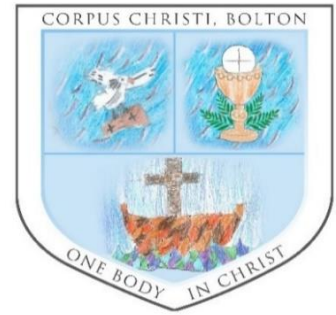

**DIOCESE OF Salford**  
**Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton**

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

## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time



For the next three weeks the Gospel readings introduce us to the idea of “parables”; these are the teaching stories of Jesus, and they are meant to explain difficult ideas through a simple story. The crowds came to hear Jesus, they were drawn by His words and the healing power he possessed. He used stories so that those listening could spread His word and so awaken in the people the hope of a better future for them and their children. The great majority of people could not read but they could listen and see, and Jesus placed great emphasis on his actions and on his words so that their eyes and ears would be opened to the Word of God.

Scripture is a very vital part of our lives as Christians. Through scripture the Word of God is revealed to us, through listening we come to understanding. Isaiah, in the first reading, compares the Word with the rain and snow that comes down from heaven. Without the precious water to irrigate the fields and sustain the crops there would be drought and famine. So it is with our lives; unless we read and hear the Word then our lives become barren and our spiritual and physical growth is stunted.

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, speaks to us about revelation and freedom. Through Paul's letters and the work of thousands of Christian thinkers and speakers, inspired by the Spirit of God, over the last two thousand years the revelation of God's purpose is gradually being revealed. In Paul's time, people lived in slavery in both a physical and intellectual sense. They yearned to be set free and saw the promise of freedom in the promises of Christ. People need to be set free today “To enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.”

The parable of the Sower is as relevant today as it was when Jesus spoke His parable to the crowds. It is not easy to follow the way of Our Lord. Scripture can give us so much but if we do not listen then we cannot understand, and it is understanding that leads us to faith. The Word, like the seed, seeks fertile soil, so many times we hear the Word but fail to put it into practice. We must find a way to welcome the Word into our hearts then perhaps when we act or speak, our words may fall on rich soil and produce God's harvest among those we love. *David Frank*

### Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1*

*Divine Office Week 3*

*Roman Missal: p 317*

**Sunday 16 July - Our Lady of Mount Carmel**  
 9.30am Mass (SJ)- With Children's Liturgy (last one for Summer break)  
 11am Mass (SB)  
 12.15pm Baptism (SB)  
 3pm SVP Benediction followed by afternoon tea for the SVP invitees (SJ)  
 3pm Mass (Salford Cathedral) Bishop John's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass-all welcome

**Monday 17 July**

6pm Mass (SJ)

**Tuesday 18 July - 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination for Fr Alf**

10am Mass (SB)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

**Wednesday 19 July**

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ)

**Thursday 20 July**

9.15am End of Year Mass (SB)

10.45am End of Year Mass (SJ)

**Friday 21 July**

10am End of Year Mass for St Columba's (SB)

**Saturday 22 July - St Mary Magdalene**

No Morning Mass this week

5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - First Mass of Sunday

**Sunday 23 July**

9.30am Mass (SJ)

11am Mass (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](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk)

Website: [www.sbsj.org.uk](http://www.sbsj.org.uk)

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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, Eileen Fitzgerald, Helen Fraser, Peter Reilly, Terry Scott, Ken Goodwin, Michael O'Connor, Daniel Cockton, Joyce Strickleton, Christine Gardner, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin

**Lately Dead:** Ivan Susol

**Anniversaries:** Jeff Howarth

*May They Rest in Peace*

**Mass Intentions:** Jeff Howarth, The Liston & Rothwell families, A special Intention, Philip Hall (Birthday Remembrance)

**During Ordinary Time (summer), we pray for:** A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; those who suffer persecution; oppression & denial of human rights; Europe; Seafarers; Human life  
*We continue to pray for peace and an end to the conflict in Ukraine*

This week as a Diocese we pray for our Mother Church, our Cathedral Church of St John, together with the parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Joseph, Salford. We pray for Bishop John as he celebrates his Fortieth Anniversary of priestly ordination, for Canon Michael Jones, the Cathedral Dean, Fr Ignatius, and Fr Churchill. We pray also for the two parish primary schools and for all who work in the Cathedral Centre. May their sowing bring forth a rich harvest.

**Bishop John's Ruby Jubilee:** To mark the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to priesthood, Bishop John will be celebrating a special **Mass at 3pm this Sunday (16 July) in Salford Cathedral**. This Mass is open to all members of the diocese, without the need for tickets, and so you are welcome to come along if you wish to do so. There will be some light refreshments (tea/coffee and biscuits) after the Mass, respecting the bishop's wish to keep things simple on this occasion. Let us all keep Bishop John in our prayers as he celebrates this significant anniversary.

**End Of Term:** Thank you to all school staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the academic year. Wishing everyone a lovely summer break; hoping the sun continues to shine and safe travels if you are going away.

**Congratulations:** To Finley Arthur Atherton, Coby Michael Armstrong-Jones and Rory Daniel Eccleshare who were baptised recently. We pray that they and their families will continue to grow in faith.

**Children's Liturgy:** Will take a break for the summer holidays after today. It will restart on Sunday 10 September. If anyone would like to volunteer to help out, please speak to one of our leaders or Fr Alf. Thank you.

**Fr Alf:** Will be going to Lourdes on Friday 21 July (for one week). If you have any petitions you would like him to take, please hand in before Thursday 20 July. Thank you.

**Forthcoming Property Works at St Brendan's and St John's:** The church ceiling, at St John's, will be repainted week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> September. From 11<sup>th</sup> September (for a period of approximately 4 weeks) remedial works will be carried out at St John's on the church spire as well as glazing repairs at both St Brendan's & St John's churches. These works will necessitate contractors accessing the external aspects of both buildings. It is expected that the normal pattern of Masses and services will continue but any changes will be advised as the works progress. Parishioners are requested to take particular care for their personal safety during the works and show flexibility especially as regards access and car parking.


**Thinking Faith Retreat - Change and Renewal 22-29 July, Boarbank Hall, Cumbria.** Walk, talk, and pray with like-minded Catholics at a spiritual escape on the edge of the beautiful Lake District. The Thinking Faith course is aimed at younger adults (in their 20s - 40s) and offers a week-long stay in stunning surroundings to nurture mind, heart, body and soul! Led by Sr Margaret Atkins and Fr Richard Finn OP, this retreat provides an opportunity to hear fascinating talks, deepen our faith, make new friends, and explore the wonderful Cumbrian countryside. Prices are flexible but few places remain. For more information, please email [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk) or visit [www.boarbankhall.org.uk](http://www.boarbankhall.org.uk)

**Women Saints and Spirituality: Friday 21 July, 10am at Wardley Hall, Worsley, Manchester, M28 2ND.** Join us as we continue our fascinating series of talks exploring the life and spirituality of women in the Church throughout history. Our next session takes place on Friday 21 July and has a special focus on Kateri Tekakwitha. Contact Sister Joan Kerley at [joankfmsj@gmail.com](mailto:joankfmsj@gmail.com) or 07934 816 796 to reserve a place. Find out more at <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/women-saints-and-spirituality/>

**Thought for the Week...**  
**"Good communication helps us to grow closer. It is so important to listen."**  
**Pope Francis**

Readers For 22/23 July 2023		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
C Molyneux	M Parkinson	T Proctor

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



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