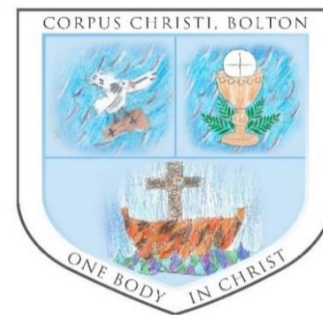


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

25 July 2021

Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time



Our church today is in trouble; over many years we have seen a gradual erosion from worship by a growing group of disillusioned people who have watched as the church, riven by abuse, beset by the problems of the modern world, has fallen away from the high standards expected of the barque of Peter. Today, with the problems of keeping parishioners safe from the effects of the Covid epidemic, even more of our people are staying away from the sacraments and instead turning to artificial forms of worship which are available on the internet. Sadly, many of these may never return to our pews and our church will be poorer, in many ways, as a result.

We may think that this is a modern phenomenon, that this is new. However, when Paul was writing his pastoral letter to the Ephesians, he was facing similar problems to today. The church was split into various factions due to the complexity of the cultural needs of the people. There were problems between the Jewish converts and the gentiles, between rich and poor, between slave and free. Paul's response was to write to the church in a plea for unity. Paul is "a prisoner in the Lord", he has a calling that leads him to give up everything for Christ. It is like a hunger inside him, and he cannot let go. What he asks of his readers he repeats to us today. He implores us to lead a worthy life, to bear with each other, to act with selflessness, gentleness, and patience, and to "preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds us together". Our faith is based on the principle of one body, one spirit, one hope, one God. Paul reminds us "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all, and within all". Jesus is the Bread of Life, He loves us and feeds us, He protects us from harm and gives us that faith which allowed countless generations of men and women to stay by His side and, through suffering, build the church we inherit today. Just as Elisha fed the hungry with barley loaves during a time of great famine so will the Lord provide for all our needs. In the Gospel passage the Lord is testing Phillip and Andrew to see if they have understood all He has told them. He weighs their faith in His hands and gives them an impossible task. To feed so many with so little. Our faith is small, each of us has so little, but, together, when we act as one church, we can move mountains. The need for unity is great today, instead of feeling sorry for ourselves, and see only failure and a lack of faith in those around us, now is the time to walk that hillside, feed the people, save the lost and the lonely, and then we can watch as the fruits of our sowing bring forth a rich harvest. **David Frank**

Activities this Week
<i>Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 1</i> <i>Divine Office Week 1</i> <i>Roman Missal page 338; Readings page 341</i> 2 Kings 4: 42-44; Ephesians 4: 1-6; John 6: 1-15
Sunday 25 July 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)
Monday 26 July - St Joachim & Anne (Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary) No Mass Today
Tuesday 27 July No Mass Today
Wednesday 28 July No Mass Today
Thursday 29 July - St Martha No Mass Today
Friday 30 July No Mass Today
Saturday 31 July - St Ignatius of Loyola 11am Exposition & Adoration (SJ) 11.30am Mass (SJ) 5pm Mass (SB)
Sunday 1 August 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)
Weekday Masses in Our Neighbouring Parishes St Osmund's: Tuesday 7pm St Osmund's Wednesday 10am St Teresa's Thursday 7pm St Teresa's Friday 9.30am St Osmund's Holy Infants: Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello
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Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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, Margaret Padfield, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Vernon Holt, Peter Riley, Frances Skemp, Kathleen Banks

Lately Dead: Marie Geoghegan, Oliver Plunkett, Peter McCahey, Denis McGreavy, Joyce Kennedy, Norah Walton, Anne Hurst, James Waters, Roland Wallbank, Sherine Murray, Joyce Stephens

Anniversaries: Vincent Charles Sheridan, Chris McDonagh, Margaret Gibson, Mary Mathen, Ellen Day

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Vincent Charles Sheridan, Marie Geoghegan, Chris McDonagh, Oliver Plunkett, Margaret Gibson, For a successful operation, Kathleen Banks, Mary Mathen, Ellen Day, Peter McCahey

Cycle of Prayer Part 5 (of 6): We pray especially for: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution; oppression and denial of human rights; Europe, seafarers, human life

Hope in the Future: Let us pray, during this week, for the people of the parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton, for Fr Alfred Rebello, their parish priest, and for their three parish primary schools. May they be ever nourished on the Bread of Life, the Body of Christ.

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 they 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 the Liturgy Office has prepared "*The Lord's Day at Home*", to pray on your own or with your family [LDAH](#)



Congratulation: To Oliver Howard Murphy who was Baptised at St Brendan's Church last Sunday. We pray that he and his family continue to grow in faith.

