

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**2 May 2021**

## Fifth Week of Easter



Today's readings remind us of the richness of the scriptures. There is a rhythm running through the Word; it rises and falls to the tune of faith, and we are swept along through the concerns of the early church, to the psalm's song of homage, then John's letter of loving advice and finally to the promise of life in Christ in the Gospel.

Faith in God can lead us to change our attitudes as we come to know Him, and our focus moves from thinking about ourselves to caring for others. Faith strengthens us, gives us hope for the future, and joy fills our hearts. However, we must learn to control our zealous nature for others are not always ready for our message. Saul emerged from his Damascus experience burning, with the fire of faith in the Risen Lord. He was consumed with the need to tell everyone of this new-found faith. The church in Jerusalem was under suspicion by the authorities; a noisy, outspoken advocate like Saul, still under a cloud for his previous hostility to the faith. was the last thing they wanted. His preaching brought attention and threats to his life, so, for his own safety he was asked to leave and return to his hometown of Tarsus. As he left a peace descended; however, this is not the last we hear of Paul.

Often a Psalm contains a line which touches something inside oneself. I was struck by the phrase "And my soul shall live for him". It has a message that transcends our earthly life and brings us to an eternal existence. Have you ever experienced this insight in scripture?

John's letter fills us with hope as he uses his experiences and understanding to bring us closer to the message of Christ. He speaks of love being "real and active", of how truth can "quieten our conscience in His presence" and when we live in God "we need not be afraid" for "whatever we ask of Him we shall receive". We only need to "believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ" and "love one another". Just read the passage again in the silence of your room and wonder at the reassurance it gives.

The vine is a single entity which grows and spreads until it fills the space given to it and then tries to find more room, it has a voracious nature. Unless it is carefully pruned and cared for, the fruit it provides can lack vitality and sweetness. "I am the true vine" says the Lord; He promises to shape and encourage our growth so that we can be true disciples and bring His love into the world and makes us this promise "Make your home in me and I will make mine in you"

**David Frank**

### Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1*

*Divine Office Week1*

Acts 9: 26-31

1 John 3: 18-24

John 15: 1-8

#### Sunday 2 May

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

#### Monday 3 May - SS Philip & James (Bank Holiday)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

#### Tuesday 4 May - The English Martyrs

No Mass Today

#### Wednesday 5 May

No Mass Today

#### Thursday 6 May

No Mass Today

*Local Elections held in  
Patmos Room Today*

#### Friday 7 May

No Mass Today

#### Saturday 8 May

5pm Mass (SB)

#### Sunday 9 May

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

#### Limited Masses next week & Re-establish 5pm Vigil Mass from next Saturday (8th May)

I Hope you are all well. I received a surprise phone call from the Hospital on Wednesday afternoon asking if I could attend for an operation I have been waiting for next Thursday; consequently, I have to isolate for three days before this minor procedure. Sadly, following doctor's orders, Masses will be limited next week - there will be a 9.30am Mass on Bank Holiday Monday and then no Mass until the 5pm Vigil on Saturday at St Brendan's. I am pleased to say the induction went well on Tuesday with a profession of faith and oath of fidelity. Wishing you a good week *God Bless Fr Alf*

#### Weekly Eco Thought



Today we have another powerful image from the world of nature; Jesus as the True Vine, with the invitation to remain connected to him in order to bear much fruit. As we reflect on our call to care for the world around us, the world of nature, what in our attitudes needs to be pruned away?

## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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, Barbara Pearl, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt

**Lately Dead:** Colette Fernandez, Eleanor Bennett, Russ Carter, Jill Steward, William Burke, Sister Bella Carroll,

**Anniversaries:** Alan Healey

**May They Rest in Peace**

**Mass Intentions:** For the Induction of Fr Alf as our Parish Priest, Alan Healey, Colette Fernandez, Eleanor Bennett

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 4 (of 6):** We pray especially for: new members of the Church; vocations; the right use of the media; the Church; human work.

### Hope in the Future

We pray for the parishioners of the parishes of St Mary, Clayton-le-Moors, Our Lady and St Hubert with St Wulstan, Great Harwood and St Charles Borromeo, Rishton, with Fr Ian Farrell, their parish priest. Let us pray for their three parish primary schools. That, in this month of May they may follow the example of Our Blessed Lady, First Disciple of her 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 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, and not able to attend Mass, the Liturgy Office has prepared a service called "*The Lord's Day at Home*", 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. [LDAH - Easter 5B](#)

**Let us Dream - Easter Reflections:** The Spirituality Committee, under the stewardship of Bishop Ralph Heskett, has produced a series of reflections based on the Holy Father's book *Let us Dream* for individual and parish use. [You can find the reflections by clicking here.](#)

