

Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

17 September 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time



There is a great need today for peace of mind. We live in a turbulent world and struggle to find a place where we can find rest from the troubles that surround us. We look to God for His guidance but often fail to listen when His voice calls to us. When we do something wrong or when another does a wrong to us, we cry out for justice, but justice can only come with forgiveness and forgiveness is a very difficult concept for us to accept.

Two of the enemies of forgiveness are resentment and anger. The passage from Ecclesiasticus calls them “foul things”, the cause of much of the pain that comes from a lack of forgiveness. We are called to love one another. This mutual love brings peace into our lives but if we do not forgive completely then love cannot enter and resentment and anger enter instead. The passage reminds us that forgiveness is not a one-way street, that we cannot expect forgiveness unless, we too, forgive each other.

Paul's letter speaks to us of the need for the followers of Christ to examples of His love in our world. In Baptism we died with Him and rose to new life with Him. We are the living signs of His love, and it is through our forgiveness of others that His love will be shown to all.

Peter, in today's gospel, tries to show he has listened to Jesus and suggests that, if he forgives seven times that he is fulfilling what the Law demands of him. We may think that doing this is quite reasonable. After all we cannot keep forgiving the sinner who keeps sinning! Jesus however knows the forgiveness of God is inexhaustible and that God's love can only bring peace and harmony into our lives if we forgive as He does. Jesus uses the parable of the wicked servant to illustrate this. The story teaches us that forgiveness must be within all our actions. We cannot hope for forgiveness if we do not show forgiveness to others. Our Lord tells us to “love one another”, if we forgive each other, from our hearts, then anger and resentment will not enter our lives and we will find that peace and harmony that we yearn for. *David Frank*

Masses & Activities this Week

*Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1
Divine Office Week 4
Roman Missal: p 411*

Sunday 17 September

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*
11am Mass (SB)
Special Collection for Home Missions

Monday 18 September

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 19 September

10am Mass (SB)
7.30pm Christian Meditation (SJ)

Wednesday 20 September -

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)
9.30am Mass (SJ)
7pm Holy Land Pilgrimage Information Evening (SJ)

Thursday 21 September - *St Matthew*

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 22 September

No Mass Today

Saturday 23 September - *St Pius of Pietrelcina*

5pm Vigil Mass (SB) - *With Children's Liturgy*
Fr Martin Goba from the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) will celebrate Mass.

Sunday 24 September

9.30am Mass (SJ) - *With Children's Liturgy*
11am Mass (SB)
Fr Martin Goba from the Spiritan Fathers will celebrate Masses

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, 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, Damian Rabbitt

Lately Dead: Pat Hollingsworth, Paul Brown, Elsie Shields, Tony Smith

Anniversaries: Esther Thomas

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Sister Mary Catherine (SCJM) for Diamond Jubilee, The people of Morocco & Libya, The Sacred Heart, The Holy Spirit, Our Lady, St Jude, St Anthony & St Teresa, A Special Intention, Esther Thomas

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.

After the devastating floods in Libya, and earthquakes in Morocco, we pray for all the victims, and their loved ones.

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

Let us pray, this week, for the people of the parish of St John Henry Newman, Urmston and Flixton, with Fr Kieren Mullarkey, their parish priest, Fr David Quiligotti and Deacon David Walsh. We pray for their parish primary schools, St Anthony's High School and the Franciscan Community at All Saints, Barton. May they be a living sign of God's forgiving love.

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 Eleanora Mary Citarella who was baptised last weekend. We pray that both she and her family continue to grow in faith.

Home Missions Appeal: This weekend there is a special collection for Home Missions. Home Mission Sunday provides us with the opportunity to focus on spreading the Gospel in our local areas. At the same time, the second collection for this Sunday supports the work of the Home Mission Office. Contributing to this collection is one way to play your part in our vision to help the local Church make the Joy of the Gospel a reality across England and Wales.

Harbour Room Book Club: We begin our 13th year with our Summer read of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. This will be on Wednesday 27 September at 1pm. We aim to be finished by 2.45pm. Please note that the subscription is still £1 per session and £10 for the whole year. Everyone is welcome.

The Spiritan (Holy Ghost Fathers) Mission Appeal: Next weekend we welcome Fr Martin Goba who will celebrate our Masses and hold a special appeal for the Spiritan Missionary work.

Thornleigh Open Evening: Thursday 21 September (5pm-7.30pm) for more information visit the school website www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk.

The Woman at The Well Retreat: Places are limited so please book using the parish contacts: Tel. 01204 301927, Email: office@sbsj.org.uk

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2023: There will be a meeting this Wednesday (20 September) at 7pm in the Patmos Room (St John's). This is an opportunity for those going to ask questions and for general information.

Confirmation Course 2023/24: Starts 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. **The deadline for enrolment is 25 September 2023.** *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. More details and booking forms can be found on the posters in the back of each church.

Job Vacancies - Diocese of Salford

Financial Accountant (replacement role)

Location: Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

Accounts Payable Officer (replacement role)

Location: Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

Find out more and apply for the above at

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>

Readers Rota: The new rota is now available in the back of each Church.

Readers For 23/24 September 2023		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
A Grundy	A Hayes	C Grundy