Readers' Rota: We are now able to bring back our rota in the next couple of weeks. Please could you let the parish office know if you would continue to read, begin reading or, alternatively, no longer wish to read. Many thanks.

Lifting of Restrictions - New Guidelines: We now have new guidance from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as to how we can continue our Masses and services during the easing of restrictions. Further details can be seen on the back page of the newsletter. For weddings, baptisms and funerals, please contact Fr Alf to discuss in more detail.

Church Cleaning: Thank you to everyone who continued to keep both our churches clean and safe during the upheaval of restrictions. There will be a new rota for St John's issued in the next couple of weeks



Summer Holidays: Our schools have now finished for the summer holidays. It is a time to thank all members of staff for all their professional dedication and hard work during the very difficult academic year. We pray for all our Yr 6 pupils, Yr 11 pupils and our Sixth Form students who are moving on. We ask that they may be given guidance and encouragement as they continue on their journeys.

If you are travelling on holiday over the coming weeks, we wish you a safe journey and we hope that the sun will shine!

Cake Sale: This Sunday (25 July) there will be a fundraising event for two children's cancer charities: - Milly's Smiles and Fight Like a Kid. The fundraiser will take place at, 30 Windsor Road, Bromley Cross. It starts at 11am with baked goods, tombola and a raffle. All are welcome



SVP Sponsored Walk: Fr Alf would like to thank those who kindly sponsored him for the SVP walk. He completed the walk last night and he is sufficiently aching! Thank you to all those who have been walking and donating to our annual event which helps support vulnerable and needy families in our parish at Christmas time. You can still donate in person, if you prefer, to your local church. A crowdfunding page has been set up for any donations:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/svp-walk-2021>



Destitution Project: Thank you for all donations so far. We have been asked to help with the following list of shortages: 1 litre cartons of orange or apple juice, cartons of WHOLE milk, Tins of sardines - preferably in oil, tins of fruit (they are almost out of these) - mango, pineapple and mandarin oranges are firm favourites but fruit cocktail also popular, packets of biscuits, boxes of tissues. Thank you, again, for all your kindness!

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2021 - Sunday 25 July: The inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly falls on Sunday 25 July 2021, instituted by Pope Francis. It has been given the theme “*I am with you always*” from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 28:30). Identifying with the more senior members of our society, he says “The whole Church is close to you - to us - and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!” For more information about the inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly [please click here](#), or for information from the God Who Speaks, [Click here](#)

Lourdes at Home - live-streamed Mass: We invite you to join us online for a special pilgrimage Mass celebrated by Bishop John from Sacred Heart Church, Rochdale this Sunday 25th July at 2pm. Mass will be accompanied by a small number of our wonderful pilgrimage choir and is online only. All are welcome. You can join us by [clicking here](#).

Caritas Summer Appeal: This summer, Caritas Salford will support over 5,000 families experiencing challenges and crisis. We will give practical support to those in desperate need. [Click here to view the poster](#). If you can, please [click here](#) to support our work today. If you prefer to send a cheque, please mark your envelope **Caritas Summer Appeal** and include your full name and address and how you prefer Caritas to be in contact with you. Please make cheques payable to Caritas Diocese of Salford and send to Cathedral Centre 3 Ford Street, Salford M3 6DP. If you can Gift Aid your donation, it is worth 25% more to us, at no extra cost to you. Tick the box online, or let us know by post with your cheque. Thank you for helping children, families and those affected by poverty across the Diocese of Salford.

Salford Cathedral's Choral Family

Following a period of restructuring and reauditions, Salford Cathedral now offers a range of opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to sing:

Children's Choir - for ages 7-12. Rehearsals Tuesdays & Wednesdays (4.15pm-5.30pm) in Cathedral House (no auditions)

Youth Choir - for ages 12-18. Rehearsals Tuesdays (5.45pm-6.45pm) in Cathedral House (no auditions)

Music Group - for singers and instrumentalists of all ages and abilities. Rehearsals at 8.40am for the 9.15am Mass on Sundays (no auditions)

Voluntary Choir - for adults of all abilities who enjoy singing in a mixed-voice choir. Rehearsals at 4.30pm for the 5.30pm Mass on Sundays (informal audition)

Cathedral Choir - for experienced choral singers with good sight-reading skills. Rehearsals Thursdays (7.30pm-9pm) and 10am for the 11am Mass on Sundays (formal audition)

Choral Scholarships - worth up to £1,200 for students ages 18+ in full time education. Rehearsals as for the Cathedral Choir and also for 5pm Vespers on Thursdays (formal audition) For more information please get in touch with the Director of Music, Alex Patterson, alex.patterson@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or 0161 817 2210.

