

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

21 February 2021

First Sunday in Lent



This time last year our Gospel reading for the first Sunday in Lent was Matthew's account of the Temptation of Christ in the desert. That account was a story, interwoven with scriptural references, which revealed to the reader the reality of sin through the three temptations facing Jesus. I never really thought about the desert; I was caught up in the interplay between Jesus and His tempter, the Devil. Now, after spending the best part of a year in the desert of lockdown, I have found a different perspective from which to read this passage, and I can feel a greater empathy with Jesus because I have had my own desert experience.

Lent is a very special time, the three themes of prayer, fasting and alms giving central to these weeks, but we should not allow them to prevent us from seeing deeper meanings in the scriptures. In the reading from Genesis, Noah and his family emerge from the ark and find a world where sin has been swept away, just as the waters of Baptism wash away the sins of those who are Baptised. God uses the image of a rainbow as a reminder of this great act of rebirth.

During the initial lockdown, a painting of a rainbow decorated the windows of many of our houses. Perhaps this reminder of God's promise, that all will be well, still lives in our memory. Peter also writes to us about the Baptism "that saves us now", the pledge we make to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Our Lord, which leads us, God willing, to our own resurrection as beloved children of our loving Father.

Mark, as always, is concise in his Gospel. He speaks of the Spirit "driving" Jesus into the desert as if Our Lord has an inner conviction that he must face up to His temptation by the Devil and triumph over sin. The wild beasts are perhaps his own free will, which will face the temptations of the world, and the angels are his conscience and strength of purpose through which He will defeat the Devil who opposes Him. The desert is a lonely place, hopefully you have shared your desert of isolation with a loved one, but after the desert Jesus goes out to the world to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Let us pray that, after our desert experience, we too can begin again, and renew our commitment to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in our world. *David Frank*

Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1

Divine Office Week 1

Genesis 9: 8-15

1 Peter 3: 18-22

Mark 1: 12-15

Sunday 21 February

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

3pm Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition & Benediction (SJ)

Monday 22 February- Chair of St Peter the Apostle

7pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 23 February

9.30am Mass (SJ)

12.30pm Private Funeral for Veronica Preston (East Lancs Crematorium)

Wednesday 24 February

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11.45am Private Requiem Mass for Frank Finn (SJ)

Thursday 25 February

9.30am Mass (SB)#

11.45am Private Requiem Mass for Mike Foster (SJ)

Friday 26 February - CAFOD Family Fast Day

Churches Closed

Saturday 27 February

11am Exposition & Benediction

11.30 Mass (SJ)

Sunday 28 February - Second Sunday in Lent

9.30am Mass (SJ)

A Special Collection for

11am Mass (SB)

CAFOD will be held today

3pm Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition & Benediction (SJ)

Blessed are you, Lord, God of ALL CREATION

A short Eco-Thought based (usually) on the Sunday Liturgy

The First Sunday of Lent 21 February 2021



From the first reading: God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you and with your descendants after you; also, with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you.' God pledges never to destroy his creation. Can we make that same pledge to God and safeguard the gift God has given us? Think of one practical step that you will take this Lent and beyond.



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: John Wrench, Veronica Preston, Frank Finn, Katie Rowan, Dennis Kilcommins, Noreen O'Leary, John Durkin, Mike Foster, Fr James Austin (of the Diocese), Margaret Grindrod, Josephine Cropper

Anniversaries: William Finlay, Andrew & Rose McGarry, Betty O'Reilly, William Hodget, Agnes & George Beeching

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Andrew & Rose McGarry, Betty O'Reilly, John Durkin, A Special Intention, William Hodget, Frank Finn, Kevin Hinegan, Agnes & George Beeching, John Wrench,

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 people of the parish of the Holy Trinity, Worsley, with Mgr John Dale, their parish priest, for the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph, the chaplaincy to St Ann's Hospice, and for the parish primary schools. May their journey with the Lord this Lent be richly blessed.

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 by setting up a bank standing order. Thank you

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

Prayer Resource - For those at home to attend 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.](#)



Lenten Activities

Walk With Me Booklets and Calendars (Free of charge): Are now available at each church. Please feel free to take home and use throughout the Lenten period.

Churches in Harwood Lent Course: This year, the course will follow: #Live Lent - God's Story, Our Story. It will be via Zoom (ID787 556 9225) each Monday (22 February - 22 March) at 7.30pm. The link for the course content can be accessed at:

www.churchofengland.org/resources/live-lent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story

Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land: Poems and Reflections. This is a unique spiritual prayer resource with contributors from the Holy Land drawn from the main Christian denominations. It features prayers and resources for support in this year's Lenten and Easter Journey. [The book can be found here](#)

Minsteracres Lent Quiet Day: Minsteracres Retreat Centre, in County Durham, are running a 'Quiet Day' on Zoom. *From Praise to Lamentation, a Journey with the Psalms*. An opportunity to step aside and listen to God in scripture as we journey towards Easter. Please join us on either Wednesday 24 February and Saturday 20 March 10.30am - 3.30pm, suggested donation £10. For information and bookings visit www.minsteracres.org, or call 01434 673248, or email info@minsteracres.org

LET US DREAM - Our Lenten Journey with Pope Francis, guided by Austen Ivereigh.

