

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

26 March 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent



During my schooldays, a long time ago, we were taught to pray but not about prayer. We learnt the usual prayers, the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory be and lots of prayers about Our Lady and the Sacraments, but we were never given any guidance on how to pray and why we should pray. The psalms were seldom mentioned but two examples of the prayers of our Old Testament remain with me; Psalm 22 The Lord is my shepherd and Psalm 129 Out of the depths I cry unto you, my Lord. Today we have Psalm 129 as our Responsorial Psalm. It is a prayer for forgiveness and mercy; as we pray the psalm today, we pray for a world that is becoming blind to the love of God and, we hope that, by our prayers, we can turn the tide and reveal God's love to all.

We are now on the cusp of Holy Week and Lent is coming to its end. Our readings speak to us of the spiritual aspects of the season. Ezekiel's message reminds us of the Lord's promise "I will put my spirit in you and you shall live." The prophet uses the symbolism of the grave to remind the people that they have died for their sins and the Lord, in His mercy, has opened their graves and forgiven them. How often are our hearts full of sadness for the sins we have committed; the Lord wants to forgive our sins and open our hearts to His love. Saint Paul continues this theme; he contrasts those who are dead through sin with those who find life through the Spirit of God living in them. If we believe in Christ then that Spirit lives in us and, just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we too will find new life in Him.

We hear two voices in today's Gospel, Martha, the homemaker, whose belief in Jesus is unwavering and Mary, the dreamer, prone to melancholy and rashness, whose actions seem to imply a real sense of someone filled with the Spirit of God. Both have faith in the power of Christ to raise from the depths the body of their brother, Lazarus, but who also understand the message of eternal life, that death will be defeated through Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life. Jesus shows today his very human side, He weeps at the death of His friend Lazarus but, because He knows that death is not the end, He shows His divine power by raising him from the dead and revealing the glory of God. *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 1
Roman Missal: p582*

Sunday 26 March

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

Monday 27 March

9.15am Yr 4 Class Mass (SC)-parishioners welcome
12noon Requiem Mass for Winifred Latham (SB)

Tuesday 28 March

9.30am Confessions (SB)
10am Mass (SB)
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)
7.30pm Lenten Course (Christ's Church, Harwood)

Wednesday 29 March

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

Thursday 30 March

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 31 March

No Mass Today

Saturday 1 April

10.45am Adoration & Confession (SJ); 11am Mass (SJ)
5pm Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday (SB) - With Children's Liturgy

Sunday 2 April - Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord



9.30am Mass (SJ) - With Children's Liturgy - Fair Trade Goods on sale
11am Mass (SB)
2pm Harwood Walk of Witness (Christ's Church, Harwood)
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, 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: Ted Waring (7 years old), Marie Higham, Syd (from France), Winifred Latham, Joe Quinn, Margaret Attwood,

Anniversaries: Howard McArdle, Daniel Evans, Veronica Evans,

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Daniel Evans, Veronica Evans, In memory of Jack & Nellie Shechter, Frank McDowell (Birthday Remembrance), Rita & Tom Prendergast, Ted Waring, John & Jean Stott (50 happy years of marriage), Winifred Latham Joe Quinn, In memory of Josephine Ward, Greta Barlow (sick), Margaret Attwood, Marie Higham, Winifred Latham, Joseph Fitzgerald (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

This week we pray for the people of the parish of St Chad, Cheetham Hill, and the Oratorian Fathers and brothers, as well as the parish primary school. We pray for all those in His Majesty's Prison, Manchester, and for the chaplaincy team. May the heart of Jesus, pierced on the cross, speak to 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*

Churches in Harwood - 2 April Palm Sunday Walk of Witness: Meet at Christ's Church, Harwood at 2pm with a short Service. The walk will continue to St Brendan's Church and then onto Harwood Methodist for refreshments. All most welcome.

Harbour Room Book Club: The next meeting is on Wednesday 29 March starting at 1pm. The book under discussion is *Mothering Sunday* by Graham Swift.

Offertory Envelopes: Are now available for you to collect at the back of each church. Thank you.

Destitution Project Lenten Donations: We have had an amazing response to this appeal. Thank you so much. We will publish the totals next week.

A Note from Fr Alf: I hope your Lenten journey is going well as we prepare for the sacred time of Holy Week and the Holy Triduum.

This weekend we enter Passiontide, these final two weeks of Lent we follow the ancient tradition of veiling the statues and crucifixes (if possible) The Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday and celebrating the Resurrection.

This Saturday we have the feast of The Annunciation celebrating the coming of the Angel Gabriel to Our Lady to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in the plan of salvation. We recall last year, when, in union with all the Bishops of the world, the Church and humanity were consecrated, especially Russia and the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let us never tire of entrusting the cause of peace to the Queen of Peace.

The Mass of the Chrism will be held on Wednesday 5 April at 11am. We have been allocated 6 tickets for our parish. If anyone wishes to go, please let the office know (these will be issued on a first come first served basis).

Lourdes has played a great importance in my faith journey. We used to have a Blackburn and Bolton group and we would visit Lourdes every Summer with the Diocese. I have never been to Lourdes since I was Ordained but will be visiting for five days after Easter on retreat, if anyone has any petitions, please feel free to leave them for me to take to Our Lady of Lourdes. God bless Fr Alf

200 Club Subscriptions: There are still some subscriptions outstanding. Please could these be submitted as soon as you can. Many thanks. All cheques made payable to **Corpus Christi**. Thank You. *Ann*

200 Club Winners for March:

£50 K Whittleston (49)

£25 E Holroyd (118)

£15 M Roe (156)

Readers' Rota: The new Rota will be available in the next couple of weeks. If anyone would like to consider reading, especially at the Saturday Vigil, please contact the office. Similarly, if you are no longer able to read, please let us know.

Readers For 1 / 2 April Palm Sunday 2023		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
L Lamoury	L Fakanule	F Doloroso

This Newsletter is sponsored by
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