

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**28 February 2021**

## Second Sunday in Lent



There is always something special about a gift. Whether it is a birthday card a small child has made at nursery and presented to a parent or a diamond ring of great value, the gift always flows from the heart of the giver to the one who receives it. Gifts are special blessings.

Today's readings remind us of the importance of gifts in our lives. Abraham and Sarah were old; they were childless but, through the gift of God, they were given a child, Isaac, who they loved and cherished. God, however, put Abraham to the test and asked him to sacrifice his only son as a burnt offering. Can you imagine the anguish felt by Abraham at this request? God, who had given him so much, especially his precious son, was asking him to give up that very son, the treasure of his heart. Abraham had a tremendous faith in God and did as he was asked. He took Isaac to the mountain and God, seeing his faith, rescinded his command and the child lived.

Paul speaks to the Romans and, in our day, he speaks to us. His words are a gift "With God on our side who can be against us". We need to understand and accept the gift behind these words for, "nothing can separate us from the love of God". Paul reminds us that God is a loving father and like Abraham, He was willing to sacrifice His only son for our sake; for our sins and our transgressions and to bring us closer to Him. In God's case the Son is sacrificed, but through that sacrifice, we have the gifts of Forgiveness and Eternal Life and we have a powerful advocate to speak for us in the courts of heaven.

Peter, James, and John receive a gift on behalf of the whole human family when they journey with Jesus to Mount Tabor. On that mountain they are given a glimpse of heaven. We cannot know what heaven is like no matter how we speculate upon it. What we do know is that, in heaven, we will be held in the loving arms of God for eternity. Moses and Elijah are dead, they died hundreds of years before the birth of Christ; yet they are here in the presence of the living. The apostles experience of the transfiguration changes them forever; let us pray that, this Lent, we too will experience a transformation through the Gift of love expressed in the death and resurrection of Our Lord. *David Frank*

### Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1*

*Divine Office Week 2*

Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-18

Romans 8: 31-34

Mark 9: 2-10

#### Sunday 28 February

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

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

#### Monday 1 March - St David, Patron of Wales

7pm Mass (SJ)

#### Tuesday 2 March

9.30am Mass (SB)

#### Wednesday 3 March

1pm Mass (SJ)

#### Thursday 4 March

10am Private Funeral Service for Judith Fletcher (SJ)

1pm Private Requiem Mass for Margaret Grindrod (SB)

4pm Mass (SB)

#### Friday 5 March

Churches Closed

#### Saturday 6 March

11am Exposition & Benediction

11.30 Mass (SJ)

#### Sunday 7 March - Third Sunday in Lent

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

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

#### Lent - Weekly Eco-Thought



The Gospel of the Second Sunday of Lent is always one of the accounts of the Transfiguration. Jesus is revealed in glory as the Beloved Son of God, fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets, on the mountain top.

Throughout the Scriptures the mountain top has been one of the chief places of encounter with God. Why do you think that may be so? Our own Diocese is placed under the protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

As we recognise the Lord in the Eucharist, let us recognise him too in the beauty of creation, of which he has made us guardians.



**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:** Judith Fletcher, John Wrench, Frank Finn, Katie Rowan, Dennis Kilcommins, Noreen O'Leary, John Durkin, Mike Foster, Margaret Grindrod, Josephine Cropper

**Anniversaries:**

***May They Rest in Peace***

**Mass Intentions:** Mike Foster, Denis O'Toole (Birthday Remembrance)

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

This week we pray for the parishioners of Our Lady of Hope, Salford, for Canon Michael Cooke, their parish priest, and for Fr Mark Paver, for their parish primary school and All Hallows High School and for the work of the Mill Hill Missionaries. May this Lent be for them a blessed encounter with the Lord Jesus, the Beloved of the Father.

### 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

**Lent Resources 2021:** The Diocese of Salford have compiled a list of resources to help parishioners sustain their prayer life this Lent. You can find these on the website here <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lent-in-lockdown-resources/>

**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 until 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](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/live-lent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story)

**Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land: Poems and Reflections.** 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 Saturday 20 March 10.30am-3.30pm, suggested donation £10. For information and bookings visit [www.minsteracres.org](http://www.minsteracres.org), or call 01434 673248, or email [info@minsteracres.org](mailto:info@minsteracres.org)

**LET US DREAM - Our Lenten Journey with Pope Francis:** Over the Wednesdays of Lent we will explore Pope Francis' book, *Let us Dream*. We will meet 7pm-8.30pm (2<sup>nd</sup> March until 31<sup>st</sup> March). **To sign up, please email**

[formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)  
<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/lentcourse/>

**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. 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/>

This Newsletter is sponsored by

**HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

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



**Marmalade:** Peter Barnes has again made some marmalade which is now available (price £1.50 per jar). All proceeds to go to parish funds. Because of Covid restrictions he cannot sell the marmalade in the Patmos Room (as usual) so if you would like to buy a jar please contact Peter directly (01204 301263) and he will arrange delivery - subject to covid restrictions. Thanks!

