

# Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

**10 September 2023**

## Twenty-Third Sunday Ordinary Time



Our existence is built on relationships, apart from each other we can do nothing, together we can work towards a more just, a more equal, world, a world in which the love for our brothers and sisters takes priority over everything else. Even though, at times, to show that love leads us to sacrifice our feelings, our beliefs, that is the road that Our Lord asks us to walk.

Ezekiel writes when Israel is in chaos. The people have turned away from God and are at the mercy of their powerful neighbours. It is the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile in Babylon. Ezekiel is called by God to speak clearly and truthfully to the people warning them that, unless they seek reconciliation with God, they face annihilation. The choice, then, is for them to make, if they do not heed the warnings then they must face the consequences and, for Ezekiel there is no blame, he has done what the Lord asks of him.

Paul's world is dominated by the power of Rome, a power built on the subjugation of small nations under the iron fist of Rome. There is no place in this world for the forgiving mercy of God. When Paul speaks of "mutual love" he calls it a debt. His words are inspired by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, a selfless sacrifice for all, a sign of God's love for the world. The debt can only be repaid by our selfless forgiveness of our neighbour whatever they have done. Paul uses the Commandments of God to show the many ways in which we should act when we follow Him. He reminds us that "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour".

How do we apply the idea of mutual love for all when something occurs within our community, within the church. Jesus speaks of various steps we can make in order to bring about reconciliation, but He understands that sometimes even these can fail. He does not condemn but neither can he fix the problem. Every dispute, every sin, leads to the destruction of peace and harmony, it is up to ourselves to restore the balance. Peace comes when we gather in prayer for "when two or three are gathered together, God is there." And He is always listening.

David Frank

### Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1  
Divine Office Week 3  
Roman Missal: p 401*

#### Sunday 10 September

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*

11am Mass (SB)

*Special collection for the Catholic Education Service*

#### Monday 11 September

9.10am Full School Mass (SC School)

7pm Knights of St Columba, Relics Mass - (St Mary's Horwich)

#### Tuesday 12 September

9.15am Full School Mass (SB)

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ, Patmos Room)

#### Wednesday 13 September - *St John Chryostom*

9.30am Mass (SB)

11am Funeral Service for Paul Brown (SB)

#### Thursday 14 September - *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

10am Mass (SB)

#### Friday 15 September - *Our Lady of Sorrows*

No Mass Today

#### Saturday 16 September

10.45am Sacrament of Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

12.15pm Baptism (SJ)

5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*

#### Sunday 17 September

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*

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)

Salford Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees

Registered Charity - 250037

Diocesan website: [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

This Newsletter is sponsored by

**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, 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, Joyce Strickleton, Christine Gardner, Margaret Doreen Kay, Tony Martin, Annie O'Brien, Peter Carroll, Elsie Shields, Damian Rabbitt

**Lately Dead:** Caro Thornley, Eileen Williamson, Pat McKeown, Nichola Cunningham, Paul Brown

**Anniversaries:** Kathleen Morris, Mary Watson, Thomas Watson, Martyn Riley, David Walton

***May They Rest in Peace***

**Mass Intentions:** Mary Watson, Thomas Watson, Noreen Edge, Frank McDowell, A Special Intention, Martyn Riley (5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), Kathleen Morris

**During Ordinary Time (autumn), we pray for:** Students and teachers, the spread of the Gospel, the harvest, the fruits of human work, the reverent use of creation, justice and peace in the world, all victims of war, young people, prisoners and their families.

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

This week as a Diocese we pray for the parishioners of the parishes of St Ambrose and St Bernadette, with Fr Peter Tierney, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school, Loreto High School, and the Marist Sisters. May they be inspired by the example of St Ambrose Barlow, born in their parish, and helped by his prayers.

**Offertory:** We are always extremely grateful for all you do to help us financially.

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

**Congratulations:** To Margot Sofia Leigh Birch who was baptised last weekend. We pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith.

**Forthcoming Property Works at St John's and St Brendan's Churches:** This coming week will see maintenance work being carried out at both churches. You will notice that midweek Masses (usually held at St John's) have been moved to St Brendan's. This is to allow the decorator access to paint the ceiling at St John's. At the same time, there will also be essential maintenance repairs to both churches (the spire and roof glazing at St John's and glazing work at St Brendan's). This external work shouldn't cause any disruption to the Masses at St Brendan's. Please take extra care during this period. *Thank you*

**The Woman at The Well Retreat:** Please see the poster in each church for more details.

Places are limited so please book using the parish contacts:

Tel. 01204 301927, Email: [office@sbsj.org.uk](mailto:office@sbsj.org.uk)

**Christian Meditation:** Starts again this week (12<sup>th</sup>). The time is 7.30pm-8.30pm and all are welcome.

**September**

19th St John's

26th St Brendan's

**October - 3rd St Brendan's**

10th St John's

17th St Brendan's - **Cancelled**

24th St Brendan's

31st St John's

**Holy Land Pilgrimage 2023:** The organisers of the Parish trip have arranged for a meeting on Wednesday 20 September at 7pm in the Patmos Room (St John's). This is an opportunity for those going on the trip to ask any questions and for general information.

**Confirmation Course 2023/24:** Will be starting again soon for students in Year 8. If your child attends a different high school than Thornleigh and wishes to be included in this year's programme, please contact the Parish Office. *Thank you.*

**SVP Benediction and Afternoon Tea for Elderly and Housebound.:** Will be held on Sunday 1 October at St John's Church. There is a list in both churches for those who wish to attend, and for those able to provide transport on the day.

**St Joseph's Deanery Dinner Dance:** Friday 6 October (7pm for 7.30pm), Brookfield, Peel Street, Westhoughton. All Welcome to this fundraising evening for Bolton Hospice with three course dinner, raffle and disco. More details and booking forms can be found on the posters in the back of each church.

**Job Vacancies - Diocese of Salford**

**Diocese of Salford - Safeguarding Administrator**

**Appointment Type:** Part-time, 12-month fixed-term contract

**Communications Assistant (replacement role)**

**Appointment Type:** Full time, 12-month fixed-term contract

Find out more and apply for both roles at: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>

**Readers Rota:** The new rota will be available in the next couple of weeks. Please let the office know if you would like to become a reader, or if you no longer wish to be on the rota. Thank you.

Readers For 16/17 September 2023		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
C Molyneux	A Grundy	C Ezeougu