and planning for our continuing journey as a Diocese - a "Journey to 2030" and beyond.

Pope Francis is leading the Church - and speaking to the whole world - through these most difficult and challenging times. He is not afraid to warn us of the reality of Climate Change, to speak of our care for our brothers and sisters and our common home. He identifies the need for change from our localised thinking, to a sense of global encounter and dialogue. We face serious challenges, but Pope Francis always speaks with Hope. There is still time for us to change, to repair and to renew - and our prayer must be the foundation of all our actions, decisions and choices.

In the sadness of these days, we remember especially those suffering from the virus, those who have died and those who have lost family members and friends in the pandemic. We also remember those whose own suffering or loss has been overshadowed by a focus on the pandemic. We give thanks for the commitment of so many in the Health Service and those who provide other essential services at this time. We pray for that resilience by which we will build a better world for all our brothers and sisters. We pray for one another and our journey together.

May God bless you and keep you safe and well - assured always of His love

"Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey"

+John Arnold
Bishop of Salford