**Song for St Joseph:** Fr Kevin Murphy has written a Song for St Joseph as part of the year of St Joseph and the Feast of St Joseph the Worker on 1st May. Alex Patterson, Cathedral Director of Music, has recorded Fr Kevin's song - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYEn06thM-o>

## Bring Flowers of the Rarest, Bring Blossoms the Fairest....



Throughout history, Catholics have long honoured the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of May. To symbolize her significance in the Church and in our lives, the "May Crowning" is set up to display her queenship as the mother of Jesus. Catholic churches typically create a dedicated area to place a picture or statue of Mary, which is surrounded by flowers and candles. This tribute remains throughout the entire month in order to memorialize the importance of our Mother Mary in Church and in our personal lives. This May devotion led Mary to be known as the "Queen of May." May being observed as a dedication is linked back to early Greece when ancient Greeks dedicated the month to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In medieval times, winter ended at the start of May because it was considered a time of new growth and beginnings. During this time, the "Tricesimum" ("30-Day Devotion to Mary" or "Lady Month") period began, when special devotions to the Mother of God started in May. It spread from Italy all around the world. Pope Francis has written encouraging the celebration of Mary's Month of May and calling for the daily recitation of the Rosary.

**St Joseph's Penny Appeal:** Caritas wishes to thank all parishes and parishioners who have helped their local schools to raise money and fill the virtual St Joseph's Penny Appeal box during Lent this year. The total raised currently stands at £19,541. Whilst this amount is substantially down on previous years, we are so grateful for every penny that allows us to provide a much-needed immediate response to the urgent practical needs of the individuals and families experiencing poverty, loneliness, homelessness and marginalisation across the diocese. Thank you

**Miles that Matter:** Caritas is proud to have supporters, staff and volunteers walking in solidarity and the 'virtual' footsteps of so many people who have fled war and conflict to seek a new life on these shores. *Miles that Matter* is running from 1 May until International Refugee Week in June. If you are interested in finding out more, or wish to participate, please call Rachel Taylor 0161 817 2285 or visit the website <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/miles-that-matter/>

## Walsingham's May Rosary:



Walsingham invites people from Dioceses across England and Wales to pray the May Rosary for the following intentions:

1. Protecting our families and the family of nations, especially in this Year of St Joseph.
2. A deepening of faith, hope and love and the protection of life.
3. Peace in the world.
4. Deliverance from Coronavirus; for those working for a cure; for those who have died; for those who are suffering and those who care for them.

The designated Rosary Hour for the Diocese of Salford for the National Rosary Relay Rally on Sunday 30 May is from 1pm to 2pm. All are welcome to join along in prayer.

## Day of Prayer for the Victims and Survivors of Abuse - 4 May 2021:

The Bishops of England and Wales have asked that a Day of Prayer for the Survivors of Abuse be celebrated each year on the Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter. On Thursday 6 May at 7pm, Bishop John will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral, remembering all victims of abuse, particularly those in our parishes and families. The Mass is open to everyone and all are welcome (subject to current social distancing restrictions etc). Survivors of abuse have been involved in the planning of the Bishops' Conference liturgy resources which will be used at the Mass. You can also take part in the Mass livestreamed via the following link:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/salfordcathedra>

## Young Adults - An Evening with Austen

**Ivereigh:** We are privileged to invite all young adults (18-35 years) to an evening of reflection on Thursday 13 May (7pm-9pm). Austen is the co-author of Pope Francis' latest book: *"Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future"*. In it the Pope sets out his vision on how to create a better world as we emerge from the crisis that we have been living through. To listen to the invitation on YouTube, please click on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZT4nZcd1yE>. The first 20 to register will receive a **free copy** of the book! For more information, please email: [formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

## Conference: *Rerum novarum* 130 Years

**On:** Wednesday 5 -Saturday 8 May. Open to all and free of charge. To register contact the Rev Dr Ashley Beck: [ashley.beck@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:ashley.beck@stmarys.ac.uk)

## Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst:

Are hosting A Series of Talks Exploring some of the great themes of Catholic Christianity in writing (old and new) with Catholic scholars and contemporary authors. These talks are held every second Thursday (7.30pm). For information and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/logs-and-literature/>

## URBAN OUTREACH

We are currently looking for three compassionate, highly motivated and skilled people to join our team:

- Leadership Team Role: involves providing strategic management and operational support to the charity. Salary is £22,220 pa.

- Support Worker vacancies within our Children's and Families Team and our Food Team. Salary is £19,190 pa.

Ideally, these positions are full time (35hrs per week), however part-time may be considered.

If you are interested in one or more of these positions, please email your CV and contact details to [admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk](mailto:admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk). Please include a statement about your interests and any voluntary activities you may be involved with. If you would like to have an informal chat first, please ring on 01204 385848 or email us as above. The closing date and time for our receipt of expressions of interest is 12noon on Friday 7 May 2021.

