

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**10 January 2021**

## The Baptism of The Lord



When you live in a coastal town you have a special relationship with water. My earliest memories are of walks to the beach and promenades and gazing, in wonder, at the sea which stretched before me to the far horizon. As a small boy I found a real sense of freedom and peace among the piers and the rocky coastline and would spend hours just exploring and walking close to the water. So, I can respond, quite freely, to Isaiah's call to "Come to the water" but, of course, he is not speaking of sandy beaches, he is speaking of the life-giving water of God which cleanses and refreshes, which calls us and makes us whole. The images that come to me through the words of the prophet are life giving; they are a reminder of the promise of God that by being attentive to Him my soul shall live.

This is especially true when we begin to explore the full meaning of "The Word". Isaiah reminds us that God's Word is always before us, calling us to love all of His creation. He uses the simple image of rain and snow watering the earth, giving life to the seed, and providing a harvest for all. Then we are given a word by Saint John in his first letter. That word is "begotten": what does it mean? Simply it can be described as "fathered by God": suddenly we become part of a greater entity. John is saying that whoever believes in Jesus as Christ becomes a member of the family of God, is loved by God and is called to be His child. How can we attain this status?

John asks us to follow the commandments of God and then we can achieve victory over the world through our faith. We are not alone; we stand with Christ; we have the support, always, of the Holy Spirit and we live in the love of God.

The first step on this way to God is Baptism. Mark, in his straight-talking way, tells of the Baptism of Jesus in one short paragraph; when Jesus is baptised he rises to a new creation; heaven is torn asunder and the Holy Spirit descends on him. His Father then acclaims Him as His Son. We need to find the simple faith of Mark because in doing so, in putting our faith in God, we too become his begotten ones, his children. **David Frank**

<b>Activities this Week</b> <i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1</i> <b>Divine Office Week 1</b> Isaiah 55:1-11 1 John 5:1-9 Mark 1.7-11
<b>Sunday 10 January - First Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)
<b>Monday 11 January</b> 7pm Mass (SJ)
<b>Tuesday 12 January</b> 9.30am Mass (SB)
<b>Wednesday 13 January</b> 9.30am Mass (SJ)
<b>Thursday 14 January</b> 9.30am Mass (SB)
<b>Friday 15 January</b> Churches Closed
<b>Saturday 16 January</b> 11am Exposition 11.30 Mass (SJ)
<b>Sunday 17 January -Peace Sunday</b> 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB) <i>At Masses today we will have a special White Flower collection for SPUC (The society for the Protection of Unborn Children)</i>
<b>Christmas Poinsettias:</b> If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please collect from church (if attending any Masses, or you can ring the Presbytery to arrange collection.

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity - 250037  
**Diocesan website: [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)**



**We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends:**

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, Vernon Holt

**Lately Dead:** Patrick Coyne, Nathan Coyne, Joseph Cleary, Alan Gadd, Owen Kavanagh, Andrew Porter, Glynn Booth, Betty Davenport, Ron Dawson, Stuart Webster, Rita Ray

**Anniversaries:** James Wheeler, William Hurst, Marian Kosecki, Jim Gartland, Ann Davies, Fr Gerard Duffy, Bernard Molyneux

**May They Rest in Peace**

**Mass Intentions:** James Wheeler, Glynn Booth, Owen Kavanagh, Rita Ray, Pat Coyne, William Hurst, Stuart Webster, Marian Kosecki, John Roberts, Caroline Smith, Ron Dawson, Jim Gartland, Ann Davies, Fr Gerard Duff (Birthday Remembrance), Bernard Molyneux

**Christmas Remembrances:** Cambridge, Carter and Atkinson families. Barbara Grimes, O'Connor, Groark, Holt, McGucken families

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 1 (of 6):** We pray especially for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The sick and those who care for them; Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it; The unemployed

**Hope in the Future**

Let us pray for the people of the parish of St. Mary and St Philip Neri, Radcliffe, for Fr Philip Brady, their parish priest, and for the parish primary school. As they live out their baptismal mission, may they draw others to Christ, God's Beloved Son

**Offertory**

We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. 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** - For those at home, and not able to attend Mass, the Liturgy Office has prepared a service called "*The Lord's Day at Home*", based on the Sunday Scriptures, that you can pray on your own or with your family. It is particularly aimed at those not able to follow a Mass on the internet. [The Baptism of the Lord \(10<sup>th</sup> January\)](#)

**A Message from Fr Alf:** I hope everyone is keeping safe and well. During this third lockdown, I am pleased to report our churches can remain open for public worship and our Mass times will continue as normal.

I would like to remind everyone that during these times the obligation to attend Mass is still suspended so there is no need to attend in person especially if you do not feel comfortable. Particularly please do not attend Mass if you are displaying any symptoms of the virus, or if you are clinically vulnerable or shielding. Please do not put yourself at risk. Currently we are experimenting without the need to book for Mass, and we will assess this in due course. **We will have to have the windows/doors open a little wider - please feel free to bring a blanket but no snoring during my homily!**

Please adhere to the guidance of our stewards. God bless *Fr Alf*

**Churches to remain open for Mass**

With the announcement of a new lockdown for England to curb the rapid spread of COVID-19, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: "The regular practice of our faith in God is a well-established source of both personal resilience and dedicated service to those in need. Such resilience and enduring service are vital in these difficult circumstances. "I am glad that no measures have been introduced that would obstruct or curtail this essential source of energy for the common good. Catholic parishes will continue to serve the needs of their local community. "In one parish, for example, the provision of food for the needy has increased by 400% since March last year." The latest lockdown restrictions come into force on 5 January 2021. In terms of Communal Worship and Life Events, the following guidance is provided: You can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship, a funeral or event related to a death, a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a wedding ceremony. You should follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship. Weddings, funerals and religious, belief-based or commemorative events linked to someone's death are all subject to limits on the numbers that can attend, and weddings and civil ceremonies may only take place in exceptional circumstances.