Over the Wednesdays of Lent we will explore Pope Francis' book, *Let us Dream*, with the assistance of Austen Ivereigh, who worked closely with Pope Francis on the book. The course begins on Wednesday 24 February at 7pm. Every Wednesday (2nd March until 31st March) we will meet 7pm-8.30pm. **To sign up, please email [:formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)**
<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lentcourse/>

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Pastoral Letter from Bishop John Arnold
Read at Masses on Sunday 14 February



Bishop John has shared his disappointment in having to face another Lent with Covid restrictions, but also called on us all to “accept the circumstances in which we find ourselves and establish guidelines and encouragement for the Season of Lent, while keeping one another safe” and to make our Lent holy through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Bishop John said: *“There is no doubt that the sense of celebrating “Church at Home” has appealed to many people during this past year and borne fruit for a more personal spirituality, without losing the sense of the parish community. If our personal prayer is strengthened during this difficult time, the sense of community can be the stronger as we emerge from lockdown and other restrictions. I remain very grateful for all the initiatives taken to maintain good contact and communication, especially with the housebound and isolated members of our communities.*

“There are the three signposts for our attention during Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. These are themes for self-examination. Can they be the means for challenging ourselves, particularly in the experience of the Covid-pandemic, for re-setting our priorities, and stimulating action and change?”

Bishop John concluded with an important reminder: *“Lent, of course, means springtime. The new life is beginning to break through the soil all around us. May we, after all these months, prepare to celebrate the new life of Easter.*

“Lent must be different this year because of the pandemic and the restrictions imposed on our ability to meet together. Let us take the opportunity to consider Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving in a new way and give time to the challenges that these present to each one of us” [Read the Pastoral Letter here](#)

CAFOD

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

This week (Friday 26 February) our parish is marking CAFOD’s Family Fast Day, a day on which we are invited to pray, fast and give to help people like Abdella. This year the theme is *“The Longest Journey”* and features Abdella who lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says: “I am wasting my life. I am a young man; I should be doing something else.”

A more detailed account of Abdella’s journey for water can be seen by going to:

<https://projects.cafod.org.uk/walkforwater/index.html>

If you wish to take an envelope this weekend, your gifts will help vulnerable communities around the world have access to clean water and provide other vital support. You can also donate online through the CAFOD website, or, you can also donate by text (see details below). We will collect any envelopes at Masses next Sunday. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

Donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of our envelopes. You can also easily give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10.* *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you’ll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you’d like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information, please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice



Confirmations: Due to the Pandemic the original plans to carry out the Sacrament of Confirmation in May have been placed on hold. The Diocese have however put together an online resource for children to be catechised and prepared to receive this Sacrament in due course. Locally this course will run in the evenings (7 sessions via zoom-dates to follow after registration) with the assistance of Thornleigh College; if you know of any Catholic baptized children in year 8, who were due to be Confirmed this year and are not pupils at Thornleigh, please could you notify our Parish Office via email and we will be in touch. Thank you.

Thank you: We have had a letter thanking you for your contributions of £116 to the recent White Flower Appeal



200 CLUB: Subscriptions will soon be due (£12 per number). It may be difficult for some to get their subscription to me, so here are a few options to help.

1. Post/deliver to the Parish Office
 2. Leave at the front of either church in the basket provided.
 3. Contact me on 01204 302912/ 07528027295.
- For options 1 and 2 please place your subscription and your details in an envelope F.A.O Ann Gracie. **All cheques made payable to Corpus Christi.** *Many Thanks, Ann.*

Caritas Lent Appeal - Pray, Fast, Give

We are grateful to Bishop John for commending the work of Caritas to you in his Lenten pastoral letter last weekend. Caritas invites all parishes to join us in daily prayer during Lent by accessing the prayers written by pupils in our schools on the key themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Please go to

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-view/sjp2021/>

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, 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)

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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity - 250037

Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Advocacy - Keep the Lifeline Campaign.

Speaking for those without a voice is becoming an increasingly key responsibility for all of us, as we work together to meet the challenges of being an outward focused “poor Church for the poor”. At the start of the pandemic the Government decided to give an extra £20 a week to those receiving Universal Credit, helping those on the lowest incomes to continue paying their bills and feed their families. At the end of March, the £20 benefit uplift is expected to end, pulling half a million people into poverty. (*Joseph Rowntree Foundation*). Caritas Salford, is calling MPs to urge the Chancellor to *Keep The Lifeline* by making permanent the £20 uplift and extending it to those on legacy benefits too. Please let your parishioners know they can support the campaign by emailing their MP <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/keepthelifeline-urging-government-keep-20-uc-uplift>. A template letter is available by emailing k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk

Cathedral Vacancy

Cathedral Sacristan

Appointment Type: Full-time, permanent
Working hours: 30 hours per week, to be worked over 5 days per week including every Sunday and some Saturdays. Some evening working may also be required.

Location: Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist, 250 Chapel Street, Salford, M3 5LE

Salary and benefits: £14,820 per annum (actual), 25 holidays plus bank holidays (subject to pro-rata) and 5 Diocesan closure days, employers pension scheme.

We are looking for a reliable person who can work well independently as well as within a team to coordinate the work of the Cathedral Sacristy supporting the smooth running of the liturgical and sacramental life of the church.

The successful candidate will have good communication skills and be able to work with sensitivity in a Catholic environment. They will maintain high standards of cleanliness, health and safety and safeguarding.

For more information and to apply, please visit: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>

Closing date for applications is 12pm on Friday 5th March