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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



Salford Diocese are Recruiting for Three Replacement Roles at the Cathedral Centre.

PA/Senior Administrator - COO Office:

To provide office management and oversight of the administration of the COO Office. This role will have responsibility for providing robust administrative and secretarial support to the COO and her team across all areas but particularly in relation to the IT, telephony, and Data Protection

Personal Assistant to the Vicars General and the Secretary to the Trustees: To provide high quality administrative support to the Vicars General and the Secretary to the Trustees to enable them to fulfil their specific roles and wider responsibilities for the governance of the diocese. The role will require regular interaction with a wide and diverse range of individuals and the incumbent must understand that they are an ambassador for the Diocese in all their encounters

Receptionist: The Cathedral Centre is the office base for diocesan curial staff and houses the Cathedral Bookshop, Café, and conference rooms. A large number and wide variety of visitors, contractors and personnel come to the Cathedral Centre and the wider estate as a whole. The Cathedral House is adjacent to the Centre and houses some of our retired clergy

Closing date for all applications: 12noon on Monday 26 July 2021.

For more information and application packs, [please visit the website here](#).

If you have any queries, questions can be sent to hr@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Lifting of Restrictions in Church

We have now received the latest information from the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales regarding the next steps of lifting restrictions. On considering the new guidance, clearly vigilance and caution remain key.

The Obligation to attend Sunday Mass (every Catholic will be obliged to attend Sunday Mass) will be reinstated officially on the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Please, for the well-being of those around us, and because of the high level of cases in the North West, could we continue to wear face masks.

The Roman Missal books will now be in use again. This Sunday is 17 Sunday in Ordinary Time **page 341**
Hand sanitizer will continue to be available at the entrance of both churches.

Altar Servers can begin to return to their ministry from the weekend of the 31st July!! (Welcome back!!)

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are currently not needed during Mass, as Bishop John suggests limited and controlled movement for Holy Communion should continue in the interim.

One of the bonuses of the Pandemic (or should that be boni? although there a Latin debate currently in Church) has been the stewarding and I wonder if stewards could kindly continue to welcome and keep the church secure.

The offertory collection can return on Sundays from weekend on the 31 July. Baskets will still be left at the entrance and exits and payments can be made via the Diocese or by setting up a standing order as alternative methods to support the parish.

Social distancing can be relaxed but clearly some people will remain anxious, hence: - we will monitor the attendance at St John's before deciding whether to remove the roping off of benches. At St Brendan's (due to the smaller capacity) we will remove some ropes down one side of the church.

No Holy Water will be available yet in the stoops. People may freely move around and light candles if you desire to.

Holy Communion will continue to be distributed under one kind, and I will continue to wear a mask but for some time now the Church has allowed the priest to proclaim 'The Body of Christ' and the people can now reply "Amen" again individually.

Communal singing is difficult, as although it can now be reintroduced, we are in an area that is seeing a rapid increase in the virus spread. Therefore, although the music groups, when possible, can continue to provide music, full congregational singing will not return just yet.

Home Visits To Housebound: We can now visit and take the Blessed Sacrament to the housebound. Please could Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion contact Fr Alf to indicate if they are happy to resume this ministry from the weekend of the 31st July.

The minister to the sick or housebound person must take care to ensure that a minimum number of visits takes place to different homes in a single session of visiting. There are three important steps to avoid possible spread of the virus, especially if someone is infected but asymptomatic:

1. It is recommended (outside hospital and hospice chaplaincies who have infection control in place) that only one morning and one afternoon visit is made in a day to minimise risk of infection.
2. The use of regular freely available covid-19 home test kits is recommended for those doing pastoral visits, to ensure they are not potential vectors of infection to those who are sick and medically vulnerable. These can be obtained through www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site
3. Careful hand sanitisation and minimizing of exposure times indoors are important considerations as well.

Above all, we will continue to be considerate of others. Some of our people will be very anxious at any sudden return to normality. We can be patient and caring towards each other as we take this next step forward. Thank you.

Finally, a little message from Bishop John:

Bishop John "is urging all adults, who are able to do so, to be vaccinated. Pope Francis has reminded people of the duty to be vaccinated if they are able. The Church is clear that all Catholics can take any of the vaccines on offer with a clear conscience. Even if you are at a low risk of becoming seriously ill, being vaccinated will lower the risk of transmitting the virus to somebody else who might then have a severe reaction or even die. It is particularly important that those in our parishes, clergy and lay-people who visit those who are housebound or otherwise vulnerable are vaccinated."

With every blessing Fr Alf