This Newsletter is sponsored by  
**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**  
Peel House  
638 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton.  
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01204 309609



**A Thank you message from Caritas:** We are very grateful for the financial and practical donations received in response to our Advent 2020 campaign #MiracleOfKindness. As a result, we were able to sustain our services providing food throughout the Christmas period and we can continue to provide essential support during this latest period of lockdown. We will provide a further update on the wider impact you have made in the coming weeks. As we now enter lockdown once again, with its associated challenges especially for the most vulnerable, we ask you please to keep our service users, volunteers and staff in your prayers. Thank you.

### Talks from the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst

**The Drama Displayed: A Journey of Salvation** A free series of online talks offered by the Christian Heritage Centre. A range of excellent speakers will examine the key moments of salvation history, with the aid of great works of art. At 7.30pm every second Thursday, from 14 January to 25 March. For info and registration:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

**Set Free Summit:** the Christian Heritage Centre and ICPE Mission offer a set of six, online sessions to young adults on relationships and sexuality based on John Paul II's teaching. Featuring speakers from across the globe, each session will provide the opportunity to share and ask questions. At 4pm on Sundays from 7 February to 14 March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/set-free>

**Primary Education Pool:** The Diocesan Department for Education's 2021 Newly Qualified Teacher Pool is now open for applications. Advert and further details, along with application form to apply can be found on the diocesan website using the following link: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/>

**Decarbonisation Project:** The Diocese of Salford has started work with academic partners on a 'decarbonisation strategy.' This will involve understanding our carbon footprint and ways to reduce it, over the next two years. The team would welcome anyone with expertise in this area in our parish communities to get in touch at [decarbonisation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:decarbonisation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk), so that we are more aware of those that might want to get involved. Thank you.

### Online Talks

**The Adventures of a Biblical Translator by Dom Henry Wansbrough**

**Saturday 23 January 2021, 11am - 12.30pm**

An event by The Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain. Editor of the New Jerusalem Bible and most recently the Revised New Jerusalem Bible, Dom Henry has spent a lifetime in Bible translation. To access this live stream event go to [www.sppilford.org.uk](http://www.sppilford.org.uk) and click on live stream remote services. Event available subsequently on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Dr Sean Ryan, chair of the CBA, will introduce the event. Questions for Fr Henry on Bible translation may be emailed beforehand to [catholicbiblicalassociation.gb@gmail.com](mailto:catholicbiblicalassociation.gb@gmail.com)

**Austen Ivereigh: Let Us Dream!**  
**Saturday 30th January 2021, 11am - 2.30pm**

*This event is being held in collaboration with Brentwood Diocese Interfaith*

*Let Us Dream!* is the first book written by a pope in response to a major crisis, and the first ever to be drafted in English - by his collaborator and biographer, Austen Ivereigh. The book offers not just the Pope's reflections on the multiple coronavirus crisis, but spiritual guidance on how to make use of the pandemic to make a better world, drawing on powerful episodes from his own life and a lifetime of leadership.

**Austen Ivereigh:** Is a writer, journalist and commentator best known for two highly regarded biographies of Pope Francis: *The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope* and *Wounded Shepherd: Pope Francis and His Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church*

To access this live stream event go to [www.sppilford.org.uk](http://www.sppilford.org.uk) and click on live stream remote services. Event available subsequently on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Questions for Austen may be emailed beforehand to [adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org)



**Thought For the Week**

**“Baptism is God’s most beautiful & magnificent gift.”**

**St Gregory of Nazianzus**

## (COVID-19)

### GUIDELINES FOR PARISHIONERS WHEN ATTENDING HOLY MASS

Before you decide to come to church, please read this guidance carefully. The obligation to attend Holy Mass is suspended at this time of pandemic. If you have any symptoms of coronavirus or have been in contact with someone who has symptoms, please stay at home.

- The church will open approximately 30mins before the scheduled Mass time.
- External doors will be open at all times, so wear suitable clothing in case it's cold.
- You must wear a face covering in church. Please bring your own.
- The toilet is closed at all times, except for emergency use.
- As you enter church, a steward will greet you and ask you to sanitise your hands.
- A steward will direct you to an allocated seat. You cannot choose where to sit.
- Social distancing of 2 metres will be observed. Those living in the same household or sharing the same social bubble may sit together.
- Remain in your place once seated and refrain from talking to others.
- Singing during the Mass is not permitted. Mass sheets and books are not available.
- You are not allowed to enter the sacristy area, nor speak to the priest in the sacristy.
- The stewards will have a basket at the back of church for any offerings you wish to give.
- At Holy Communion, please follow the instructions given by the priest and the directions given by the stewards. Wait in your seat before you are asked to move forward.
- After you have received Holy Communion, you can return to your seat in the pews.
- After Mass has ended, the congregation departs in an orderly and distanced manner.
- Sanitise your hands as you exit.
- Refrain from talking and mingling with others outside the church.