

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

27 March 2022

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday



Today is Laetare Sunday, the midpoint of the Lenten Season and a day of rejoicing in the midst of the season of fasting and abstinence. It is a day when the strict rules of Lent are relaxed; a day of favour to those following the Lenten journey. The scriptures reflect this day. In the first reading Joshua leads the people of Israel into the promised land and they celebrate the passover, feasting on the produce of the land of Canaan, all their shame wiped away. The psalm calls to us “*Taste and See*”, let your eyes be open to God’s blessings, let your lips tell that the Lord has answered your pleas and set you free. Paul speaks of a “*new creation*” a rebirth through the sacrifice of Christ. He calls on us to be “*Ambassadors for Christ*” seeking for the reconciliation of all people to God. Finally, in Luke, we have the parable of the Prodigal Son, a reminder to us that God’s promise of forgiveness is always there when we turn to him in our hour of need.

Today’s Gospel speaks to us on many different levels, we may be indignant at the callous way the younger son treats his father, perhaps we cheer when the son wastes his money and is reduced to envy of the pigs’ and their dinner, we may be incredulous of the thought that he has the audacity to seek employment as a labourer on his father’s farm and then we are astonished when the father, who has looked daily for his son’s return, welcomes him back, without any thought of punishment, without anger, with total forgiveness. Would we do the same or do we stand with the older son who refuses to forgive despite his father’s pleas?

Jesus aims his words at the pharisees and scribes who are appalled that he seeks the company of sinners and not the God-fearing people they see themselves as being. The question we must ask ourselves is where do we stand? Forgiveness can be a fearful thing; sometimes it goes against everything we believe in. Reconciliation is difficult when we are deeply hurt by another’s actions. We need to keep faith in a loving God who helps us to surmount the pain that we can experience when we are sinned against for, in forgiving others, we know that we ourselves are forgiven. **David Frank**

Masses this Week

Sunday Cycle C; Weekday Cycle 2

Divine Office Week 3

Readings: Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Roman Missal 568; Readings Page 576

Preface: Page 38-39

Sunday 27 March - *Mothering Sunday*



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

Monday 28 March

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 29 March

9.30am Mass (SB)

Wednesday 30 March

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ) Followed by Coffee Morning

Thursday 31 March

9.30am Mass (SB)

Friday 1 April

No Mass Today

Saturday 2 April

11am-11.25am Exposition & Adoration with Confession (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

4.20pm-4.50pm Confession (SB)

5pm Mass (SB)

Sunday 3 April

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (SB)

12.30 Baptism (SB)

3pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction (SB)

Parish Contact Details

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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: John Sissons, Frances Lansdale, Patricia Ashton, Teresa Reyes Marquez, Fr Pat Quinlan, Gerard Fraser,

Anniversaries: Jessie Carter, Alfeo & Bonifacia Doloroso, Howard McArdle, Canon A Dorran, John Reddy

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Jessie Carter, Margaret Gibson (in remembrance), In thanksgiving to St Therese of the Child Jesus, Alfeo & Bonifacia Doloroso, Someone who is sick, John Sissons, Mary Dorothy Hodgins (100th Birthday Remembrance), Frances Lansdale, Howard McArdle, Patricia Ashton, John Reddy

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: Over the next five months we are asked to pray for the people and priests of the deanery of St Ambrose Barlow, with Fr John Hitchen, their Dean. In South Manchester and in Trafford, Stockport and Denton, may they respond to God's call to be Ambassadors for 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 best resource for Sunday worship at home is through the **Universalis website** (<https://universalis.com/mass.htm>)



Happy Mother's Day: Wishing all mothers a lovely day! Let us pray that the Lord will watch over and support all mothers today and always, living or deceased.



Congratulations: To all the children on the RCIC course who were baptised at St Brendan's last weekend. Let us pray that they and their families continue to grow in faith.

Caritas Diocese of Salford response to war in Ukraine: As we prepare for the arrival of those fleeing Ukraine in our own diocese, Caritas Salford will be offering support to those who are welcoming and hosting Ukrainian people.

Caritas Salford has launched an appeal for funds which will be available to assist those who will be hosting families/individuals with any practical support as their guests re-settle.

To read the latest information, and to donate, please visit their website for updates:

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/ukraine-crisis/>

Provide language support as a translator: Are you a Ukrainian or Russian speaker? Safe resettlement and integration of refugees seeking conflict depends on access to people who can translate fluently into English. If you are skilled in the main languages spoken in Ukraine, please register by email as a volunteer translator: communitysponsorship@caritassalford.org.uk

**A Murder Mystery Play
Who Killed The Farmer?**

Corpus Christi parishioners have recently been rehearsing 'Who Killed The Farmer'. This hilarious murder mystery play will be performed on Friday 29 April at Dunsar Conservative Club commencing promptly at 7.15pm with supper provided. Prizes will also be presented to the winning table

This event is being presented with a double purpose in mind: - 1. Helping to restore our community spirit following the 'Covid' lockdown. 2. To provide Fr Alf with some additional funds for use in the running of such a large and demanding parish.

In order to attract a 'Full House' and make this an entertaining evening for all, tickets will be sold at the very reasonable price of £6 (numbers are limited) and will be on sale after each Mass from this weekend and on subsequent weekends.

