

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**20 March 2022**

## Third Sunday of Lent



We planted the sapling one October day when the sun was still warm and the ground heavy with autumn rain. It

survived that first winter and when the spring came it began to grow and take leaf. For four years it grew stronger and took to covering the ground around until it was as high as it was wide but of fruit, we saw nothing. Each autumn the leaves fell, each spring they returned but for all we fed it and pruned it into shape still no fruit came. It stood in the centre of the garden, in the best spot, and we cared for it as we cared for the children who played in its shade. We gave it everything; it gave us nothing.

Then, one summer, we decided that it had to go. We took the axe and, as I was about to take the first cut my wife cried "Stop", I lowered the axe and gazed at the bush, there in the centre were buds of life, tender white flowers springing on the old wood. As we watched over those summer days the white flowers blossomed and that August the fruits came, bright and red, the bush seemed to be burning with the promise of a harvest to come.

Children's Faith is like that sapling; beginning with much promise and then, as the growing years go by, and we feed our children with our prayers and our dreams, nothing much seems to happen. They grow straight and tall, coming into their beauty and grace, but faith sometimes seems to lie fallow and no fruit comes. Then, as the rain and the sun weave their magical ways suddenly faith blossoms and we gaze in wonder at the awakening of God's grace in our children's lives. Sometimes faith grows quickly, sometimes it grows over many years; when the days of childhood are left long behind, but, if faith is planted with love then someday the bush will burn and the fruit will be rich and plentiful. God must be a gardener, planting saplings of faith in every nook and cranny he can find, he uses rich soil and arid desert, he plants in spring, summer, autumn and winter, he sits patiently waiting for the blossom to show, sometimes it comes late, but never forget that, with God's love, the fruit will eventually arrive. **David Frank**

### Masses this Week

Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2  
Divine Office Week 3

**Readings:** Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15;  
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13: 1-9  
*Roman Missal 554; Readings Page 562*  
*Preface: Page 38-39*

#### Sunday 20 March

9.30am Mass (SJ)  
11am Mass (SB)  
12.30pm Baptisms for RCIC Children (SB)  
3pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction (SB)

#### Monday 21 March

6pm Mass (SJ)

#### Tuesday 22 March

12noon Mass (SB)  
(Fr Alf has a funeral in the morning)

#### Wednesday 23 March

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)  
9.30am Mass (SJ)

#### Thursday 24 March

9.30am Mass (SB)

#### Friday 25 March - *The Annunciation of The Lord*

10am Mass (SB)

#### Saturday 26 March

11am -11.25am Exposition & Adoration with  
Confession (SJ)  
11.30am Mass (SJ)  
4.20pm-4.50pm Confession (SB)  
5pm Mass (SB)

#### Sunday 27 March - *Mothering Sunday*

9.30am Mass (SJ)  
11am Mass (SB)  
12.15pm Baptism (SB)  
3pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction (SJ)

### Parish Contact Details

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### HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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**We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends:** Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Killeen, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Emily Martin, Terence Gillett, Pat Margiotta, Mary Bagg, Frances Skemp, Kathleen Banks, Penelope Booth (poorly infant), Colin Markland, Joan & Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Frank & Pat McDowell, George Denton, Richard Crichton, Josephine Ward

**Lately Dead:** Teresa Reyes Marquez, Fr Pat Quinlan, Margaret Ainscow, Gerard Fraser, Margaret Ainscow

**Anniversaries:** Rita Brooks

*May They Rest in Peace*

**Mass Intentions:** Teresa Reyes Marquez, A special Intention for someone who is sick, Fr Pat Quinlan, Margaret Ainscow, Philip Anderson (sick), Rita Brooks, Gerard Fraser

**During Ordinary Time; we pray for:** Candidates for the Sacraments; women; the needy & hungry of the world; penitents & wanderers.

**At this present time, we pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine** *Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in this day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil, and do thou prince of the Heavenly Host by the Power of God thrust down to Hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of soul. Amen.*

**Hope In The Future:** We pray for the retired priests of our Diocese, in thankfulness for their lives of devoted ministry. May they continue to know the joy of the Lord as their strength.

**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 best resource for Sunday worship at home is through the **Universalis website** (<https://universalis.com/mass.htm>)

**Comboni Mission Appeal:** Sr Aurora Salgado will be visiting our Parish on 2/3 April to talk about the work of the Comboni Missionary Sisters who are (in particular) working in Africa. Sr Aurora will be staying in St Brendan's Presbytery for two weekends (26/27 March and 2/3 April). If anyone is able to help prepare any meals for her, (during her visit) please let the parish office know. Thank you.

**Coffee Morning:** The next Coffee Morning will be held after morning Mass on Wednesday 30 March. All proceeds will go to financial support for Ukraine. All Welcome.

**Bishop John leads Holy Hour to pray for peace in Ukraine:** Bishop John is inviting the faithful of our diocese to join him in prayer this Sunday as he holds a special Holy Hour for peace in Ukraine at 2.30pm. This can also be viewed online at <https://salfordcathedral.co.uk/>

We would like to encourage people right across the diocese to join us in prayer, whether by attending our Holy Hour at the cathedral, joining us online or praying with us at home, A liturgy to help you pray along at home can be found [here](#). **If you haven't access to online viewing, there are a few copies of the Liturgy available at each church.**

**APF Red Boxes:** For those who hold red boxes, please could you bring them to Masses next weekend for collection. Thank you.

**Christian Meditation:** Beginning at 7.30pm  
22nd March - St John's  
29th March - St Brendan's  
5th April - St John's

**CAFOD Walk against Hunger:** Two of our parishioners are walking/running 200km in Lent. They have had a lot of support already but if you haven't yet sponsored these two wonderful parishioners the forms are at the back of each church. Please sign up and show them your support. Thank you, *Peter*.

**Children's Liturgy (Yr2 and below):** Fr Alf is keen to bring this back but we do need volunteers. If you feel this is something you would like to help with, please contact the Parish Office. Please note, all volunteers will be asked to complete a DBS check.

**200 Club Subscriptions:** Any still due (£12 per number) can be handed in by: Dropping off at the Parish Office, leaving in the basket provided, or by contacting Ann Gracie on 01204 302912 /07528027295. All cheques made payable to **Corpus Christi**. Thank You.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham led by Bishop John Arnold. Saturday 7 May:** To book your place on the pilgrimage and coach, please download and return the [Pilgrim Booking Form](#). If you have any questions, please email John Griffin at the Cathedral Centre. [walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk).

#### Readers For (26/27 March 2022)

**Readers' Rota:** The new rota is now available to take from each church. Thank you.

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