

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

12 March 2023

Laetare Sunday – 4th Sunday of Lent



There is a line from today's Psalm which, I believe, will help us to understand the passages that we listen to today. "The Lord is my shepherd" is a very familiar psalm but the phrase I would ask you to consider is "He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name." In the Season of Lent we are asked to look at our lives and to try to change those parts which lead us away from our God of Love. We cannot do this alone; we need to want to change, we need the help of those around us, and we need the guiding hand of the Spirit, if we are to find our way.

We make decisions in a very human way; whatever we need in life we tend to choose that which will give us the satisfaction we need. If we feel threatened then we need strength, if we need company, we seek love and if we feel unwanted, we look for understanding. These are our ideals not God's. We seldom look at situations from God's point of view. Samuel was given the task of anointing a king: he was sent to the family of Jesse to select the one most suitable for the task ahead. Each one he chose was rejected by God; God does not choose by appearance or intelligence or strength, God looks at the character of the individual and so God chose David, the shepherd boy, the most unlikely of all the sons of Jesse.

The psalm continues "If I should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear." Paul writes to the Ephesians about the darkness of sin that we encounter in our world. He urges us to seek the Light of Christ which will lead us out of this darkness into "complete goodness, right living, and truth". He calls us to "wake from our sleep" so that the light of Christ will shine on us.

In this season of encounters today we meet a man who has been blind from birth. Jesus sees the man and, moved by compassion, he opens his eyes. This encounter changes everything. From a world of darkness, he comes to a world where every word he speaks is taken as a weapon to attack him. He loses his family, his neighbours turn against him, the religious authorities drive him away, all because he has received the precious gift of sight. Only Christ stands with him; to help him to enter a world of new opportunities and to offer him the gift of faith. This leads us into the final lines of the psalm "Surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life." *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 4
Roman Missal: p568*



Sunday 19 March - Mothering Sunday

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

Monday 20 March - St Joseph
6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 21 March
9.30am Confessions (SB)
10am Mass (SB)
7.30pm Churches Together Lenten Course (SB)

Wednesday 22 March
12am Requiem Mass for Margaret Attwood (SB)

Thursday 23 March
10am Requiem Mass for Joe Quinn (SB)

Friday 24 March
No Mass Today

Saturday 25 March - The Annunciation of the Lord
10.45am Adoration & Confessions (SJ)
11.30am Mass (SJ)
1pm-3pm Spring Flower Demonstration (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass of 5th Sunday in Lent (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Clocks Go Forward this weekend

Sunday 26 March
9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy
11am Mass (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, Fred & Joyce Heywood, Pat Margiotta, Frances Skemp, Edwin Rankin, Philip Anderson, Vincent Hopkinson, Irene Clappison, Dorothy Killoran, Pat McDowell, Richard Crichton, 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, Joyce Strickleton

Lately Dead: Winifred Latham, Joe Quinn, Margaret Attwood, Jean Izza, Roger Kershaw, William Hampson, Tony Burke, Michael Peat, Jeanette Moores, Richard Firth, Martin Tonge

Anniversaries: Terence Gillett, Mark Strickleton, Bernard Ramsden, Lillian Dawson, Frances Lansdale, Vincent Heron

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Mark Strickleton, Dave Dadley (Birthday Remembrance), Rose Hall (Mother's Day), Margaret Gibson (In Remembrance), William Hampson, Bernard Ramsden, Tony Burke, Winifred Latham, Joe Quinn, Michael Peat, Lillian Dawson, Jeanette Moores, Richard Firth, Martin Tonge, Frances Lansdale (1st Anniversary), Vincent Heron, Mary Hodgins (Birthday Remembrance)

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

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

Let us pray for the parish of St Patrick, Collyhurst, for Canon Paul Daly, their parish priest, and Fr Moses Agada, for Deacon Stephen Scott, the Presentation Sisters and the Missionaries of Charity Brothers. We pray for St Joseph's Mission to Deaf People and for the Sisters of Our Lady of Evron, for the chaplaincy to the Vietnamese community and for the parish primary schools. May they live by that same missionary zeal which inspired St Patrick. .

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*



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.

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)

Offertory Envelopes: The new envelopes (start date 9 April 2023) are now available for you to collect at the back of each church. Thank you.

CAFOD: Thank you for all the donations to the recent CAFOD collection. The amount raised was £1,246.50.

Missio: Please could Red Box holders bring them to Masses next weekend for collection Thank you.

Shroud of Turin Exhibition Closing Talk: By popular demand, The Christian Heritage Centre will host another talk on the Shroud of Turin at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22 March. The lecture will uncover the history of the Shroud, its hidden features revealed by scientific investigation, and its significance in revealing the Passion of Our Lord. Tickets can be purchased by going to <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/shroud-of-turin-exhibition/>

Destitution Project Lenten Donations: Thank you for your kind donations so far. 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 21 March St Brendan's
 Tuesday 28 March Christ's Church Harwood

200 Club Subscriptions: There are still some subscriptions outstanding. Please could these be submitted as soon as you can. Many thanks (£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 602529/07528027295
- 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*

Enquirers morning for Vocations to the Diaconate: Saturday 1st April, 10am, St Patrick's Church, Livesey Street, Manchester, M4 5HF. The Diocese of Salford's Department for Formation is holding an enquirers morning for anyone who may be discerning a vocation to the diaconate. For more information please visit:

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/diaconate-fags/>

Readers For 25/26 March 2023

| 5pm Vigil (SB) | 9.30am (SJ) | 11am (SB) |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| C Molyneux | S Copley | K Denton |