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## Reflection by the Bishops of England & Wales - Friday 23rd April 2021 - *The Day of Lord*

Gathering as Bishops in Conference this week, we wish to pay tribute to all in the Catholic community who have shown such courage, generosity and understanding in the face of adversity this past year. Across England and Wales, families and parish communities have risen to the challenge of sustaining one another through times of great isolation, loneliness and grief in an impressive variety of ways, spiritual, emotional and practical. We thank all who have worked tirelessly in prisons, in hospitals, care-homes and across the medical profession for giving of themselves so generously. We thank all who have worked valiantly in our schools, facing unforeseen demands and meeting them with characteristic professionalism and dedication. We wish also to pay tribute to those who have given of their time and energy to keep open our churches as havens of peace and prayer.

Churches up and down the land have realised the vision of Pope Francis that they be like village-wells where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey; and centres of “constant missionary outreach.” We thank all who have developed diverse new patterns of outreach - of prayer, catechesis, study and spiritual solidarity; all who have made participation in the Mass possible through the internet. Also prominent in this tribute should be thanks to all who have contributed to the immense effort of providing food for those most in need. The generosity shown in the distribution of so very many meals has given eloquent expression to the mercy, love and compassion which are at the very heart of God. Many have been touched by the joy of meeting Christ in the poor; and many of the poor by the joy of meeting Christ in selfless parishioners. The provision of food is often the first step into a deeper relationship of help and accompaniment, including the sharing of the gift of faith in our Blessed Lord. ‘Vibrant’ is a word which seems to have characterised so many of our parishes throughout the pandemic. We wish to salute our priests in particular for the leadership they have shown in this time of crisis. We thank them for their deep devotion to both the liturgy and to their parishioners.

We commend every priest who made of his parish “a ‘sanctuary’ open to all” and with a particular care for the poor; and the many Deacons who have exercised with such generosity their mission of charity. What will be the pace of our emerging from this pandemic remains as yet unclear. What is clear, is the challenge we face of bringing our communities and the practice of the faith to a still greater expression and strength. As your bishops, we are aware of a threefold pattern to this challenge:

- a) There are the fearful and weary, anxious about coming into the enclosed spaces of our churches; those who have simply lost the habit of coming to church. Personal contact, clear reassurance, and sensitive invitations will all be needed.
- b) There are those who will have reassessed their pattern of life and priorities. The practice of faith within the community of the Catholic Church may not be among those priorities. A gap may have opened up, or widened, between the spiritual dimension of their lives and any communal expression of that spiritual quest. They represent a particular focus and concern for our outreach.
- c) There are those whom we might describe as the ‘Covid curious’, those who have come into contact with the Catholic Church through our presence on the internet - a contact we may be able to develop through our continuing presence across diverse media platforms.

In facing these challenges, we are endowed with veritable treasures which serve to resource and enrich us. Among them are our schools, in which so many are regaining confidence to come together with others. We believe our schools can indeed be bridges back to church. There is also the remarkable work of social outreach which has grown exponentially during these long months of pandemic. On this, too, we must build. But the greatest treasure is, of course, the sacramental life of the Church, and, pre-eminently, the Eucharist. It is the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that makes the Church; and it is the Church, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, which makes the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the lifeblood of the Church. It requires our active participation and, to be fully celebrated, our physical presence. At this moment, then, we need to have in our sights the need to restore to its rightful centrality in our lives the Sunday Mass, encouraging each to take his or her place once again in the assembly of our brothers and sisters. We face the task of seeking to nurture the sense of Sunday as “a weekly gift from God to his people”, and something we cannot do without; to see Sunday as the soul of the week, as giving light and meaning to all the responsibilities we live out each day; to see the Sunday Eucharist as food for the unique mission with which we have been endowed. In the time to come we can do no better than to rekindle in our hearts, foster and encourage, a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord and the practice of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a gift so deeply appreciated in these times of lockdown. We need to begin by fostering this in ourselves. For the Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives. The invitation to Sunday Mass resonates all the more deeply when we consider, as Pope St John Paul II reminds us in the Encyclical Letter *Dies Domini*, that the Sabbath rest is nothing if not a call to remember the gift of God’s Creation. The Eucharist is indeed a celebration of the created world, called into life by the Eternal Word, for the bread and wine of the earth becomes the Body and Blood of Christ who is that same Lord of all life. The Christ to whom we come so close in the Eucharist must be the foundation of our strivings, not least in the urgent task we face of caring for creation and our environment.

Pope St John Paul II spoke of our amazement at the gift of the Mass and the abiding Presence of our Blessed Lord in the Sacrament of the Altar. Herein lies our treasure, enriching our relationship with Jesus and bringing together every aspect of our life and mission. This is such an important focus for our task in the coming months.