

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

31 January 2021

Fourth Week in Ordinary Time



Words can convey many things, they can hurt, they can heal, they can convince and confuse, mend and break. The ideas they express can create allegiances or cause division; it all depends on who is speaking. Sometimes you can hear someone speak and you can see the truth and authority they possess. Words can build kingdoms or create movements which have the power to change the world in which we live, for better, for worse, forever.

In the Old Testament certain characters so changed the lives of the Jewish people that they became beacons by which ideas gained a certain measure of validity because they were spoken in his name. Moses is a great example of this. The Book of Deuteronomy was written many hundreds of years after his death yet so important was his name that the book was written as if he were the author. Today's passage underlined the need for prophets to speak God's words not their own. The punishment for using God's name, to the prophet's own advancement, was death and to emphasise the gravity of the offence this warning comes in the name of Moses.

So when Jesus spoke in the synagogue in Capernaum, he was very aware of what he was doing. He was standing on Holy Ground and teaching the people sitting before him. He spoke with authority. To an audience who were used to the scribes reading words from the scriptures this was something new and his teaching made a great impression on them. In the midst of his teaching came a voice of dissent, not from the listeners, but from an unclean spirit, yet Jesus had the power to dismiss the spirit and release the man possessed from its power. This caused great consternation from the people gathered in the room, they were astonished at his words and his actions and his reputation spread throughout the countryside.

Mark wrote his Gospel to the Christians of Rome who had survived the persecution of Nero and the loss of the great apostles, Peter and Paul. They needed reassurance that their belief in Jesus would help them in their troubles. Mark assures them, through this passage, that the authority of Jesus is greater than human authority and that He has the power to defeat evil in the world no matter where this evil comes from. Through His word the world is changed, power is no longer solely in the hands of the rulers of this world, it is in God's hands. *David Frank*

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1

Divine Office Week 2

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

1 Corinthians 7: 32-35

Mark 1: 21-28

Sunday 31 January - Caritas Sunday

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

We will hold a special collection for Caritas today

Monday 1 February

7pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 2 February - *The Presentation of The Lord*

9.30am Mass (SB)

11.30am Private Requiem Mass for Kathleen Roberts (SJ)

Wednesday 3 February - *St Blaise*

9.30am Mass (SJ)

Thursday 4 February

9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 5 February - *St Agatha*

Churches Closed

Saturday 6 February - *St Paul Miki & Companions*

11am Exposition

11.30 Mass (SJ)

Sunday 7 February

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

Thought for the Week



“The family's strength lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love.”

Pope Francis

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



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: Rita McDonagh, Kathleen Roberts, Kevin Hinegan, Rita Prendergast, Terence Holland

Anniversaries: Bernard Coop, James Connolly, Margaret Gibson, Eleanor Owen,

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Joseph & Margaret Halliwell, Stanley Roberts, Christine Hardgrave, Bernard Coop, Marie Lamoury (80th Birthday Remembrance), James Connolly, Margaret Gibson, Eleanor & Bill Owen, Kevin Hinegan, Rita McDonagh

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

We pray for the parish of St Vincent de Paul, Norden, for Fr James Manock, their parish priest and for their parish primary school. May they be a prophetic voice to the people. Let us pray for the parish of St Michael and St Bernadette, Whitefield, and for Canon Steven Parkinson, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools. As the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes approaches, may St Bernadette lead us to Mary and may Mary lead us to her Son Jesus.

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. This week's Lord's Day at Home resource [can be found by clicking here.](#)

A Message From Fr Alf

I hope everyone is well and continuing to cope in these difficult times. Lent will soon be here and may seem extremely long with the added and difficult task of home tuition; after all teaching has a lot to do with the gifts and the talents of our teachers. In today's Gospel Jesus is presented as a teacher who made a deep impression, because He taught with authority. A gifted teacher can transform the lives of his/her students (disciples). As we approach Lent may we always remember to invite 'the Divine teacher par excellence' into our homes and our hearts.

On Tuesday the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**, forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in Tuesday's liturgy.

On Wednesday we have the **feast of St Blaise**, who was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. Since the eighth century, Saint Blaise has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. Usually at the end of Mass on Wednesday we would hold the individual blessing of throats using candles blessed on Candlemas. In light of the pandemic there will be a **general blessing of throats** at the end of 9.30am Mass.

Wishing you all well in the week ahead, but as ever keeping those who have sadly passed away in our prayers. May they rest in peace and rise glory. With every blessing *Fr Alf*

Caritas Sunday

We are pleased to share with you the Caritas Diocese of Salford Impact Report 2020 that highlights the charitable work Caritas Salford has carried out last year across the Diocese. As a parish, we have been invited share the link with you.

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/news/caritas-impact-report-2020/>

As the report states, it's been a year like no other. The challenges for the coming year, and Caritas's future capacity to maintain the same level of response, remains at risk due to the prolonged impact of the pandemic on our fundraising activities. Our staff, volunteers and supporters will continue to respond with great energy and determination and we look forward to working closely with our parishes and schools in 2021, supporting the most needy and vulnerable in our communities. *Thank you*

Cathedral Children's Choir: Would your child like to try a new creative outlet? Are they a keen singer? Do they need a little help with their confidence? Following the successful debut of our children's choir at the cathedral over Christmas, we are recruiting new members. There's no fee to join and during the lockdown we are holding rehearsals over Zoom on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 4 - 5pm. If you would like to find out more please email: alex.patterson@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

CJM Six Month Intensive Course for Parish Musicians and Singers: The frustration of not being able to sing at Mass is being keenly felt by many parish congregations and musicians during this pandemic. As yet, we do not know when we will be able to sing again and when we do, we will surely want to do so with great enthusiasm. With this in mind, the time may be right to consider how we can develop our music ministry skills so that we are prepared for when we are called upon once more to serve our communities. It is always good, however long we have been involved in any ministry, to take time to reflect on what we have been doing and seek ways to develop our repertoire and skills. CJM is offering us the opportunity to do that with a six-month intensive course (money back guarantee if you do not find the first month helpful). Full details can be found here:

<https://cjmmusic.mykajabi.com/parish-music-ministry-collective>

The Global Catholic Movement invites you to "Global Healing." In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource *Global Healing*. These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to *Care for Our Common Home*. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action. **When?** Six Thursdays from 18 February - 25 March, (7.30pm - 8.30pm) or email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience...Truly, much can be done!" (Laudato Si', 217, 180)

Altar Servers Retreat 'Serving God and our neighbour in the everyday': Saturday 27 February 10am-12pm (Ages 8-11) and 1pm-3pm (Ages 12-17) - Servers aged 18 and over please email the address below. The day includes a keynote from Bishop John on the ministry of serving during this time and in the future, To register your place or for more information formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk An under 18's videoconferencing consent form must be downloaded from here, completed by parents/carers and returned to the above email address.

Talks from the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst

Our new **Christian Leadership Formation programme**, offered in partnership with St Mary's University, Twickenham and the Catholic Union of Great Britain, is now open to applications. The programme is offered to students in Lower Sixth who are committed to their faith and aspiring to some form of public life. Students will require the support of their schools and religious minister in applying. For info and application forms: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/clf/>

The Drama Displayed: A Journey of Salvation: A free series of online talks at 7.30pm every second Thursday, up to 25 March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

Set Free Summit: A set of six, online sessions to young adults on relationships and sexuality based on John Paul II's teaching. At 4pm on Sundays from 7 February to 14 March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/set-free>

200 Club Winners of 3rd January Draw:



M Mariner (£40)
P Dharmendrecim (£20)

This Newsletter is sponsored by
HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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



(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.