

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

26 February 2023

The First Sunday of Lent



The Temptation of Our Lord is the theme of the First Sunday of Lent. As we begin this season we are called to reflect on this period of His life and to see how the world we face can be made better by the changes we can make in our lives. Lent gives us an opportunity to look back at the choices we have made and forward to see how we can fulfil our dreams and aspirations in the future. Lent should not be a time of sacrifice, of giving up things, but of new life, of taking up a new perspective of how things could be.

The Garden of Eden was a paradise where our first human forbearers wandered through its leafy groves. They knew not sin, but the serpent of doubt, that worm of jealousy, came to them, twisting their view of the world. They knew not to touch the fruit of the tree in the centre of the garden, but the prospect of knowledge was too alluring, and they fell into sin.

Paul acknowledges that sin came into the world through the actions of one man, Adam, and, with sin, death, but that Christ came to confront sin and destroy death through His sacrifice on the cross. Jesus came to save us from our sins and to show us the way to live without sin and defeat death by rising with Him to eternal life. He gave us the gift of grace, the strength He gives us to live our lives in His way and turn away from sin and back to Him.

Jesus went into the wilderness to find Himself. He needed to test His human nature to prepare Himself for what was to come. He found his adversity, the devil, waiting to test His resolve. He must have prepared Himself in prayer before facing his opponent. Prayer gives us the strength to face the devils that we find in our lives and with the gift of grace we have the power to become righteous. Whatever we need to change in our lives, God gives us the grace to make those changes. Lent is an opportunity to repair the past, concentrate on the future, and to make new choices and restart our journey with Him.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 1
Roman Missal: p532*

Sunday 26 February

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB)
3pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction (SJ)

Monday 27 February

12noon Mass (SJ)
6pm Sacrament of Reconciliation for St Columba's School (SJ)

Tuesday 28 February

10am Mass (SB)
6pm Sacrament of Reconciliation for St John's School (SJ)
7.30pm Christian Meditation - *Praying with Scripture* (SB)

Wednesday 1 March - *St David*

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
9.30am Mass (SJ) Followed by SVP Coffee Morning

Thursday 2 March

10am Mass (SB)
6pm Sacrament of Reconciliation for St Brendan's (SB)

Friday 3 March - CAFOD Lenten Fast Day

No Mass today

Saturday 4 March

10am Mass
5pm Vigil Mass of 2nd Sunday in Lent (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 5 March - 2nd Sunday in Lent

9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (SB)
12.15pm Baptism (SB)
3pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction (SB)

Parish Contact Details

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello
Parish Office: St John's Presbytery,
The Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9JP.
Tel: 01204 301927. E-mail: office@sbsj.org.uk
Website: www.sbsj.org.uk
Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered
Charity - 250037
Diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

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HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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





We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends: Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, Wynn & Michael Latham, Irene Sheridan, Thomas Baker, Kathryn Browning, Rachel Edge, Fr Leo Heakin, Frank Vickers, Frederick Parkinson, Mary Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Helene Draper, Terry Scott, Ken Goodwin, Margaret Attwood, Peter Wareing

Lately Dead: Roger Kershaw, Sheila Derbyshire, Richard Power, Pat Cox, Edward Hughes, Thomas Boake

Anniversaries: William Hodget

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Peter Wareing, Sheila Derbyshire, Pat Cox, Edward Hughes, Margaret Quayle, Denis O'Toole (Birthday Remembrance), William Hodget

During Lent, we pray for: Candidates for the Sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers.

As a Diocese, let us pray for all those who will be called by the Bishop today to baptism or reception into the full communion of the Church this coming Easter. May our parish be renewed by those who seek to join us.

Let us pray for all victims and those who have been affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. May families find strength and comfort in their suffering.

We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine

Financial Support: We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially. Thank you

Cheques: Please make all cheques payable to **Corpus Christi**.

Standing Order: Please contact us if you would like to set up a direct payment. *Thank you*

Congratulations: To Mabel Iris Jones who was baptised last weekend. Let us pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith

Reconciliation: We pray for all the children who will be making their sacrament of reconciliation this week. As we are in the season of Lent, this is a good opportunity for parishioners to receive this sacrament, so you are more than welcome to join us.

Confirmation Reminder: For all those who are attending the Confirmation Course, please remember it is your last chance to your book your places for "Flame" on Saturday 4 March. To register for the event:

<https://forms.gle/XviSNMwr9NzfyNfa7>

Spring Flower Demonstration: Saturday 25 March at St John's Church (1pm-3pm). The proceeds of this popular event will go to the SVP. There are a limited number of tickets which are now on sale at £5 per person.

World Day of Prayer: Friday 3 March. Come and join us at Harwood Methodist Church. There will be a free lunch at 12noon followed by a short service. All welcome.

Destitution Project Lenten Donations: During Lent we are trying to collect 40 of the following urgently needed items: Tinned Tomatoes, Chick Peas, Red Kidney Beans, Bags of Sugar and Bottles of Vegetable Oil. We thank you for all you have donated so far.

Coffee Morning: Wednesday, 1 March (after 9.30am Mass). Proceeds will go to the SVP Prisoner Project. All most welcome.

Gift Aid Offertory: Thank you for all your contributions towards the running of the parish. For those who use envelopes or standing order for offertory collection (but not currently part of the gift aid scheme), Chris Molyneux will be available after Mass today (St John's) and the following Sundays:- 4 March (SB), 5 March (SJ & SB) to answer any questions you may have if you do wish to gift aid your offertory donation.

CAFOD Family Fast Day - Lent Appeal, Friday 3 March: This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope (attached) or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

Churches In Harwood: Lenten Course:

Starting at 7.30pm in the following Churches:

Monday 27 Feb - Christ's Church, Harwood

Tuesday 7 March - St Brendan's

Tuesday 14 March Harwood Methodist

Tuesday 21 March St Brendan's

Tuesday 28 March Christ's Church Harwood

200 Club Subscriptions: Are now due (£15 per number - the first increase in 30 years!). The 200 Club is a great way to support the Parish so any new members are greatly appreciated and made very welcome. It may be difficult for some parishioners to get their subscription to me, so here are a few options to help:

1. Post/deliver to the Parish Office

2. Leave at the front of either church in the basket provided

3. Contact me on 01204 30291/07528027295

For options 1 and 2 please place your subscription and your contact details in an envelope F.A.O Ann Gracie. All cheques made payable to **Corpus Christi**. Thank You. *Ann*

Readers For 4/5 March 2023		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
J O'Connor	M Roe	P Brennan