Unfortunately, because of the audience concentration required, this will be an 'Adults Only' evening. Please support if you possibly can. God Bless, Terry Smith 01204 305832

Coffee Morning: The next Coffee Morning will be held after morning Mass (at St John's) on Wednesday 30 March. All proceeds will go to financial support for Ukraine. All welcome.

Comboni Mission Appeal: Sr Aurora Salgado will be visiting our Parish next weekend to talk about the work of the Comboni Missionary Sisters.

Envirolent

Learn Evangelise Nurture Thanks be to God

The season of Lent is all about taking a step back from the world, from the busy demands of everyday life, and reevaluating how we live our lives. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, Christians use this powerful combination to refresh our active lives as Christians, contemplate our relationship with God, and how we live out our faith in our day-to-day lives.

This, too, is a powerful way to rethink our relationship with the earth, so let's take a look at the four simple steps below to reignite our spark for environmental justice.

One of the most helpful steps we can take to care for our common home is to educate ourselves and others. By learning more about how our actions are impacting our environment, and identifying changes we can make to help the world around us, collectively we can begin to make a real difference.

There can be no doubt that significant changes must take place soon if we want to protect our planet and its people from the worst effects of climate change. But to generate significant change, we need to inspire others to care and act in the same way. So, speak out: talk to friends and family, campaign on social media, and write to your MP to kickstart a wave of action.

Practice what you preach and take concrete action to care for the world around you. Whether it's swapping the car for public transport, making your garden a haven for wildlife, or campaigning or volunteering with key organisations, nurturing nature through positive action is key.

We believe that all creation is a gift from God - so let's start professing it! Let us take a moment each day to wonder at the beauty of creation and give thanks to God, and pray that this will help us cherish nature even more dearly

Salford Cathedral Concert Series: *Saturday 2 April, 3pm, Salford Cathedral.* Salford Cathedral is excited to announce the next event in its Concert Series, where Silviu Cobeanu, cantor at St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield, and Robert Webb, organist at St Marie's, will give a recital of beautiful sacred music. This concert is free, and no booking is required. A retiring collection will take place, which will go to the cathedral's Music Foundation.

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

Children's Liturgy (Yr2 and below): As you will have seen in the newsletter over the last few weeks, Fr Alf is hoping to get our Children's Liturgy up and running again at both churches. Some of our previous leaders and helpers have decided to take on other roles in the parish so we urgently need more volunteers to enable the sessions to re-start. If you are interested in leading or helping or if you just want to find out a little bit more, please come along to the Patmos Room (at St John's Church) at 9.30am on Saturday 2nd April for a chat (and tea and cake!). Please note, any volunteers will need to have a DBS check which will be organised by the Parish Safeguarding Rep.

While we try and get the sessions up and running again, we have put together some little activity packs for the children (Year 2 and below) and would like to say a huge thank you to the parishioners who sewed the lovely, colourful bags for us.

Young Adults Mass: *St Augustine's Church, Grosvenor Street, All Saints, Manchester, M15 6BW Sunday 10 April, 5.30pm.* Our next Mass (Palm Sunday) will include a short talk on next year's World Youth Day, and a social event following the celebration of the Mass. All are very welcome to attend. For any further questions, please email Alex at SalfordYoungAdults@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Ancient Byzantine Iconography course
A full, seven-day immersion in the spirituality and discipline of writing an icon in the Byzantine style, led by Deacon Nikita Andreyev, of the Prosopon School of Iconograph. Residential and non-residential options, with the course taking place from Saturday 25 June to Friday 1 July at the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. For more info and to book, <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/iconography-course/>

Eco-Gardening Training at Laudato Si' Centre
Various dates beginning April, Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall. The Eco-gardening Essential Training programme enables gardeners of any skill level to confidently adopt sustainable gardening methods. Participants have the opportunity to learn the theory and practice of gardening with ecological patterns. The programme has been designed to skill people up while supporting the development of an eco-garden setting. Find out more and book at <https://northernschool.info/eco-gardening-course-laudato-si>

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

CAFOD Walk against Hunger: Two of our parishioners are continuing to walk/run their 200km in Lent. Sponsor forms are at the back of each church. Thank you, *Peter*.

| Readers For (2/3 April 2022) | | |
|------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| L Lamoury | P Barnes | P Brennan |

APF Red Boxes: Will be collected this weekend. Thank you.

Laetare Sunday



The day's theme comes from the entrance antiphon reflecting on Isaiah 66:10-11: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast."

Laetare is the first word – meaning "rejoice" – in the Latin text. On Laetare Sunday (as similarly with the Third Sunday of Advent's Gaudete Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. The change in colour to rose, indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the sombre days of Christ's Passion.

The joy of Easter being around the corner is symbolized in a few other interesting liturgical possibilities. During Lent, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal forbids flowers adorning the altar. But on Laetare Sunday (as well as solemnities and feasts within the season), flowers are permitted if wished.

At one time, marriages were generally forbidden during Lent, but Laetare Sunday was often associated as a day when marriages could be celebrated during the penitential season. While marriages are now not able to take place on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, Laetare Sunday is still a fitting day for those wishing to be married before Eastertide.

Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us an extra boost, as we approach the darkness of the days through the Passion. It's an opportunity to savour and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday – the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!