**Mass Changes For This Week Only:** Please note that Mass on Wednesday (at St John's) will be at 1pm as Fr Alf has a hospital appointment that morning. Mass on Thursday (at St Brendan's) will be at 4pm. There are now two funerals on Thursday so the celebration of Mass will be later in the day.

**World Day of Prayer 5 March 2021 - Build on a Strong Foundation (Prepared by the Women of Vanuatu):** Every year, on the first Friday in March, people gather from all around the globe for the world's biggest prayer event prepared by women from a different country. This year, sadly, we cannot meet in person but the prayer will go on. For those with internet access there are services to link into on YouTube. We also have service books and envelopes for donations for those who the WDP supports. These can be obtained from your local church rep (Val tel 304292)

Please go to <https://youtu.be/edQMgNFdRdo>  
To access 2021 SERVICE by World Day of Prayer International Committee.



**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.

**Greater Manchester Churches Together Treasurer Vacancy:** Greater Manchester Churches Together are looking for a treasurer. [You can find a description of the role and how to apply by clicking here.](#)

**CAFOD**

Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development.

**Family Fast Day:** 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>

Thank you for your donations so far. 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 this Sunday. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

Donate online at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://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.

**200 CLUB:** Subscriptions are now due (£12 per number). The Last draw for 2020/21 will be on 7 March. Donations can be handed in by the following ways:

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.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> February Draw: S Copley (£40)  
J Doyle (£20)

**The Global Catholic Movement invites you to "Global Healing."** Every Thursday (7.30-8.30pm until 25 March) we are inviting you to join us for a series of reflective evenings. 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. email [jane@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:jane@catholicclimatemovement.global).



## Online Retreats

**Learning from Covid:** Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ of Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, will lead a livestreamed study day on Saturday 6 March from 11 am, on the topic *'Learning from Covid: church, state and a better future'*. The study day is organised by Gidea Park parish.

Free access to the live event will be available on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) and a recording subsequently on the same website.

### Living *Laudato Si'* Your Parish and Your Planet

Zoom Retreats in 2021  
12th-16th March & 16th-19th April  
(led from Boarbank Hall, Cumbria)

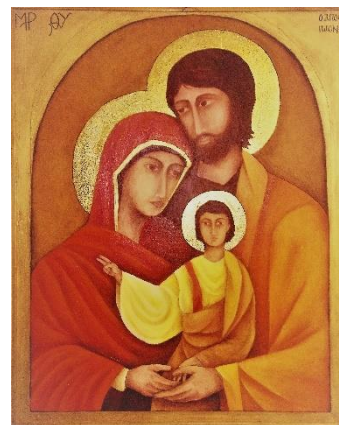
**What will happen?** A long weekend of talks and discussions on zoom, and practical activities, on living the message of *Laudato Si'* in and through your parish.

**Who is it for?** Any interested parishioner is most welcome to join us. The weekend is aimed especially at people with parish responsibilities or who are part of or want to start a relevant parish group.

**Timings** Sessions will be on Friday night, Saturday morning and night, Sunday afternoon and night and Monday night (

**Cost - voluntary donations gratefully accepted**, but there will be no fee for the weekend.

**To apply**, simply email Sr Margaret Atkins on [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk)



### The National Novena to St Joseph

Takes place from 10-18 March 2021 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. If you would like to join in from home, for the first time this year, Masses from St Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: [stjosephsparish.co.uk](http://stjosephsparish.co.uk) and the Mill Hill website:

[www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena), where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet. Masses are on Wednesday to Friday (10-12 March), at 7.30pm, Saturday 13 March at 10am, Sunday 14 March at 11am, Monday -Thursday (15-18 March) at 7.30pm. You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com).

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MOUNTAIN  
PRESENCE  
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WHITE  
ELIJAH  
MOSES  
RABBI  
THREE  
TENTS  
SHADOW  
BELOVED  
VOICE

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