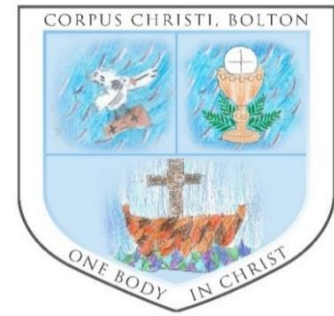


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

12 March 2023

The Third Sunday of Lent



The Gospel passages in Year A of the Lectionary are centered on a series of encounters. We encountered the Devil and his work in the world in the first week, last week we were joined to Moses and Elijah as we walked the mountain of the transfiguration and received a glimpse of a heavenly future. Today we meet a very different character, the woman of Samaria, and she opens our eyes to the message of Lent; and how our personal encounter with Jesus can change our lives.

In the desert there are places where fresh water can be found just below the surface. Each morning the wild beasts visit these places to quench their thirst, then the local people come along to fill their vessels with sufficient water for their daily needs. Water brings life; without it, life cannot exist. Nobody ventures out in the noon day sun, the heat is oppressive and even the easiest task is difficult, carrying water is not an easy task.

Today we encounter a vulnerable Christ, He is thirsty, He can see the water but has no means in which to access it. He has no cup. Then a woman comes along, she is a Samaritan, coming at the noon of the day signals her as an outcast from the village, Jewish men do not speak to lone women, Jews do not speak to Samaritans. The rules of morality, of the Law, are about to be broken, shattered by a simple request, "Give me a drink."

As the conversation deepens, we become aware that Jesus is making Himself vulnerable so the vulnerable can feel safe. He opens himself up so that others can see the loving God within. He risks all to bring a soul to faith. He speaks of living water, the water that we can drink through the sacrament of Baptism, He speaks of worshipping in spirit, the way that we can follow through prayer and good actions, and finally He reveals Himself "I am He" and the woman comes to faith.

The Gospel passage is open to many interpretations, read it slowly and let the words fire your imagination. We have all been in vulnerable situations and often our encounters in these places have had a real effect in our lives. Jesus is the Water of Life, He can quench our thirst, He can mend what was broken, if we open our hearts, He will enter in. *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 3
Roman Missal: p554*

Sunday 12 March

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

Monday 13 March

9.15am Mass (SC School) - parishioners welcome

Tuesday 14 March

9.30am Confessions (SB)
10am Mass (SB)
7.30pm Christian Meditation - *Praying with Scripture* (SJ)

Wednesday 15 March

No Mass Today

Thursday 16 March

6pm Mass (SB)

Friday 17 March - *St Patrick*

6pm Mass (SJ)

Saturday 18 March

10am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass of 4th Sunday in Lent (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 19 March - **4th Sunday in Lent - Laetare Mothering Sunday**

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

Parish Contact Details

Parish Priest: Fr Alfred Rebello
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Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered
Charity - 250037



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, Peter Wareing, Michael O'Connor, Daniel Cockton

Lately Dead: Margaret Attwood, Roger Kershaw, Sheila Derbyshire, Antonio Popanes

Anniversaries: Tony Coop, Teresa Wilson, Margaret Russell, Rita Brooks, Bernadette Gargan

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Tony Coop, Teresa Wilson, Margaret Russell, Margaret Quayle, Rita Brooks, Barbara Grimes (Birthday Remembrance), Margaret Attwood, Jack & Mary Carroll and deceased family members, Daniel Cockton, Kathleen Banks, Bernadette Gargan

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

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

We pray for the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with St John Bosco, Blackley, for the Vincentian Fathers, Fr Clement and Fr Emanuel, the Sisters of the Cross and Passion and for the parish primary schools. May they know the love of God poured into their hearts.

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 Freddie James McColl who was baptised last weekend. We pray that both he and his family continue to grow in faith.

Destitution Project Lenten Donations: Thank you for your kind donations so far. The items in need are: tinned tomatoes, chick peas, red kidney beans. We are particularly short of bags of sugar, tins of sardines in oil, and bottles of vegetable oil.

Churches In Harwood: Lenten Course:

Starting at 7.30pm:

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*

Spring Flower Demonstration: Saturday 25 March at St John's Church (1pm-3pm). Proceeds will go to the SVP. Tickets are now on sale at £5 per person.

Fair Trade Stall: There will be a stall of Fairly Traded goods on sale before and after the 9.30am Mass this Sunday. Look out for Real Easter Eggs! The goods are supplied by Justicia who are looking for a part time manager. For more information please visit:

www.boltonjusticia.co.uk

Lenten School of Prayer: Fridays of Lent 10am - 12.30pm, Wardley Hall. Our next session takes place on Friday 17th March and has a special focus on St Elizabeth of Hungary. For more information, please [click here](#). Contact Sister Joan Kerley at: joankfmsj@gmail.com or 07934 816 796 to reserve a place.

Readers For 18/19 March 2023

5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
P Partington	M Roe	M Day

Easter Triduum

Maundy Thursday - 7.30pm (SB)

Good Friday - 10.30am Stations of the Cross (SB)

The Lord's Passion - 3pm (SJ)

Easter Vigil - 7.30pm (SB)

Easter Sunday - 9.30am (SJ); 11am Mass (SB)

Thought for the Week..

"We pray that the Church may always be a true family that brings God's love to everyone."

Pope Francis

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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