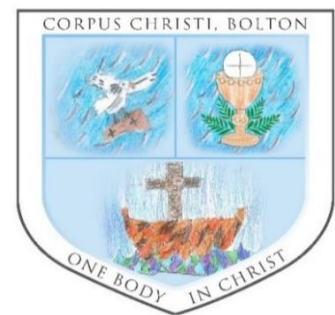


Parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton

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

24 September 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time



Change occurs in our lives at unexpected moments and however much we plan events occur that leave our dreams in disarray. We try to select our moments, but God does not work to our timetable but His own, as the prophet Isaiah writes “my thoughts are not your thoughts”.

The people of Israel were often turning away from God; they foolishly believed that they were masters of their own lives and had no need for God. Today Isaiah begs them “Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near”, Gods abundant mercy was always there for them but so often they turned away, even when God sent his only Son to them. God is always giving us the chance to change and turn back to him, can we, today, heed the advice of the prophet?

Paul has a dilemma, he is tired of forever moving from place to place, of facing all sorts of terrors whilst proclaiming the Good News. He has made his choice, he is for God, and his life's work is preaching and teaching the people about the faith that comes from Christ. Death will bring the glory he is hoping for, but life brings glory, every day, through the conversion of souls to faith in the Lord. He leaves with us a parting message which we should take to heart, “Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the Gospel of Christ”.

When I read the parable of the generous landowner, I experience two, very different, emotions; as one who has been in management and learned the skills of managing, in a fair way, the expectations of those who worked under my supervision, I am horrified by the thought of rewarding someone who has worked for an hour with the same wage one gives for a full day I can almost hear the Trade Union official knocking on my office door. However, as one who has worked with people in a church setting, who come to faith at various stages of their lives, I also believe that the generous love of God has no limits, that our concept of fairness is based on our limited human capacity for love, while God's love is abounding in mercy, forgiveness, and acceptance, no matter how late the hour. God chooses the moment when He calls to us, it may be the first hour, it may be the last, who are we to know the mind of God.

David Frank

Masses & Activities this Week

Sunday Cycle A; Weekday Cycle 1

Divine Office Week 1

Roman Missal: p 423

Sunday 24 September

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

11am Mass (SB)

Fr Martin Goba from the Spiritan Fathers will celebrate Masses today

Monday 25 September

9.10am Yr6 Class Mass (SC School)

6pm Mass (SJ)

Tuesday 26 September

10am Mass (SB) - with Yr 6 children

7.30pm Christian Meditation (SB)

Wednesday 27 September - St Vincent de Paul

9am Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

9.30am Mass (SJ) - followed by Coffee Morning

Thursday 28 September

10am Mass (SB)

Friday 29 September - Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

3pm Funeral Service for Tony Smith (Overdale)

Saturday 30 September

10.45 Sacrament of Reconciliation, Exposition & Adoration (SJ)

11.30am Mass (SJ)

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

Sunday 1 October

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

11am Mass (SB)

3pm Benediction & Afternoon Tea for elderly and housebound (SJ)

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

Website: www.sbsj.org.uk

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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, Tony Smith, Lilian Vallejo, Gerard Cunningham, Luke Feeny

Anniversaries: Vincent Heron, Rose Heron, Rose Hall, Barbara Grimes

May They Rest in Peace

Mass Intentions: Vincent Heron, Rose Heron, A Special Intention, Lilian Vallejo, Rose Hall, Robert Hall, Deceased members of the Heyes family, Bernadette Gargan (Birthday remembrance), Barbara Grimes (50th Anniversary), Gerard Cunningham, Geoffrey Bradshaw (Birthday Remembrance), Luke Feeny, Dorothy Tudhope, David Greenhalgh & Betty Carolan (Birthday Remembrances)

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.

This weekend we pray for the people of the parish of St Bernard, Burnage, for Mgr Michael Kujacz, their parish priest, and Fr Joseph Ojelabi, and for their parish primary school. May they be a community which always seeks the Lord.

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 Axel Thomas Mann who was baptised last weekend. We pray that both he and his family continue to grow in faith.

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

Harbour Room Book Club: We begin with our Summer read of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. This will be on Wednesday 27 September at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

SVP Coffee Morning: Will be held after the 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 27 September. All are welcome to come along for hot drinks and homemade cakes!

The Woman at The Well Retreat: The evening (Tuesday 10 October) will start with refreshments at 6.30pm ready for a prompt start at 7pm. Places are limited so please book using the parish contacts:

Tel. 01204 301927, Email: office@sbsj.org.uk

Confirmation Course 2023/24: Starts again on Thursday 12 October (6pm) at Thornleigh for students in Yr 8. Registration closes Monday 25 September.

Hope in the Future Celebration Event: *Tuesday 3 October, 6.30pm - 9pm, The Edge, Riveredge, Wigan WN3 5AB.* Join the Diocese of Salford's Formation Department for a special event celebrating our six-year Hope in the Future journey. The event will include inspiring talks from Bishop John and lay missionary Pippa Baker, music from creative worship group One Hope Project, opportunities for small-group discussions and idea sharing, and a quiet time of prayer led by Bishop John. The event is free of charge and open to all and is ideal for those who have been involved in Hope in the Future in their parish, deanery, or school, those who would like to learn more about it or begin their own journey, and for individuals seeking to grow as Missionary Disciples. Register your place at

www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/hope-in-the-future-celebration-event/

Interested in Becoming Catholic? If anyone is about to embark on their own faith journey and would like to know more about the Catholic Faith, please speak to Fr Alf or contact the Parish Office.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Save the date: The Diocese of Salford is delighted to announce the date for our next annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. Next year's day pilgrimage will take place on **Saturday 4th May**. To register your interest, please email

walsingham.pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Volunteering opportunities - Caritas Diocese of Salford: Is looking for more volunteers to support its work across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. There are a range of different opportunities available to meet individual needs and skillsets, and full training and support is given every step of the way. If you would like to find out more, please contact Matt Yates: m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk or visit the Caritas website:

www.caritassalford.org.uk

Readers For 30 Sep/1 Oct 2023		
5pm Vigil (SB)	9.30am (SJ)	11am (SB)
T Proctor	C Grundy	A Moore